Annual Report
2002–2003
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Mission
The Australian & New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc. provides professional leadership and encourages excellence in mental health nursing by:

- Promoting a positive identity for the profession
- Encouraging unity within the profession
- Promoting best practice in mental health nursing education and training
- Promoting the development of best practice in nursing care
- Facilitating partnerships between mental health nurses and consumers, carers, indigenous people and other stakeholders in mental health.

Objectives of the College
The College seeks to:

- Promote public confidence and professional recognition of mental health nursing
- Set standards of practice and encourage professional accountability, autonomy and partnership
- Provide a forum for collegial support, networking and collaboration
- Provide support and quality education and ongoing professional development
- Develop and facilitate research into mental health nursing practice and health care
- Represent the profession and provide advice to consumer and carer agencies, the government and non-government sector, community groups and the general public
- Participate in policy development concerning the profession, health care delivery, promotion of mental health and prevention of mental illness and disability.

Contacting the College
Australia
PO Box 126
Greenacres, South Australia 5086
Toll Free: 1300 556 160
Website: www.anzcmhn.org

New Zealand
PO Box 83–111
Edmonton Road, Auckland, New Zealand
President’s and Executive Officer’s Report

The past year has been one of intense activity and remarkable achievement for the College. As part of an ongoing strategy to reduce costs and improve efficiency Council meetings have been held by teleconference on a monthly basis. This and the transaction of much business by email has enabled us to significantly reduce the length of our twice yearly face-to-face meetings.

The 27th March 2003 marked the official launch of the Credential for Practice Program in Hobart. For the first time in the history of Australia and New Zealand it has become possible for mental health nurses to have their individual achievement of professional standards of mental health nursing practice formally recognised through a rigorous process of peer review by their professional organisation. Since the formal launch of the CPP program, seven mental health nurses have been credentialed. Congratulations go to Mr Jim Pearson, Ms Cecily Pollard, Ms Coral Muskat, Mr Stephen Elsom, Ms Donna Hodgson, Ms Katrina McDonald and Mr Jon Chesterson. The College is indebted to Mr Jon Chesterson, the CPP project officer, for his tireless efforts and ongoing dedication to the program. In September 2003 the critical importance of the Credentialing for Practice Program was formally recognised by Council with the establishment of the Board of Credentialing and the appointment of its foundation chairman, Mr Jim Pearson.

The last year has also seen the re-launch of the College website at its new permanent address: www.anzcmhn.org. In May 2003, Council was pleased to appoint Mr Richard Lakeman as the ANZCMHN webmaster. With Richard’s expertise the College can look forward to the ongoing development of the website as a mechanism to communicate more effectively with members and to promote the activities of the College and the mental health nursing profession.

Also in the interests of accessibility and ease of communication, the College now has a permanent telephone number. From anywhere in Australia it is now possible to contact the College for the cost of a local call by dialling 1300 556 160.

On the 15 May 2003 the College Council held a strategic planning meeting with Professor Harvey Whiteford. Professor Whiteford’s extensive experience at both state and commonwealth levels as Director of Mental Health and as a Director of the World Bank proved invaluable in assisting Council with its planning process.

The President and other members of Council continue to represent the College on a range of committees, boards and other policy and planning bodies. Notable examples are The Mental Health Council of Australia of which the College President is a Board Member; the Australian Nursing Council Professional Reference Group; the National Nursing Organisations, and the RCNA Affiliated Organisations Meeting. The activities of each of these organisations are reported through their own mechanisms and on the relevant websites. In all cases, ANZCMHN office bearers represent and advocate for the professional interests of mental health nurses.
At the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the College in Sydney, Council received a mandate from the membership to move towards the appointment of a salaried Executive Officer. To this end, the annual membership fees were increased by approximately 30% and a working group was established to progress the development of the position description and appointment processes. It is anticipated that the appointment of the Executive Officer will occur in early 2004. This is an important milestone in the history of the ANZCMHN that will allow the College to be more responsive to current issues and to the needs of mental health nurses.

