



News and Views

Newsletter of Australian Ophthalmic Nurses' Association
Autumn 2007

In the Autumn edition of *News and Views: 2007* is shaping up to be an exciting year in Ophthalmic Nursing as we work towards a National Competency Framework and see more and more of our members branching out into new endeavours. As this issue shows, there are **opportunities galore** to expand your horizons and hone your skills and knowledge as an ophthalmic nurse.

We report on Joanna Barton's inspirational trip to **Myanmar**:

In December last year I was given the wonderful opportunity to travel to Myanmar to help Dr Geoff Cohn's team bring sight and happiness to the poor people of Whacett... The hospital is run on a shoestring, patients admitted/discharged with no administration staff, no computers, an exercise book does the lot. Patients on every bed, all aspects of care from personal to eye drops are looked after by the family.... A memorable journey among beautiful people. I would love to return one day.

We also update progress on the **National Competency Workgroups**:

...The Royal College of Nurses has kindly allowed us to use their competency framework as a guide for our own. Over the next few months, working parties drawn from interested members will be looking at specific issues relevant to our Australia setting, such as legal, geographical and career structure differences....Each state's working party will be reporting back in June. A workshop to discuss our various ideas and differences will be held in Sydney on June 24th, the day after our Annual Conference.

Also featured in *News and Views*:

*Our colleagues the **Orthoptists**; What does an orthoptist do? What is their role in neurology?*

Also featured:

*Short ophthalmic nursing courses at **Sydney Eye Hospital**
[West Australian AONA's Annual Conference](#) in November in **Perth** in conjunction with [RANZCO](#)*

Subscription to *News and Views* is included in your annual AONA membership ([membership form](#)). It is posted or e-mailed quarterly. The editor is always interested to hear from nurses with ideas for stories or articles. We also love receiving photos of AONA events. All contributions or suggestions to janetlong@exemail.com.au.