From the President’s Desk

An exciting time ahead for the Association

At the forthcoming AGM AICA members will be asked to vote with a show of support for proposed changes to the structure of AICA. Several letters have been sent to the membership outlining the proposed changes and how this may affect the States and Territory Associations. Overall the feedback has been positive and supportive for the proposed changes. Many believe there is significant merit in moving to a new structure that will benefit the membership and strengthen the profession.

To ensure AICA and its members are fully informed and aware of all aspects of the proposed changes we have appointed a legal firm; Moores Legal to provide expert legal advice. Moores Legal has assisted a number of Associations in similar situations. If you would like further information about the legal processes outlined by Moore’s you can contact the AICA secretariat or your State/Territory President.

By the time you are reading this edition of the newsletter, the outcome of the resolutions passed at the AGM will be known. One of these resolutions includes the establishment of a consultative steering committee that will oversee the work required in consultation with the membership, the Executive of AICA and, the appointed solicitors, Moores Legal. If the proposed resolutions are supported, there is much planning and consultation to follow.

The scope and practice of Infection Control is constantly changing. We believe that a change of structure will allow us to be more adept at moving with changes and will unite us as a profession. We are a strong, financially solvent organisation that has an excellent reputation with our external partners. Credentialling has grown ten-fold and our Healthcare Infection Journal increased in both readership and authorship substantially. Our biannual conference hosted by alternating States continues to go from strength to strength. This is an exciting time for Infection Control professionals across Australia.

More information on the outcome of the AGM is available on the AICA website.

Ebulletin

In July 2010 AICA launched the first edition of the ebulletin which is emailed out to all members at regular intervals (usually monthly but more often as required). We hope that you enjoyed the first and subsequent editions that have been designed to keep you informed of National issues as they arise. If you would like to contribute an item please send your contribution to Linda Henderson (newsletter editor) via admin@aica.org.au

AICA members only section of website

Our website includes reports from external committees, such as the ACSQHC and outcomes of national projects. The website also keeps you informed of the proposed changes to the structure of AICA. You will need your AICA password to log in.
State and Territory News

South Australia

Education
It has been a busy few months regarding educational opportunities for ICASA members:

- An evening seminar held in June at The Education Centre, was a great success with over 40 people attending. The topic was “Challenges for the Infection Control Professional” and included presentations from representatives from the Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) and Dr Deborough McBeath, the Infection Control Coordinator from The Gold Coast Hospital. The speakers gave an interesting overview of infection control – where it was and where it is going.
- A Building and Renovation workshop was held at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in August; Dr William Jarvis, an Infectious Diseases Consultant visited from the US and presented “Prevention & Control of Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections” at a lunchtime forum

Upcoming seminars are:

- “What’s lurking in your water” – experts from Australia and the UK will present their insights and research on ecology and control of legionella and pseudomonas infection
- Managing Risk & Quality in healthcare organizations in October
- Zoonoses – diseases associated with animals in November

AGM
The annual general meeting will be conducted during the planned educational evening in October.

Website
The new look website is now up and is receiving great accolades. It has members only log in and access to some great resources. For further information, please go to www.icasa.org.au

AICA Conference
The biennial AICA conference will be held in Perth from Monday 4th October to Wednesday 6th October. This is your opportunity to hear interesting speakers and network with other national and international Infection Control Professionals.

Membership
Do not forget membership renewal was due in June – if you haven’t already done so please take the time to renew.

Linda Henderson
Committee member & Newsletter Representative – ICASA

New South Wales

Education: ICANSW recently held a very interesting education day at Royal North Shore Hospital. A very full and interesting program was developed, and thanks goes to Julie Hunt for all the work she put into the organisation. The 80 places available were taken very quickly. Topics included Risk Management and EQUIP, Occupational Safety/Staff Health, Sterilising, IC in Aged Care, screening for multi-resistant organisms, and epidemiology. Following all that there were tours of either the lab or the burns unit to choose from.

We welcome suggestions and ideas for education from our membership so that we can help tailor appropriate education to their needs.

AGM: By the time this newsletter is distributed ICANSW will have held their AGM and education day on 17th September. The Executive Members will be listed in the next edition of the State News.

Website: Julie Gallard has been working hard on our website, adding a members only section with some very interesting resource sites. We welcome members’ contributions of sites that they have found useful, and we are looking at the best method of maintaining an up-to-date resource file.