At the Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Branch on 18 July 2003 the following motion was passed “The New Zealand membership agrees to separate from the ANZCMHN in a way that is most beneficial to the NZ membership – the NZ membership mandates the NZ executive committee to give authority to the ‘Separation Working Party’ to facilitate this process”. Council will be working closely with the New Zealand Branch to support the Branch’s decision to form a separate organisation which will seek affiliation with the College. It is hoped that as two independent but affiliated organisations we will be able to work towards a true partnership that enables the realisation of the needs and aspirations of the mental health nursing profession in Australia and New Zealand.

This year is Professor Michael Hazelton’s final one as editor of the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing. The College is fortunate to have enjoyed Mike’s expertise and commitment over the past six years, a time that has seen the Journal become firmly recognised as a top quality, peer reviewed international academic publication. Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Brenda Happell as Mike’s successor. Brenda has served for several years as the Deputy Editor of the Journal and will take over from Mike during a managed transition period of 12 months.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of Council, office bearers of the College, and all the other members and fellows of the College who have generously given their time over the past year.

Stephen Elsom
President

Irene Henley
Executive Officer
International Journal of Mental Health Nursing
Journal Editor’s Report

2002–2003 has been another very good year for the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing (IJMHN), with the only difficulty being the ongoing slowness of the manuscript review process that can be put down to the editor's workload in a conjoint funded professorial position, the modest level of funding provided to support the editorial team and the slowness of some reviewers in returning manuscripts. The slowness of the review process has clearly irritated a number of authors; however, to the best of my knowledge none have withdrawn their manuscripts and I have received no formal complaints about any aspect of the editorial (including the manuscript review) process.

2002 was the first full year in which the new journal format and nomenclature were used. It is noteworthy that the four 2002 issues of the IJMHN contained 36 articles, on average more than two articles per issue than the format used for the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Mental Health Nursing (ANZJMHN) (the equivalent of having added an extra edition of ANZJMHN each year).

It is also interesting to note the country of origin of the articles published in 2002.

- Australia (27)
- New Zealand (5)
- The Netherlands (2)
- United Kingdom (1)
- Hong Kong (1)

The first two editions of the Journal published in 2003 indicate the continued trend towards internationalisation.

- Australia (10)
- New Zealand (4)
- United Kingdom (1)
- Norway (1)
- Canada (1)
- Sweden (1)
- Multinational (1*)

Moreover, an article* published by four of the world’s leading psychiatric clinicians and researchers in the area of repeated transcranial magnetic stimulation in the March 2003 edition indicates the extent to which the IJMH is now seen as a leading mental health nursing journal both within and outside of mental health nursing.

Other highlights for the last year include the continuing increase in online sales and the successful penetration of the Journal into all of the world’s regions in the form of individual and group serials subscriptions to institutions.

- Australia and New Zealand (195)
- Asia (85)
- UK/Europe (350)
- Rest of world (266)
- Total: 1189
With these kinds of circulation figures we really are at the stage of being able to claim that the IJMHN is a first rank international publication for the discipline of mental health nursing.

In the 2001–2002 report I indicated that the IJMHN was beginning to attract interest from product advertisers. This has continued in 2002–2003, with advertisements being carried for AstraZeneca (Seroquel), Blackwell Publishing, the 2003 ANZCMHN Conference, Eli Lilly (Zyprexa), Wyndham Partners (recruitment consultants). As with last year, editorial approval must be given for all advertisements carried in the IJMHN. During the last year no advertisements were denied editorial approval. I am aware that there are some tensions surrounding advertisements carried in the Journal. While not wanting to down play the ethical issues associated with carrying some forms of product advertisements I want to remind Council that a proportion of advertisement revenue comes back to the College in the form of a discount of the production costs. Accordingly, any consideration of a formal advertising policy should take account of the financial impact on the production costs of the IJMHN.

As indicated to Council at our meeting last year in Sydney, my term as editor will come to an end at the annual conference 2004. As requested by Council, I have developed a draft position description. I look forward to working with the Editor designate over the next year and have every confidence that the transition to a new editorial team will be made smoothly. Naturally, once my term has come to an end I would be delighted to maintain an association with the IJMHN in any capacity the Council may consider appropriate.

