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PRESIDENTS LETTER

Vic Presidents Report December 2010

Hi Everyone

It has been a very interesting and, hopefully, informative year for AONA Vic members. The committee has worked hard on bringing conferences to Melbourne and helping the ophthalmic nurse members in South Australia hold their first ever clinical meeting in conjunction with RANZCO. Well done to all.

Membership continues to grow as nurses find the interesting speciality of ophthalmics and become hooked. It covers such diverse settings so people can find many areas to work, which suits them from theatre to outpatients to community. And it is always changing along with technical advances.

Our biennial conference in Melbourne was well received and as popular as ever. Comments such as “ best ever “ and “so relevant” and “great networking” were all indicative of the positive feedback.

So too was our foray into the bustling city of Adelaide. Many ophthalmologists took the opportunity to fund their nurses for the nurses meeting. Nurses from both interstate and overseas enjoyed a diverse and really interesting program So well done to the mighty efforts of Sharon Dennis and Margaret Phillpott.

The committee will also be working on our “hot topics” from the last conference to incorporate them in our clinical meetings for 2011. *cont page 2*

We continue to work on national projects such the National Ophthalmic Competency Framework, affiliation with RANZCO, the National newsletter and developing an overseas volunteer opportunities database. We shall keep you posted in the next newsletter.



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I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Helen Taylor for her work on the committee as the Tasmanian rep. She has provided great inspiration and we welcome the new reps in the New Year. Helen has decided to take a promotion, we wish her well. But should she ever decide to come back to ophthalmics, there is always a committee position available

Lastly but not leastly it is with big thanks to the committee for without them we could not do the endeavours for our members that we do. I am forever in their debt.

So Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well in the New Year.

Pam Armstrong



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 2010
FROM THE AONA TEAM



APAO 2011 - Darling Harbour Convention and Exhibition Centre, 20-24th March, 2011.

The Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology congress (APAO) is a two and half day nurses program in Sydney. It will promise to be a great ophthalmic nursing networking experience.

Early bird registration closes 15 January 2011.

The meeting will be held in the popular Darling Harbour Convention and Exhibition Centre – just minutes from many of Sydney's world-famous attractions.

The organisers have put together what they believe to be an exciting programme for the inaugural Ophthalmic Nurses Conference at APAO. It will promise to be a great ophthalmic nursing networking experience.

Our key note speakers are:

Professor Mary Chiarella from the School of Nursing, University of Sydney. Professor Chiarella research interests focus on legal, policy and ethical issues in nursing and health care delivery and she has provided her professional expertise to many health services, organisations and governments over the years.

Professor Janet Marsden, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK is also speaking at the conference..

For more details see

<http://www.apaosydney2011.com/>

AONA NURSES CONFERENCE 2010

WHAT 'S THE MANTRA

In September the Mantra on Russell was the venue for our Biennial Conference in Melbourne. It was according to evaluations "one of best ever" conferences I've been to. A day when ophthalmic nurses from across Victoria and other states came together to enjoy a day of learning and networking.

The day began with the medical aspect of the ophthalmology specialty from three eminent Ophthalmologists in the sub specialties of oculo plastics, thyroid eye disease and retina with theatre, outpatient, inpatient and emergency nurses in mind.

Dr Charles Su discussed the differences in different surgical techniques, Dr McNab covered the impact of surgical intervention on thyroid eye disease and related ophthalmic complications. Dr. McNab outlined the benefits for the patients on such interventions . A change of theme was then introduced as Dr Wilson Heriot discussed retinal techniques and his experience in working with advanced practice ophthalmic nurses in the theatre.

This was followed by Dr Peter Read discussing the world of nurse anaesthetists – he gave us world view of where this role is currently in practice and discussed the synergy of collaboration in such partnerships between medical and nursing professions for various models to suit different areas. After a very enjoyable networking morning tea amongst the trade & other delegates we returned to focus on the nursing perspective and were updated on the challenges of introducing nurse practitioner roles into a public health care setting followed by case studies of ophthalmic nursing, ophthalmic nursing education and the introduction of the nurse practitioner role in a Victorian public hospital.

We learnt about the need for sustainability in developing the nurse practitioner role and the vital part they play in patient care in today's health care system. The afternoon was about the patient perspective as we learnt about the quality of life issues of our patients in terms of the impact of great ocular prostheses by Mr Patrick Loyer and Penny Stevenson gave us not only a great insight into visual aids available today for vision impaired persons but also doubled up as a spring of information on the Vision Australia trade display.

Lastly but not leastly was the happy hour which provided a really good chance to chat with our peers and exchange ideas and forge professional collaborations.

Thanks to the hard work of the committee of AONA Vic for their personal and professional commitment in addition to their personal time to provide such a great professional day.



CERA NEWS

Can exercise protect against blindness?
Exercise, Its benefits are endless: reduced risk of heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and more..

Now, in a world-first study, CERA scientists aim to prove another benefit of exercise – the prevention of blindness. Glaucoma damages the optic nerve, the link between the eye and the brain that transfers visual information. The disease, which can lead to blindness, affects around 300,000 Australians. CERA Research Fellow, Dr Vicki Chrysostomou, is investigating whether exercise can help to protect the optic nerve from injury.

For more information...

see.....<http://www.cera.org.au/home>

The trade display allowed me to make contact directly with each of the companies that supply ophthalmology products keeping me up to date with new product releases. RANZCO also gave the opportunity to network with other ophthalmic nurses from around Australia.

I found RANZCO very beneficial to attend and would recommend it to any ophthalmic nurse. I would like to thank AONA and RVEEH for helping me to attend RANZCO this year.

RANZCO 2010 REPORT

BY ANN-MARIE NOVALIJA (ANUM)

ROYAL VICTORIAN EYE & EAR HOSPITAL

The 42nd Annual Scientific Congress of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists was held in Adelaide, South Australia, 20-24 November 2010. I was very fortunate to be able to attend RANZCO.

I work as an ANUM in theatre at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital looking after the Vitreo-retinal Unit and Phaco. This congress provided many relevant topics to me relating to my role at RVEEH including the ANZSRS (Retinal Satellite Meeting) on the 20th November and various sessions throughout the 4 day congress. Sessions and rapid fire papers on new techniques and research findings were of great value to me and very relevant to my role.

