



A O N A VISION

Volume 2 The national newsletter of the Australian Ophthalmic Nurses' Association September 08

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Nurses working together to bring ideas to life - AONA NSW's Joanna McCulloch and Jenny Keller pack goodie bags for the NSW conference.

Welcome to the second National AONA newsletter

Earlier this year AONA held a competition to name our new National Newsletter. First prize went to two nurses: Tammie Cornford and Fe Storey both from NSW. The winning name and the winning logo have been combined.

Fe writes about the design of her logo: I designed the logo very carefully to be rich in symbolism. The eye, of course is the organ of sight, with the power of vision. Vision is the power of seeing into and understanding imaginative ideas, inner nature, practical ideas and a view into one's awareness. We come from many different backgrounds but we want to share and reach out to others. The colours represent diversity, simplicity, expression of ideas and effects. Colour means happiness. The map of Australia within the eye represents our continent which is rich in flora and fauna, surrounded by water. Our members come from all across our land. I drew the eyelashes of the eye to represent people working together to deliver services and arrive at satisfactory results. The eye also represents light and so also bright ideas.

Congratulations to both our winners.

NOTICE BOARD



Canberra

AONA Meeting in Canberra
Saturday, 27th September
The Canberra Hospital
Contact: Amanda Wylie
(amandawylie@iprimus.com.au)



Victoria

AONA Victoria Conference
22nd November
Melbourne Convention Centre
See our website: aonavic.com.au



Queensland

AONAQ Christmas Clinical Meeting
Saturday, 6th December
Greenslopes Private Hospital

FULL TIME POSITION - GORDON (NSW)

Ophthalmic Nursing/Surgical Bookings/Marketing

We require a FULL TIME mature Clinician at Gordon Eye Surgery on the North shore of Sydney.

The centre is a busy comprehensive eye care centre and is located within 5 minutes walk of the North Shore train line or free undercover parking is available.

Three days per the week the successful applicant will be part of the clinical team performing the following tasks: Patient assessment including vision, tonometry, slit lamp examination, visual fields, OCT, retinal photography and corneal topography.

Two days per week will be dedicated to Marketing where the successful applicant will Carry out various marketing initiatives as directed by the practice manager. These will be varied but may include sending letters, follow up phone calls or Optom and GP practice visits.

The role also includes the back up of the surgical co-ordinator due to illness or holidays. This will entail doing A-Scans, hospital bookings including all paperwork and operating list finalisation. During this time the applicant will not be require to fill the clinical nor marketing requirements.

The ideal candidate will have a professional manner with patients, a mature outlook, excellent telephone skills, professional presentation, high levels of communication and customer service skills. You will need to have attention to details and be a team player. Computer literacy is essential. Familiarity with any practice management software would be an advantage.

Above award wages can be negotiated with the successful applicant depending on experience and ability to meet the above criteria.

Please direct applications to Georgia Press,
Practice Manager

Email: g.press@gordoneye.com.au or

Georgia Press
Practice Manager
Suite 2A
802-808 Pacific Highway
GORDON NSW 2072
Ph: 02 9418 1488
Fax: 02 9418 4392

EDUCATION

Ophthalmic courses at Sydney Eye Hospital

The Post Registration Courses again commenced in June this year.. All the ophthalmic Post Registration Nursing Students are achieving the aims set and are enjoying the theory and practical balance that the course provides. This year Amy, Mark and David are off to the outback on the GMCT Eye Emergency project an opportunity they are excited to embrace.

The ophthalmic course and other courses running at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital are currently being reviewed and hopefully after approval by the University of Wollongong the courses will take a different path in 2009. More information regarding this new direction will be advertised soon.

There are still places in the following short courses for the remaining of this year:

- Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization for Health Care Facilities- October 17th (0830-1600)
- Emergency Management of Eye Injuries- October 16th and 17th (0830-1630)
- Paediatric Ophthalmology- December 5th (0830-1630)

For course information contact:
Cheryl Moore/ Mandy Riddell
(02) 93827409



This years students learn some tips form a guide dog user

Check out these websites:

Fast dictionary
www.definr.com

Word association
www.visuwords.com

Ophthalmology
www.opthalmic.hyperguides.com

FEATURE

AONA Celebrates 20 Years in Queensland

In November 1988, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital presented a one day seminar entitled "Ophthalmic Nursing - Looking Ahead". It was the first time in Queensland that a group of nurses interested in ophthalmic nursing had gathered to listen to presentations and exchange ideas. The success of this day sparked the idea of forming our own group similar to the Association in Sydney. Our first Seminar was held at Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital on the 16th of September, 1989.