Finally, producing a peer reviewed international journal of the standing of the IJMHN is a challenging task (as the Editor designate is soon to discover!). The production of the Journal is supported and assisted by many people who provide their time and services on a voluntary basis. As with previous years, my sincere thanks go to the members of the Editorial and International Editorial Boards and to the hard working panel of reviewers. Thanks also to the members of the editorial team and especially to those with whom I work closely at Blackwell Science, especially Adele Mighton. Without the support of these people it would not be possible to produce the IJMHN.

Professor Mike Hazelton
Editor, International Journal of Mental Health Nursing
Board of Censor’s Report 2003

Board Membership

Censor-in-Chief
Deb Nizette (appointed 2002 for a 5-year term)

College Patron
Meryl Caldwell-Smith (appointed 1998 at Fremantle)

Western Australia

Australian Capital Territory
Sheryl Hall (appointed 2003 for 2004–2005)

New South Wales

South Australia

Outgoing Board Members

Tasmania

Victoria
Ekura Emery (second term to 2003)
Derith Harris (second term to 2003)
Phil Maude (appointed 2001 for a 2-year term)
Phil was also elected to Council and resigned from the Board

New Zealand
Colin Hayes (second term to 2003)

New South Wales
Jan Barling (second term to 2003)

Continuation of Board membership for a further term (4 years maximum) requires a written memorandum to the Censor-in-Chief from the Members’ Branch.

Board members are requested to notify the Censor-in-Chief of their intention to attend the College conference so a Board meeting can be arranged. Board members aim to meet annually at conference and members are requested to submit agenda items for discussion to the Censor-in-Chief.
Life Members
There were no nominations to Life Membership in 2003. Branches are reminded of the opportunity to honour a branch member who has since retired by nominating them for life membership. A written nomination and endorsement outlining the member’s contribution to the Branch is forwarded to Council through the Branch Secretary. A brief curriculum vitae of the Life Member is also requested for the investiture ceremony.

Members and Fellows Admitted in Absentia
Members or Fellows who have previously been admitted in absentia are invited to be presented at the investiture ceremony (any year). Please advise the Censor in Chief of your request.

Investiture and Oration 2003
The investiture and oration ceremony was held at the Millennium Hotel Rotorua on Wednesday 10th September. Frances Hayes, the Chief Advisor Nursing to the Ministry of Health, New Zealand was the Orator for 2003. The title of Frances’ oration was ‘Relationships/Relationships, Relationships Key to unlocking the potential to self, profession and influencing policy’.

There were nine Fellows invested including:
• Roy Dobson  • Katie Evans
• Hineroa Hakiaha  • Brian Mc Kenna
• Erina Morrison Ngatai  • Jim Pearson
• Suzette Poole  • Tio Sewell
• Mark Smith

Fellows invested in the 2002 ceremony in Sydney were:
• Mick Blair  • Jennifer Bryant
• Charles Harmon  • Karen Harmon
• Antony Mullen  • Coral Muskett
• Margaret McAllister  • Frank Pearson
• Brenda Simm  • Neil Spencer
• Don Stewart  • Edward White

(See August 2002 report for details of oration)

Activities 2003–2004
Members of the Board met at Conference and progress has been made on review of the Terms of Reference, Fellowship applications and major processes of the Board.

Thanks and Welcome
A vote of thanks and good wishes to the outgoing Board members for their diligence on Board matters and for their support, and a big welcome to new members.

*Deb Nizette, Censor-in-Chief*
Website Report

The College website was redesigned and redeveloped by John Thrift Publishing and came online in May 2003 with its own domain name (www.anzcmhn.org).

The secure section of the website, for members only, is still to be implemented. This could not be done during the redevelopment stage because it requires a consolidated national database of member records, a project that is to be undertaken in the near future.

When council met at the North Queensland Tropical Symposium in May 2003, I agreed to act as webmaster of the redesigned website.

Since assuming the role of webmaster, I have made a number of changes such as implementing style sheets. These and other changes have been made in response to user feedback. I have spent considerable time adding new content to the site that has been provided by Branch Officers and Councillors. This new content includes a credentialing section and sub-branch sections.