Helen O’Harae
ICA NSW

Tasmania

Current TICA Developments
Anne Wells has been appointed the TICA professional Development officer. Anne has planned in conjunction with TICA exec a number of initiatives including professional development days. They will also be considering themes for the 2011 TICA conference

The end of this year will see a number of opportunities arise for TICA positions. The TICA President has asked members to consider nominating for positions within the organization as they become vacant this year. The executive team will be encouraging members to nominate even if the sitting member is seeking re-election, hoping to get wider representation of TICA current members.

News About Members – $5000 worth of scholarships awarded!
A numbers of scholarships and bursaries have been awarded in the last month. A total of $5000 has been awarded to members in the past two months. Congratulations to the following people - Libby Oakes, Anne Wells, Saffron Brown, and Karen Maskell all received $1000 each to assist them in attending the AICA Conference 2010 in Perth. Lynne Andrewartha Received the Cynthia Bryce Scholarship grant of $1000.

Thank-you to all whom applied we had a great response.
TICA Website
The issues in updating this have now been resolved and the site updated. The date of the last update is always contained on the home page.

AICA Conference 2010
I’m sure that all Infection Prevention and Control personnel are looking forward to this event. This gives us an exciting opportunity to participate and have exposure to the latest developments in our chosen discipline. This event only occurs biennially so we encourage all interested personnel to take this opportunity to attend if possible.

2011 TICA Conference
Just a reminder to all members that this will come around fast and anyone wishing to nominate to be on the organizing committee should get in touch with the Executive. This is a great opportunity to participate in organizing a major event and have support of experienced people to guide and advise you as a new member. You may be able to bring new ideas and valuable talents to this committee.

Jenny Stubbings
Newsletter Representative Tasmania

Australian Capital Territory

Membership
A reminder to all members that membership is now due for renewal. All current members should have received an electronic copy of the renewal forms.
New members are always welcome. Forms can be obtained from me on kerry.gill@act.gov.au or Wendy on wendy.beckingham@act.gov.au.

Education Sessions
Continuing the success of our breakfast education meeting this year, we followed up with an informative talk on Accreditation Standards in Aged Care, given by Ms Victoria Oakden. Victoria is an assessor with Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency. This was well attended by both members and non-members particularly those who work in Aged Care facilities throughout the ACT.
Infection Control during Construction, Renovation & Maintenance simulated training workshop road show arrived in Canberra on Monday 9th August. The workshop focused on strategies for the prevention of infection in patients, staff and visitors during construction, renovation and repair in the health care environment.
The workshop was held at The Canberra Hospital and conducted by Glenys Harrington, Glenys is an expert in infection control and renovation management in the health care setting.

Scholarships
A reminder to members that scholarships are available to assist in furthering their education.

Members applying for Credentialling with AICA can also ask for financial assistance from the association.
Further information is available from Philippa on philippa.keating@act.gov.au

AGM
The AGM will be held on Tuesday 7th September 2010 at 7.30am. A light breakfast will be provided. Can all members put this date in their diary as a reminder to attend this important meeting?
The election for positions on the executive committee will take place at the meeting. If you are or know someone that is interested in one of the positions, please contact Philippa for a nomination form.

Kerry Gill
Newsletter representative

Victoria

Half Day Seminar Thursday 15th July 2010
A very successful half day seminar was held prior to the VICPA AGM July 15th at the Caulfield General Medical Centre. There were over 70 registrations for the day making it one of the best attended half day seminars to have been run by VICPA. Some of the topics discussed at the seminar included aged care surveillance, multi-resistant Gram negative organisms, infection control in a dental hospital, the new maintenance standards for critical areas for Victorian health facilities, Listeria, Hepatitis C transmission within healthcare settings and different perspectives on hand hygiene auditing. PowerPoint presentations from the day are available on the VICPA website “members only” section.

