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Carmel Inglis resigned as Clinical Nurse Consultant, Infection Control from Calvary Hospital ACT, at the end of March. Carmel had four years part-time in infection control, at Woden Valley (now The Canberra Hospital) then the past eighteen years at Calvary full-time, but wore a few "other hats" as well. Carmel was one of the first infection control practitioners in the ACT and was a member of the inaugural meeting in 1986 to form the Infection Control Association ACT. As well, she was a part of the organising committee for the 1st AICA Conference in 1987 and converter for 9th Conference in 1995, both of which were held in Canberra.

During 1994 and 1995, Carmel was President of ICA ACT. She believes that it is the spirit of friendliness, co-operation and sharing of knowledge which has helped develop infection control practitioners in their work. Carmel certainly nurtured this spirit within our small but active Association.

Carmel has brought to the infection control discipline, knowledge, dignity and professionalism. Her colleagues from ICA ACT wish her a long and healthy retirement.

Elaine Graham, ACT Sub-Editor



Queensland State News



Milestones and Movements

Over the past seven months Queensland members have had the opportunity to contribute to the strategic plan for future directions and developments within ICPAQ. Through this broadly-based consultative process, the final document, which aligns with the national focus, will potentially represent the ideas and Interests of all ICPAQ members. The strategic plan will be submitted to Queensland Health and its Infection Control Expert Working Group with a view to achieving closer alignment between policy planners and practitioners.

Dolly Olesen was recently appointed to the position of Infection Control practitioner to the state health department (Queensland Health). This position has been created to establish a strategic focus for infection control policy and service in Queensland.

Mary Mott (immediate past president of ICPAQ) has recently been recognised by her state colleagues who have nominated her for Honorary membership of AICA. This nomination is in recognition of her many years of service and commitment to the promotion of infection control.

Infection Control Courses

On the education front there is also an increasing level of activity. Princess Alexandra Hospital is running a two week course in infection control 4-15 August. The course is now a

yearly event and is aimed at providing up-to-date education in infection control for practitioners at all levels. This year the course is being run at the QML Conference Centre in Brisbane. Enquiries can be directed to Jenny Stackelroth telephone (07) 3240 5920; fax: (07) 3240 5540.

Griffith University, Faculty of Health is offering a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters degree in Infection Control which begin in semester two this year. The course planning was a collaborative venture between ICPAQ and academics from the School of Science and the School of Nursing at Griffith University. Students will be able to undertake the degree of their choice through either on-campus or distance education made from 1998. Enquiries about this course can be directed to the course co-ordinator at the School of Nursing, Griffith University, telephone (07) 2875 5214 or fax: (07) 2875 7984.

Queensland State Conference

Planning for the state conference is well under way. This year ICPAQ and the Queensland Wound Care Association Inc. are hosting a joint state conference. This conference is to be held September 19-21 at the Brisbane Sheraton Hotel. For further information or registration details contact the conference convenors Enterprising Events, telephone (07) 3832 8894 or fax (07) 3832 8945.

Glenn Gardner, Old Sub-Editor

Victorian State News



The 11th National Conference of the Australia Infection Control Association was held in Melbourne on May 7th-9th at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

There were over 240 Registrants from all parts of Australasia. Two delegates travelled from Papua New Guinea, one from England, and several from New Zealand, two of whom presented papers.

International Speakers were led by the keynote speaker Dr Raf Mertens – Scientific Institute of Public Health – Louis Pasteur – Brussels and guest of AICA. Dr Mertens spoke of the Belgian and the wider European experience of infection surveillance.

Other international speakers were Dr Janine Jagger from the USA, Assoc. Professor Roland CC Leung from Hong Kong and Dr Adrian Duse from South Africa. These speakers were sponsored by various companies with an interest in the Healthcare field.

The program was ably supported by local experts and the conference was opened by Dr Graham Rouch, Chief Health Officer, Department of Human Resources, Victoria.

Sessions were chaired by the State Presidents including the current president of AICA Madeline McPherson.

Nine Poster Presentations were on display.

The Annual General Meeting of AICA was conducted during the course of the conference and the minutes will be distributed in due course. One of the issues discussed was

the frequency of National Conferences and their relationship to State Conferences.

Several sub-committees of the AICA executive were held and it was good for some of us to become acquainted with those we have only communicated with per telelink or similar. It was good to put faces to names!

The conference was a success and much of the credit goes to the organising committee: Mal Butler, Bronwyn Holbeche, Joy Humphreys, Kevin Kendall, Janine Malcolm and Sue Scott, all members of the host Executive VICNA, also to Sarah Markey and Kylie Ayres from ICMS Pty Ltd.

The 'trade' was most supportive of this conference and this support was a factor in the success of the conference.

The post conference assessments are being studied and the results will be made available to the organising committee of the 1998 conference, to be held in Perth. Melbourne was cold and wet and while this is its reputation (undeserved) this weather followed a sustained season that was extremely to conducive outdoor activities. Unfortunately this season ended a few days before the conference. The Conference Dinner was held at The Windsor – Melbourne, in the Grand Ballroom and was a fitting end to an excellent program.

Ross Peck, Victorian Sub-Editor



Tasmanian State News



Eight members of the Tasmanian Infection Control Association travelled to Melbourne to attend the National Infection Control Conference. It was an excellent opportunity for furthering our Infection Control Education, networking with our colleagues, renewing old friendships and fostering new ones.

The experience was made more memorable for us with the bestowing of life membership of the Australian Infection Control Association (AICA) on our friend and colleague Cynthia Bryce.

Cynthia Bryce was the first Infection Control Nurse appointed in Tasmania in 1977. An Infection Control Course was undertaken in 1978 at the Lincoln Institute, as it was called then. It was there that networks were formed around Australia and those support groups remain today, with many friends still around who share in this challenging world of infection control.

Cynthia has seen the development of AICA and has always displayed a keen interest in the vastly diverse activities. Having been given the opportunity of undertaking the role Cynthia has seen the development of AICA and has always displayed a keen interest in the vastly diverse activities. Having been given the opportunity of undertaking the role of National President (1993), Cynthia has seen first hand the agenda and challenge of the AICA Executive and support groups. The AICA representative at the Creutzfeldt-Jakob International Seminar gave strength to the significance of the international links so formed with AICA.

We congratulate Cynthia and the other recipients of this award and wish them well for the future.

Shasta Tonks, Tasmanian Sub-Editor