A policy for adding and updating web content has been developed and Councillors and Office holders are charged with providing content in file formats specified in the Policy. Upon receiving content I will update the site in a timely fashion.

The website is for many people the public face of the College and it is important that members provide their Branch Officers and Councillors with information for submission to the site.

Richard Lakeman
Webmaster
**Stan Alchin Report (2003 Rotorua, New Zealand)**

This year set a new high for the standards for papers presented by practising clinicians at the ANZCHMN Annual Conference, Rotorua, New Zealand, 2003.

Each year the popularity and prestige of the Stan Alchin Award attracts more clinicians to present papers.

Three months prior to the conference, I received 47 abstracts viz email from Erina Morrison-Ngatai. This enabled me to forward plan to some extent. By the time of the conference I had established that 26 of these papers were definitely eligible to be reviewed for the award. There were five that had to be confirmed. In all, there were 28 papers judged eligible.

Each paper had two reviewers and this was a blind process. The reviewers did not know each other and the presenter of the paper was also unaware of who the reviewers in the audience were. This year, where possible I asked the session chairs to be reviewers. This appeared to work well and feedback from some chairs indicated that they felt this was a valuable process as it really helped them to focus on the presentation. From a pragmatic perspective I was also confident that they would be present in the session, so for me it mostly meant I only had to run around checking on the other reviewers whereabouts and monitoring their presence.

Some controversy arose with the definition of “a practising clinician”. Some (a very small minority) college members felt that an academic who worked also as a clinician occasionally should be counted as a practising clinician. The overwhelming majority of college members and fellows however felt that “a practising clinician” was a person who worked solely in clinical practice be it part time or full time. This was also in keeping with the original intent of the Award and respected the wishes of the principal sponsor – The Rozelle Hospital. In order to monitor this, this year there was a space on the review proforma for the reviewers to “check” the status of the presenter.

Unfortunately, The Rozelle Hospital, through Mr Garry Rowley, announced that 2003 would be the final year that Rozelle Hospital would provide the $1,500.00, first prize cheque. New sponsors would have to be found. Garry Rowley said he would forward details of possible sponsors to myself.

Another alteration this year was that the perpetual trophy did not come to Rotorua. The sheer weight of the trophy as well as its size, makes carrying the trophy to the conference prohibitive. Its 25 kg mass instantly means that the person charged with the responsibility of transporting it (usually the winner) means that they are instantly over their baggage allowance. The winner still gets the small timber trophies and the large one is proudly displayed at the Rozelle Hospital, where Rozelle agreed to be responsible for engraving the winners name(s) on the trophy.
This year, and for the first time – the college had two winners. These “tied” papers received exactly the same marks from the reviewers. As such, Council felt that both should be awarded the Stan Alchin Award and the $1,500.00 1st prize was divided equally. The winning papers are listed below.

- Assessment of motivation in clients with concurrent mental health and substance use disorders using the IMAT – Richard Clancy.
- What do you mean “How do I feel”, Men and the mental health system – Don Stewart.

Both of these outstanding presenters work for Hunter Mental Health in NSW. The two runner up papers were presented by New Zealand clinicians. These were (in no order).

- Nursing knowledge that can impact on the nursing care of women suffering post-natal depression – Tracy Beaton.

These presenters both received $250 each. Council donates this award on behalf of all members and fellows.

Each year the process of organizing the award becomes more efficient and this year every person that reviewed during the conference received a personalised letter signed by me but on behalf of the President and Council, thanking them for their support. I would again like to thank the President Mr Stephen Elsom, the Council and all fellows and members for the trust they place in me, in coordination what is a challenging, busy, yet fulfilling role within the ANZCHMN as the Stan Alchin Award Coordinator. I look forward to being in Canberra in 2004.

Lorna Moxham
Stan Alchin Award Coordinator
Research Board Report

At the conclusion of the 2002 Annual ANZCMHN International Conference in Sydney, the College President announced my appointment as chair of the Research Board. I am a Fellow of the College and the University of Technology Sydney Professor of Mental Health Nursing.

