



Editorial



Guest Editorial

Changing of the Guard and ANNA President's Address

Linda Nichols
Editor

Stepping into big shoes is never easy, as I can attest. Since I have taken over as editor I have tried to continue on where Vicki left off and to maintain the high standards she set.

I am sure that I am not alone in feeling like this, however like the other roles I have fulfilled on the ANNA committee my transition to editor was seamless and incredibly well supported.

Catherine's award winning presentation on mentoring at the ANNA conference in Wellington encapsulated what so many of us have experienced informally though ANNA and I am looking forward to seeing this process formalised so that we can enable the next generation of nurses to engage in leadership positions. I have been so privileged to have been a part of ANNA and would not have achieved what I have without the support of the committee members past and present.

With this in mind I wish to introduce our two new committee members. Leigh McCarthy will be taking up the role of Vice President and I look forward to seeing her skills, vibrant personality and can do approach applied in this role. Diane Lear is also joining us as president. Diane's skills and familiarity with ANNA having been a long term active member will bring a wealth of new ideas and collaborative partnerships.

Debbie and Jeanne will not be travelling far with Debbie continuing as the WA delegate and Jeanne staying to guide and assist, particularly with the preparations for 2021.

Diane Lear
President

It is an honour to be elected as the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association President at the annual conference in Wellington, New Zealand thus giving me the opportunity to lead ANNA over the next 3 years. I assure you I am dedicated to neuroscience nursing and will be committed to the role of ANNA President.

I have been a neuroscience nurse for over 30 years, and have been working in the role of Clinical Nurse Consultant at Westmead Hospital for the majority of that time. Those of you from NSW would know I am also currently the Neurosurgical Nurses Professional Development Scholarship Committee (NNPDSC) Chairperson.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President Jeanne Barr for her exceptional hard work, dedication and passionate and inclusive leadership of ANNA over the past 3 years.

I would like to reflect on the vision of ANNA. ANNA has a great history spanning over 45 years. The World Federation Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN) was established in 1968 with the first ANNA conference being held in the nation's capital, Canberra in 1974 with 30 nurses in attendance. ANNA is the peak body for neuroscience nurses to facilitate and foster the advancement of neuroscience nursing thus enabling optimal patient centred care. Although neurosciences is a relatively small specialty, as nurses we have the power to influence and drive change by working together. Together we can continually strive to build a better and safer environment and provide the best standard of care to our patients whilst advancing our organisation and profession.



A huge thank you to both Jeanne and Debbie for their work, commitment and contributions over the last three years.

It is an exciting time ahead with a symposium in Sydney next year, the conference in Melbourne and the WFNN Congress in Darwin 2021 and I look forward to working with both the members and committee to see ANNA continue to grow.

Next year we also celebrate the 'Year of the Nurse and Midwife' and ANNA is looking forward to celebrating this time and continuing to network and share our knowledge and skills both at the annual conference and through the AJON.

Linda

Linda Nichols
Editor

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One of my key areas of focus over the next 3 years is to increase the relevance of ANNA to our neuroscience nurses so that we can continue to foster growth, collegiality and learning whilst continuing to grow our membership. As a professional organisation we need to connect our members with each other to learn from one another and develop skills and opportunities as well as foster networking and discussion. Our Treasurer Catherine Hardman will be implementing a mentor program in 2020 to provide an opportunity to early career neuroscience nurses as well as an opportunity for more experienced neuroscience nurses looking to give back. The committee are also looking to seek other ways to strengthen the connections we have with our members.

The World Health Assembly has officially designated 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse and Midwife" in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. I look forward to sharing this wonderful celebration with you all at the next ANNA conference in Melbourne, Australia.

I would like to once again thank you for your support and I look forward to working with the committee and members in guiding the association over the next 3 years.

Diane

Diane Lear
President

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