VICPA AGM 15th July 2010
The 2010 VICPA AGM was held after the half day seminar. The AGM provided an opportunity to inform members of VICPA’s activities over the last 12 months - reports presented are also available on the VICPA website. VICPA would like to welcome three new members to the VICPA Executive; Kate O’Donaghe (Royal Women’s Hospital), Maureen Canning (Peninsula Health) and Leslie Lewis (Hume Region Infection Control Consultant).
The new VICPA Executive line up for 2010 - 2011 is as follows:
- President: Wendy Bacalja
- Vice President: Sue Flockhart
- Secretary: Maureen Canning
- Treasurer: Sue Atkins
- Membership Secretary: Paul Simpson
- Education Officers: Catina Eyres & Kate O’Donaghe
- Publicity & Newsletter: Donna Cameron
- AICA Representative: Wendy Bacalja
- VACIC Representative: Donna Cameron (metro) & Sue Flockhart (rural)
VAC Representative: Leslie Lewis (rural) & Matt Richards (metro)

VICPA would like to thank and acknowledge outgoing executive members Lorraine Wilson, Matt Mason (resigned January 2010) and Judy Brett for their hard work and significant contributions to VICPA. Each has played an important role during their tenure on the executive – Lorraine as secretary, Matt as treasurer and Judy, of course, our President for the past 3 years. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club
Date and venues for upcoming Journal Clubs are as follows:

8th September 2010 Royal Melbourne Hospital
November 2010 Venue to be confirmed

We are still looking for a venue for the November Journal Club. If you can provide a venue please contact Wendy Bacalja (bacaljaw@dhsv.org.au). For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website www.vicpa.org.au closer to the date.

Statistical Process Control (SPC) Workshop
One of the workshops held prior the VICPA 2009 conference was an SPC workshop. It was booked out at the time and due to its popularity VICPA has decided to run another workshop in November this year. The date has not yet been set but as soon as it has been finalised it will be advertised to our members.

APSCI 2011
The 5th International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control is being hosted by VICPA and will be held in Melbourne 8 – 11 November 2011. The venue for the conference is the newly opened Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre situated on the Yarra River.

The scientific programme is progressing and will include several key note speakers from both the international and local infection control communities. For more information on the conference and key dates please visit the website www.APSCI2011.com.

Donna Cameron
VICPA Newsletter Editor

Queensland

Membership

ICPAQ would like to welcome new members since the last AICA newsletter:

- Janine Carrucan - Townsville Hospital
- Rebecca Adams - Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Helen Martelli - Sundale Garden Village
- Maree Sgarbossa - Townsville Day Surgery
- Lucy Boorer - Townsville Hospital
- Cathy Fritz - Wide Bay Health
- Lee-Ellen Edisson - Redcliffe Hospital
- Nigel Barr – University of the Sunshine Coast/Qld Ambulance Service

Education

The ICPAQ Education forum, held with the General Meeting at Princess Alexandra Hospital in June, featured an exciting presentation by Ramon Shaban, a Senior Lecturer at Griffith University and ICPAQ member. Ramon presented ‘Infection Control Education in the Middle East: The 2010 AICA-UAE Experience’ which outlined his experience providing infection control education to Infection Control Practitioners (ICP’s) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the team sent by AICA earlier this year.

Local Renal Dialysis Unit staff – Scott Dryburgh (RN) and Debbie Clarke (ICP – Renal) presented at the Education forum preceding the AGM. The session focused on the importance of water quality management in the RDU environment and the associated infection control risks.

Education Scholarships & Credentialling Scholarships

- Two education scholarships up to $3500 are available; the Dolly Olesen Education Scholarship Fund and the Richard Kemp Memorial Scholarship for Education/Research.
- Four Credentialling scholarships of $250 each are available in each calendar year as a retrospective payment.

The closing date for these scholarship applications is the 30th September each year. Application forms and criteria can be found on the ICPAQ website www.icpac.org.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Infection Control Practitioners Association of Queensland Inc. held on Wednesday 8 September 2010 at Logan Hospital (Cnr Armstrong & Loganlea Rds, Meadowbrook). The final draft of the ICPAQ Strategic plan 2010 – 2013 was tabled and discussed with members.

Meagan Hunter
ICPAQ Newsletter Representative

Western Australia

ICAWA Membership

The current membership is 122 with outstanding renewals still arriving. Electronic payment of membership has now been implemented to facilitate the renewal process.

ICAWA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

A breakfast meeting is planned for the AGM on 15 October 2010. The nomination form for nine vacant Executive Officer positions has been distributed to ICAWA members in preparation for voting at the AGM. Outcomes from the AICA AGM regarding changes to the AICA structure will be a key discussion point.