At the 2003 Conference in Rotorua, New Zealand, I briefed Council on the year since my appointment. We have held two Research Board meetings. I also briefed delegates at the Annual General Meeting.

Tribute must be paid to my predecessor Professor Gerry Farrell for his eight years service in the position. I also thank Dr Phil Maude for his wise counsel through the handover.

Preliminary work has taken place to confirm the active Research Board membership. It was apparent that this should be expanded. Expressions of interest were advertised through the ANZCMHN anz-psych email discussion list and the Communique.

During this time, on behalf of the Board, I have sought applications from members to author the next ANZCMHN Monograph on Mental Health Risk Assessment and Management. College Council has previously approved this. We have also sought applications for the annual $10,000 Research Grant.

During the two Research Board meetings in New Zealand, pre-existing Board members considered the two applications to author the Monograph. After careful consideration, the contract was offered to Ian Wilson and Scott Fanker from Sydney.

The Board members were not persuaded to award the annual Research Grant to the single application it had received by the published closing date. Rather, we have sought agreement from Council to roll the funds forward, to be added to the 2004 allocation. This was agreed.

I encourage members to consider creative and alternative ways in which our research funds could be utilised. I would like to ensure that the membership in each of the Branches are more actively involved in relevant decision-making.

This and several other important matters [including a review of the present Research Board Terms of Reference and a consideration of the final report from the 2002 Research Grant holder; Yun-Hee Jeon] will be discussed at the first face-to-face meeting of the expanded Research Board on 15 December 2003, at Sydney Airport. A report arising from the meeting will appear in the Communique.
The current and complete membership of the Research Board is as follows.

- Professor Edward White [Chair]
- Dr Phil Maude
- Dr Don Gorman
- Dr Margaret McAllister
- Dr Christine Palmer
- Dr Lorna Moxham
- Dr Cheryl Waters
- Dr Yee Jeon
- Brian McKenna
- Ian Wilson
- Mark Smith

All correspondence to the ANZCMHN Research Board should be addressed to: Professor Edward White, Director of Research and Professor of Mental Health Nursing, University of Technology, Sydney, Room 5205, Kuring-gai campus, PO Box 222, Lindfield, New South Wales 2070, or by email to Edward.White@uts.edu.au

Professor Edward White
Chair, Research Board
Membership Report

I am pleased to provide this report as Membership Registrar for the year 2002–2003.

The College Council has continued this year to consolidate the business of the College through drawing on our collective corporate knowledge.

I believe we have maintained effective management of both the membership and financial affairs of the College.

I reiterate from my last report that I consider the members of the College to be our biggest and best asset. As such, the service Council provides to our members will continue to be enhanced. This in turn progresses the profession that is Mental Health Nursing.

As in previous years, the College continues to attract new members. We have processed 225 new members from October 2002 to June 2003 and new member packs have been sent out to those members. The amount of returned mail is dwindling.

Payment options are by full fee with cheques, money order or credit card. Monthly direct bank account debit or by monthly credit card debits are available and are the choices for members who do not have the opportunity to have payroll deduction payments. Payroll deductions continue as the most popular alternative for payments.

The amount of administrative work associated with maintaining the membership database is approximately 10 hours per week. This is increased at membership renewal time with the bulk of memberships due at the end of each financial year.

Considerable time continues to be spent on processing payments via PRD. This is particularly valuable as members have been identified from the PRD lists who do not appear on the membership data base. This is quite onerous, as there are at least 20 lists received each week with a minimum of 10 names on each list.

Liz Marsh
Membership Registrar
Treasurer’s Report

Account Balances

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<th>Account Type</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Management Call</td>
<td>3946</td>
<td>$3,881</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Term Deposits</td>
<td>0796</td>
<td>$221,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$318,112</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council continues to offer honoraria for people that have given or currently give service to the College. However in the past, these payments have been made retrospectively and from last year, the honoraria was to be paid prospectively.