From that time on the Association has grown from strength to strength, recently hosting its 20th Annual Seminar. This year's meeting, held at the Royal on the Park in Brisbane, was attended by more than 130 delegates. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Association a Gala Dinner followed the meeting. Another highlight of the meeting was the awarding of Life Membership to three long time committee members; Ghislaine Wharton, Linda Mahoney and Amanda Wylie.

Over the last 20 years nursing, and the Association, has undergone many changes and has enjoyed the loyalty and support of members. Reassuringly some of the nurses who attended that first meeting in 1988 were in the room at this year's meeting. Their presence sending a clear message that there is always something to learn in ophthalmic practice. It doesn't matter if you have been working as an ophthalmic nurse for 30 days or 30 years (as several in the room had!). Ophthalmic nursing is a dynamic profession and one that provides stimulating learning and clinical work for those who chose the role.



Conference registration



Life members Amanda Wylie, Ghislaine Wharton and Linda Mahoney



Device Technologies' Carmen Newman and Maria Lonzar with Ghislaine Wharton

STATE NEWS

Queensland

The Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association is doing well in the Sunshine State. 2008 has proven a busy year so far for the AONAQ Executive Committee with our ongoing commitment to Vision 2020 Australia, the National Ophthalmic Nurse Committee and our highly successful recent 20th Annual Conference. Now the newly elected committee looks forward to organising the final Clinical meeting for the year and to commencing planning for 2009. How time flies!

AONAQ has been a corresponding member of Vision 2020 for several years now. Membership has a two-fold benefit for the Association. Primarily it provides us access to this important group in eye health in Australia, and secondly it helps to raise the profile of ophthalmic nursing within the professions. Recently the Vision 2020 Member Forum was held in Brisbane, providing an opportunity for Ghislaine Wharton (AONAQ President) to attend.

A meeting of the National Ophthalmic Nurse Committee was held in August in Brisbane, following the annual AONAQ Conference. The meeting, hosted by AONAQ Committee members, was successful in furthering the competency project, the current major committee project.

The 20th annual AONAQ Conference was held at the Royal on the Park Hotel in Brisbane in August. The meeting was a great success, attended by over 130 delegates. The association's Annual General Meeting was held on the same day and a new committee elected. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work and commitment over the last 12 months and welcome both re-elected and new committee members. A Gala Dinner followed the conference to celebrate AONAQ's 20th year. The dinner was well attended by members, guests and the industry.

The new executive committee will meet shortly to commence planning for 2009. Planning for the final Clinical Meeting of the year will also be finalized. The meeting will be held at Greenslopes Private Hospital on Saturday, 6th December.

Amanda Wylie
AONAQ Vice President

Western Australia

A new committee was elected for AONA WA:

President Ms Cheryl Doran
Secretary Ms Gina Storey & Gonda Gould
Treasurer Philomena Grant
Editors Ms Brandi Mannion & Jenny Cartwright
Committee Members Ms Kris Jamieson & Lois-Ann Marshall

On behalf of the outgoing committee, we wish the new committee every success for the future and the outgoing committee will act as mentors for the new committee. We have a strong association and we know it will continue to grow with the new committee.

Denise Lomax
AONA WA

STATE NEWS

New South Wales

Thank you for the enthusiastic attendance at the annual conference in June.

The day was a great success and special appreciation to the organising committee and the industry for their support. We received great feedback to support the choice of topics and speakers with particular mention for Viv Latimer and Paula Smith. It is so encouraging to hear from nurses who are out there doing something positive with their skills and to open the doors for the possibility of others doing something similar.

I gave an introductory AONA presentation at the AUSCRS meeting in Queensland in July. It was wonderful to know the audience were mostly members from all around Australia and so we quickly moved onto the positive changes in the education modules that are now available to nurses wanting to move into the Ophthalmic area. Some of the members present at the meeting had already completed the Queensland University distance education Ophthalmic Course and shared their enthusiasm for the content.

Committee members attended the AONA Queensland meeting in August and gave positive feedback about the content of the meeting. We are also looking forward to the combined RANZCO and AONA meeting in November 2008

The information we receive from the annual conference feedback sheets helps us plan for the clinicals as well as the next conference and I would like to thank Amanda Wylie for organising the meeting to be held in Canberra with Vitreo-Retinal topics on the program.

Clinical meetings for 2009 include:

February 21st

Wetlab at Alcon Laboratories Frenchs Forrest

June 21st

Annual conference in Sydney

Sept/ Oct

TBA - regional/ rural area

Dec

Christmas TBA

Thank you for the support during the year

Jenny Keller

Do you live outside of Sydney and would like to have a AONA clinical morning in your area?