Planning is on schedule for this exciting event. The AICA Conference Web Site listing key activities and milestone dates is: www.aicaconference.org.au.
AICA Conference Financial Assistance

ICAWA Executive Committee has administered funds of $700 to three ICAWA members to attend the 2010 AICA National Conference. Funding was also provided to Filomena Mascaro (Princess Margaret Hospital) for assistance with costs to attend the 4th Annual Vaccination Conference in Vienna.

Credentialling

Alison Thrum is the sixth Infection Control Professional to become credentialled in WA. ICAWA Executive have agreed in principle to the funding of scholarships for credentialling. Details will be discussed further following the AICA conference.

ICAWA Annual Scholarship Program

ICAWA Executive are progressing an annual scholarship program for post-graduate study ($5000) or training ($1000). Assessment criteria for awarding the scholarship are currently being developed.

Allison Peterson
Newsletter Representative – ICAWA

Other news

Australian Infection Control Association Credentialling Committee

As incoming Chair of the Credentialling Committee I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of my predecessor, Louise Hobbs who, in the spirit of the very effective Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) I know and admire, held her hospital-based position, continued to raise her young family, continued her PhD work, participated in the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare Implementation Advisory Committee, and Chaired the Credentialling Committee. Life is full of people who constantly tell us what they cannot do on the basis of being too busy, assuming that those who give of themselves do so because they have nothing else to fill their time. Louise is a very good example of the inaccuracy of this perception and we appreciate her commitment.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the AICA Executive and in particular, Claire Boardman, the President. These people have truly pushed the boundaries in terms of providing practical demonstrations of the value of credentialling. It is an expectation that members of the AICA Executive and members representing AICA on other Boards and Committees will be credentialled. The value of credentialling is clear to the Executive in terms of providing a mechanism whereby a pool of ICPs with appropriate qualifications, experience and specialised skills have already been identified and their credentials verified. This group of ICPs have demonstrated a number of attributes including: their commitment to ongoing professional development; active contribution to the profession of infection control; and, ongoing critical evaluation of their professional practice through reflexivity and through their participation in the Credentialling process itself. It takes professional maturity and confidence to submit oneself to the scrutiny of one’s peers, people who will not be bluffed by someone who can, ‘talk the talk’. Congratulations to those who dare.

AICA has almost reached the point at which a critical mass of members have been credentialled. Soon, the credentialled ICP (CICP) will be the norm rather than the exception. This is so important at this particular juncture in Australia, where there is increasing focus on infection control and the cost and prevention of healthcare associated infections. Our profession will increasingly come under public scrutiny in terms of the outcomes of our program and initiatives. Our facilities will be compared with one another, often by people who have no understanding of the dangers inherent in such comparisons, and we will find ourselves under pressure from hospital executives toe ensure that our programs are achieving the desired outcomes.

In addition to the credentialling services offered to members the work of the Credentialling Committee has been extended to include the development of a process for credentialling infection control courses. This initiative has our members very much in mind. Ultimately, it is hoped that the AICA website will be able to provide members with useful information regarding the tertiary infection control courses in terms of those most likely to adequately prepare a novice ICP for practice in this demanding discipline.

To me, the future looks full and challenging and potentially fruitful. We have a unique opportunity at this time in the profession. There is a considerable amount of activity in infection control and significant resource investment. It serves us well to remember: “To whom much has been given, much shall be required”. I look forward to working with all AICA members to ensure we are adequately prepared and able to meet the challenges ahead.

Dr Deborough MacBeth,
Chair, Credentialling Committee

Reports

Did you know that all the reports tabled at the monthly AICA executive meeting are available via the AICA website members only section? This might be just what you have been searching for to keep abreast of changes on the national front and to find out what is discussed at the AICA Executive meetings.

Claire Boardman, AICA President
Registration and call for abstracts online now!

Invited Speakers

A/Prof Paul Tambyah:
Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine, National University of Singapore.

A/Prof Stephan Harbarth:
Senior Research Associate, Hospital Epidemiologist and Attending Physician at the University Hospital, Genève, Switzerland.

Prof Dennis Maki:
Ovid O. Meyer Professor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases at the University of Wisconsin.

The countdown has begun...
2010 Infection Control Odyssey

6th Biennial Australian Infection Control Association Conference
MONDAY 4 - WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2010
Burswood Convention Centre, Perth, Western Australia

For further information please visit: www.aicaconference.org.au