Expenses incurred but not exclusively in this financial year have been:

- payment of GST, which has been outstanding to date
- 15% Capitation back to branches
- for Council to develop and update the website to improve services to members
- printing and postage of the Communiqué, Oration and Investiture programs, Annual Report, new member packs and membership renewals
- members of our organisation who participate in Conferences and meetings i.e. NNO and Mental Health Council of Australia
- for Council to progress issues raised by New Zealand in the Forging Forward workshop in Sydney with participants from New Zealand and Council
- the development of a telephone service for members in Australia
- Council this year supported the North Queensland Sub-branch by holding its mid-year meeting in Townsville and attending the symposium.

Please also see the attached report from our auditor for the financial year 2002–2003.

Liz Marsh
Treasurer
Australian & New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2003

TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS $324,136

Represented by:

CURRENT ASSETS

CBA Cheque a/c 3091 35,825
CBA Cash Management Call a/c 3946 3,881
CBA Cash Management Call a/c 3306 46,577
CBA Cheque a/c 1591 10,443
CBA Term Deposits a/c 0796 221,386

318,112

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Office equipment – Cost 10,000
Deduct Accumulated Depreciation 4,903 $3,881

5,097

Gowns, Bonnets and Stoles 4,241
Deduct Accumulated Depreciation 3,314

927

$6,024

TOTAL ASSETS $324,136

Note. The bank account balances have also been confirmed to us by the Commonwealth Bank. We have not physically sighted the non current assets.
### Australian & New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.

**Income Statement for the Year Ended June 2003**

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<th>Last Year</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>This Year</th>
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<td>$159,547.84</td>
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<td>$5420.25</td>
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<td>Administration Fees</td>
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<th>Last Year</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<td>Audit and Accountancy Fees</td>
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<td>$21,679.50</td>
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<td>$1805.82</td>
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<td>$23,050.00</td>
<td>Travel</td>
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<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$214,010.75</strong></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>$243,246.93</strong></td>
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Australian Capital Territory Branch Report

President                   Donna Hodgson  
Vice President             Herb Krueger    
Treasurer                  Ruth Chipman   
Secretary                  Sheryl Harrison 
Councillor                 Donna Hodgson  
Committee members          Kerin O’Brien, Paula Howe, Jenny Fothergill, Deborah Loxley, Stephen Seymour 

The branch has progressed the work of the previous committee in ensuring the ongoing profile of The Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses in our work areas. Monthly meetings are held at alternate north and south venues for the convenience of members and to encourage member involvement.

Branch coordinated education activities over the previous 12 months included:
  • In September 2002, a breakfast seminar with Senator Sue West, Chair of the Senate Inquiry into Nurse Education (2002).
  • In May 2003, Mr Jon Chesterson, Credentialing Consultant, conducted two Mental Health Nursing and Credentialing workshops.

Branch involvement with affiliated organizations has been steady and has included:
  • Participating in International Nurses Day at The Canberra Hospital in conjunction with La Trobe University and Mental Health ACT.
  • Branch representation on The Board of Censors (ANZCMHN), MHNAG (Mental Health Nurses Advisory Group) and PANDSi (Post and Antenatal Depression, Support and Information).
  • Attendance at the ANCI Reference Group meeting on behalf of the College President.

Other branch activities were:
  • Hosting the third annual trivia night, which raises funds for the Nurses Conference Scholarship Awards. The awards allow for the partial and/or full funding of the next College Conference. This was a very successful night due to the expert MC skills of Mr Steve Hartnett. Mr Kerin O’Brien was the successful scholarship winner.
  • The distribution of three comprehensive, informative newsletters to members over the year.
• Promoting membership to the College. This is achieved through orientation programs at the two main hospitals where the benefits of College membership are discussed. Many members are also diligent in advertising the merits of the College to potential College recruits. Congratulations to Mr Lance Smith who was the winner of the new member draw and consequently received a newly published text on Mental Health Nursing.

An ongoing activity of the Branch is the preparation and coordination of the 2004 Conference. Mental Health Nursing: A Changing Landscape will be the theme for the International 30th Conference for the ANZCMHN. The ACT Conference Committee has been dedicated in the pursuit of achieving goals with the College appointed Professional Conference Organizer (ICMS Melbourne), to ensure the ACT and the College has an outstanding conference next year. Mr Kerin O’Brien and Mr Herb Krueger, Co-Convenors of this conference, have been leading this process.