AONA NSW is looking for a place for their September / October 2009 Clinical. We need: a venue, speaker/s, ideas. AONA will assist with finances and any other practical help that we can.

Contact Joanna McCulloch for more information. 02 9382 7242.

STATE NEWS

Victoria

Hi to all, It seems such a short time since the last newsletter. Good to see a National newsletter, thanks go to all the state editors who worked on it, particularly Janet Long and her son who kindly spent many hours putting it all together. It is still having some fine tuning to ensure all the states get their news out. As with all newsletters it depends on input from members to make it relevant and interesting to readers. It is one of the voices for our specialty so we hope that members write about their experiences and practice that may we have that is of interest to others which all helps to promote and help others understand what it is to be an ophthalmic nurse and part of the ophthalmic care team.

The committee is still very busy working on the conference program and registration should be out very soon. There has been much interest already, and we shall have the chance to catch up with a variety of New Zealand nurses coming over as well as interstate members. We are also working on updating the constitution and shall have a new one ready for members at the conference.

We want to make sure that we, as a committee are fulfilling the association aims, meeting members expectations within a structure that meets legal and professional requirements. For example we need to show we are providing educational events that are within the auspice of professional nursing as well as pertaining to our specialty. We need to show the committee decisions are appropriate and that we are using funds appropriately. We have recently been to a chartered accountant for advice on the way we are managing our financial affairs.

We are also listening to our members and have worked together with RANZCO to run our conference at the same venue and at the beginning of their conference to enable nurses

to attend sessions of interest to them as well as keep up to date on ophthalmic nursing issues. We are running it independently and the trade are again providing us with their invaluable support. Thanks to John Deeth of RANZCO for this great opportunity to collaborate with them.

Look out for AONA(Vic) member reports on the World Ophthalmology congress and AUSCRS conference in Qld –AONA(Vic) helped sponsor members to attend.

Since the last newsletter I have attended as the state committee representative the NSW & Qld state AONA conferences (see reports) and learnt that there are some issues that are universal in Ophthalmic nursing, whichever state you are in so it was good to have the chance to discuss, debate and share practice methods to come up with underlying principles to forge ahead. The issue of patient care on discharge & nurse responsibility seems to be a hot topic.

Our website seems to be attracting interest too from overseas we have had half a dozen enquiries about ophthalmic nursing opportunities in Australia and have provided information on appropriate avenues for them to take to work in Australia. It reminds us that we are part of an international speciality and that professional adventures await ophthalmic nurses far and wide.....

So from one of the busy bees on the very hard working & sociable committee.

Looking forward to seeing you at our conference in November

President Pam Arms t r o n g
AONA V I C T O R I A

STATE NEWS

AONA Vic Members Traverse the Globe

AONA members Edna Lee & Christina So attended the World Ophthalmic Congress in Hong Kong Hot and sticky with occasional torrential downpours was the weather forecast in Hong Kong for the World Ophthalmic Congress. AONA Vic's Edna Lee and Christina So we're pleased to take shelter in the air conditioned comfort of the WOC. They joined the more than 10,000 delegates from over 100 countries making the difficult decision of which of the 300 scientific sessions to attend - plus the 400 sponsor stands and the 2,000 posters. Over 1,000 international speakers, including our own Professors Taylor, Wong and Crowston, and Doctors Kowal and Cheng spoke at the five day congress. The highlight for Christina was meeting Professor Josef Flammer, a renowned Glaucoma specialist, she attended two of his sessions on Normal Tension Glaucoma and Hypoxia in Glaucoma. "The five days of WOC were very successful. It was an eye opening experience for me as I have gathered plenty of useful ideas and knowledge that are relevant to work. The next WOC is in Berlin, Germany, June 2010, I highly recommend every ophthalmic nurse attend such a wonderful event." Edna was closely involved with Visudyne treatments for AMD from the outset and was very interested in AMD research using Visudyne, anti-VEGF or Triamcinalone for Asian patients, who have a different genetic makeup requiring

a different approach for diagnosis and treatment..."visudyne is not dead yet.." says Edna. Edna was sponsored by AONA Vic..."I would love to thank AONA, Vic especially our president, Ms. Pam Armstrong's support. She was happy to assist me with conference fee so I can now share my experience with you all." reports www.aonavic.com.au

AONA Victoria's 2008 conference - Sight Seeing Victoria
Saturday 22nd November

chance to win an ipod nano, happy hour, sensational speakers & marvelous Melbourne

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www.aonavic.com.au