



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION, TAKE 3: MOVING CLINICAL PRACTICE FORWARD

This was an apt title for the 3rd international practice development conference held at the Medina Grand Hotel, Melbourne in February, this year. The welcome address was presented by the Hon. Kay Patterson, Minister for Health and Aged Care who welcomed international speakers and delegates from Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom and New Zealand. The Senator, reflected on the European heritage of nursing as a courageous and respected profession and urged nurses to be proactive in developing leadership roles in practice and health care services into the future.

Professor Mary Fitzgerald, University of Newcastle provided the first keynote address 'Clinical Practice Development for all Seasons' in which she presented a model for clinical practice development that emphasised the multiple entry level points at which nurses enter into practice development activities.

Concurrent papers were lively and challenging and workshops were facilitated by: Professor Brendan McCormack (University of Ulster) and Dr Jenny Newton (Monash); Dr Kim Manley (RCN, London) and Ms Joan Yalden (Monash); Ms Jenny Oates & Ms Adrienne White (both from Monash); and Ms Meredith McIntyre & Ms Kaye McCauley (Monash University). The final keynote address for the day was given by Garrett Martin. His paper "Changing Organisational Culture, the role of a Consultant Nurse in Emergency Care" described his journey of establishing this position of practice development consultant, the first of its kind in Northern Ireland. This was an insightful paper detailing Garrett's PhD in progress.

Reflections on the day were presented by Associate Professor Tracey Bucknall, Director of the Victorian Centre for Nursing Practice Research, University of Melbourne, who summarised on the action, movement and energy that had been generated throughout the day.

The Conference was followed by a 5 day Practice Development Summer School which was well attended and a great success.



Professor Mary Fitzgerald



from left: Hon. Kay Patterson, Dr. Kim Manley, Prof. Brendan McCormick, Garrett Martin

### International Midwives Day Celebrations at The School of Nursing

A gala evening celebrating international midwives day was held at Monash University's School of Nursing on Monday May 5th in conjunction with the Australian College of Midwives Victorian Branch (MOSES Sub-branch). A lively group of 90 midwives attended, enjoying unexpected reunions with old friends, collegial discussion and making new connections.

Well known comedian Mark Mitchell added his unique brand of humour to the evening involving speakers as he addressed the important issues of women's birth experience and postnatal depression. Dr Martien Snellen, explored the role of midwives in the prevention, detection and management of all forms of postnatal depression. Dr Jane Maree Maher from Monash University's Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research spoke of her research into the ways midwives use stories to assist women in understanding and incorporating their birthing experience.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Johnson & Johnson Victorian midwife of the year award to Ms Gentility Rawlings.



Bernard Hornblower, Mark Mitchell

#### Contributors

Robyn Kirby, Meredith Mc Intyre, Meredith Milligan, Jenny Newton, Margaret O'Connor, Julie Ryan, Joan Yalden, Maggie Yap, and Dept. of Photography Monash University



For further information on Nursing News Issue 5 email: joan.yalden@med.monash.edu.au

## School of Nursing

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES



### From the head of school...

#### Advancing Midwifery...

Welcome to this fifth issue of "Nursing News". Welcome also to our first cohort of Bachelor of Midwifery students who commenced their course with Monash in March this year. The Bachelor of Midwifery represents a unique and exciting venture in undergraduate health sciences education. The course was developed and is now delivered through a consortium in universities comprising: Monash, ACU and VUT, the "Werna Naloo" consortium. The consortium represents the first group in Victoria to accept the challenge posed by the Australian Council of Midwives Inc., and the International Congress of Midwives; to progressively introduce "direct entry" midwifery courses to the higher education sector.

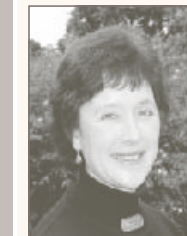
#### Research Development...

I am very pleased to report that the university has recently made a number of key research appointments to build research capacity and lead research activity across the school. Dr Margaret O'Connor has been appointed as the inaugural Vivian Bullwinkel Professor of Nursing (Palliative Care) and Dr Karen Francis as Professor of Nursing with a special focus on rural nursing and rural health problems and issues. Dr Chris Peterson and Dr Katie Khoo also join us as research fellows at our Peninsula campus. Chris has interests in occupational health and nursing work. Katie is currently involved in a collaborative program with Southern Health in the area of "gendered care".

#### Post Graduate Review...

In consultation with industry, our postgraduate team have been reviewing our postgraduate offerings for 2004. The review has resulted in a number of positive changes, which, we believe, will further enhance the delivery of courses in a more flexible way. The school remains committed to offering courses in: emergency and critical care nursing, mental health, aged care, children's nursing and midwifery. We are also looking to offer clinically tagged masters degrees, to provide opportunities to clinicians to extend their studies in particular specialist areas. An example of a tagged award would be the Master of Nursing (Emergency). For further information about these awards, please contact the school.

Best regards,  
A/Prof Tony Barnett  
Head of School.



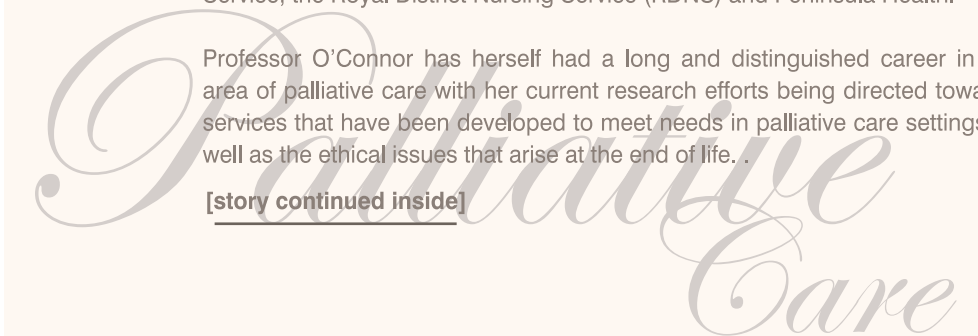
## NEW APPOINTMENT TO HONOUR AUSTRALIAN ICON Professor MARGARET O'CONNOR

The courage and dedication of World War II nurse Sister Vivian Bullwinkel (Mrs Vivian Statham) will live on with the appointment of the inaugural Vivian Bullwinkel Professor of Palliative Care Nursing.

Professor Margaret O'Connor has recently been appointed to this innovative research and teaching position, which has been established by Monash University's School of Nursing in collaboration with the Peninsula Hospice Service, the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) and Peninsula Health.

Professor O'Connor has herself had a long and distinguished career in the area of palliative care with her current research efforts being directed towards services that have been developed to meet needs in palliative care settings as well as the ethical issues that arise at the end of life.

[story continued inside]



## WELCOME TO THE HONORABLE KAY PATTERSON

## PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

[story continued back page]



## CONFERENCE AT MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



A recent nursing conference, organised by Monash University Malaysia in association with the Malaysian Nurses Association, which attracted some 200 participants, provided a comprehensive overview of the state of palliative care services in Malaysia, the challenges faced by healthcare providers, the role of families in the care of the terminally ill as well as issues on palliative care education in the country.

[story continued inside]