As the current office bearers are nearing the end of their two year terms, I’d like to acknowledge the enormous energy, dedication, and ongoing commitment of the executive and committee of the ACT Branch. The college would not be viable except for the voluntary contribution of these people, in both professional and personal capacities.

Donna Hodgson
ACT Branch President
ACT Branch Councillor
New South Wales Branch Report

October 2002 saw the Branch host the 28th ANZCMHN Annual Conference with over 400 delegates converging on Sydney’s Darling Harbour from all parts of the globe.

Due to unforeseen world events and the global economy, not as many delegates attended as was anticipated. This meant financially the conference was not as successful as it could have been. However, the feedback from the delegates was extremely positive in regards to the venue, food, social events and the academic standard of the papers. I would like to thank the conference committee who put the conference together, especially Geoff Dulhunty for being the convenor and Antony Mullen for his role in coordinating the scientific program.

The highlights of the conference were the keynote addresses from distinguished guests and the investiture of two of NSW long-standing members as life members. Kevin Webster and Dianne Russell have both given so much to mental health nursing and the NSW Branch. I would like to congratulate them both on their achievement, which has been recognised by their peers, colleagues and friends.

Throughout the year continual representation has been provided to the Ministerial Violence Taskforce, which ended in August 2002. Many of the recommendations made by the working parties (with our representatives actively involved) have been, or are being, implemented within general and mental health care environments.

Throughout the year there have been a number of educational activities. Our collaboration with The College of Nursing has continued over the last year. As a result of this, we have facilitated a number of mental health nursing continuing education programs over 2002–2003. We have had continued success and outstanding interest in the Group Clinical Supervision Courses.

The three-day Group Clinical Supervision course developed and facilitated by Sue O’Sullivan was conducted in November/December 2003 at Burwood Campus with 24 participants. The course planned for Dubbo in August/September 2002 was cancelled due to lack of enrolments, related to the areas own supervision initiatives.

A second course was completed April/May 2003 with 26 participants. Both courses have had excellent evaluations. The interest has been so great that there are 24 applicants on a waiting list for the December course.

Dr Louise O’Brien has developed a new one-day Clinical Decision Making for Mental Health Nurses workshop in consultation with the Branch. This course will look at frameworks for clinical decision making in mental health.
As stated, the 28th International ANZCHMN Conference in October 2002 was a great success. The papers and keynote address left those of us that attended with much food for thought. To those branch members who presented at this conference and showcased the work being done in mental health nursing – well done, keep up the good work.

The NSW Branch Treasurer, Maria Fitzgerald, has reported to the branch on our financial position for the year 2002–2003.

Her statement indicated that there had been an opening balance of $10,722.53. With income totalling $24,455.53 and expenditure totalling $8,603.44, the Branch account had a closing balance of $27,574.62.

A signed audit opinion by Mr. Kenneth W. Crossman of Ken Crossman and Co Chartered Accountants was also tabled by Maria Fitzgerald stating that the financial statements are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at 30 April 2002, and of the profit and cash flows of the association for the year ended on that date; and are in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

Tim Coombs  
NSW Branch President

Kim Ryan  
NSW Branch Councillor

Hunter Sub-branch

It gives me great pleasure to write the 2002–2003 report for the Hunter Sub-branch of the Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses. The Sub-branch has had another wonderful year. Lots of exciting things happened and goals were achieved.

I firstly wish to thank most sincerely all members of the Executive and a special mention goes to Jon Chesterson for all his enthusiasm and talents. Without this great group of people the Sub-branch would cease to function as efficiently and effectively as it does and it will continue to thrive in future years due to the dedication of this group.

Brenda Simm and Francine Campbell were Runners Up for the Stan Alchin Award and congratulations to both the “girls”. Kim Lane from the Hunter even won the best mask at the wonderful dinner dance. Members from the Hunter did extremely well. Members of the Hunter Sub-branch would also like to thank Ms Sandra Hoot OAM for her moving dedication of her oration to her dearest sister and the Hunters good friend and colleague Terry Ann Webster (Ivery).

Once the NSW Conference was over it was onward in preparation for the Hunter Sub-branch 2003 Conference, which was held at Noahs on the Beach on Friday 9 May. Jon Chesterson and his team of willing workers got busy and arranged an excellent programme. There was an overwhelming response for the Conference and we hit the target before the...
closing date. There were 48 non-members in attendance and 82 first time attendees, which was really amazing. The Conference has received praise from many people who attended. Jon Chesterson has collated the evaluation forms and the results were extremely positive. 82 people took the time to fill in the evaluation forms.

Plans are already underway for the Hunter Sub-branch Conference in 2004. The conference will be held on Friday 14 May at Noahs once again. MARK THIS IN THE DIARY. There will also be a Dinner Dance in the evening to mark the Hunter Sub-branch 10th Conference. Peter Morall from the University of Leeds UK will be the Keynote speaker. This has already been confirmed and the Sub-branch will work in collaboration with the University of Newcastle to host Dr Morall’s visit to the Hunter.

Dianne Marchoni
Hunter Sub-branch President

**Illawarra Sub-branch**

This year has been a big one for the college with preparation for the Illawarra Mental Health Conference, the 2nd Seaside Jamboree Innovations in Clinical Practice on the 25 July. This would not be possible without the hard work of Carol Martin, Maree Vukovic, Vicki Biro and Janette Curtis, who have formed the conference organizing committee. Sandra Hoot will provide the keynote address and all nurses are being encouraged to attend.

College members have presented at several local and interstate ANZCMHN conferences including the Hunter Sub-branch Conference and last years College Conference “Coming of Age – A Celebration of Mental Health Nursing” College members will also be presenting and attending the College Conference in New Zealand this year.

The sub-branch has been involved in the development of a training program called “Medication Alliance”. Tim Coombs along with colleagues at the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health have undertaken pilot training in Medication Alliance in Tasmania and evaluation of the program indicates changes in knowledge, skills and attitudes as a result of attendance at training. Research is now underway to demonstrate that these changes in staff result in changes in outcomes for consumers. Nurses interested in taking part on this research should contact Mitch at: *Byrne mbyrne@uow.edu.au*

Finally, the sub-branch congratulates Maree Vukovic for her work towards status as a nurse practitioner. Maree was successful in gaining a scholarship from Illawarra Health to attend a short course that is conducted in two sections, geared towards guiding applicants through the process of applying to the Nurses Registration Board. It gives refresher on pharmacology and anatomy and physiology as well as practice of oral viva and guidance on filling in Advanced Practice Proforma. I am sure all College members wish Maree the best of luck in the next step of her professional development.

Tim Coombs
Sub-branch President
Central Coast Sub-branch
The principle activities for the coming year are as follows.

1. To raise the membership from its present 33% of existing mental health staff on the Central Coast to 50% and to develop a member database in alignment with the National and State database.

2. To provide active mentorship to new graduate mental health nursing staff through encouraging involvement in Committee activities.

3. To continue sponsorship of a lunch for new graduate nurses in Central Coast Health to raise the awareness of mental health as an option for career pathway.

4. To provide scholarships for mental health staff to attend the ANZCMHN International Conference. With available resources, the Central Coast Sub-branch was able to partially fund only two staff for the Sydney conference.

5. To conduct a one-day conference on 8 August 2003 with the theme “Pathways for the Profession: New Initiatives for the Future”.

Peter Santangelo
Central Coast Sub-branch
New Zealand Branch Report

It’s been a busy year with the New Zealand Branch experiencing significant change in Executive and Committee membership. With a new President, Branch Councillor, and two new committee members, it’s taken a bit of getting used to for all of us. I’d like to extend a special thank you to Kaye Carncross (recent past President) and Thelma Puckey (Wellington Sub-branch Chair) for their continued support during the transition and in their continued commitment to representing the NZ Branch at National Nursing Organisation (NNO) meetings held in Wellington.

Following the NZ AGM in 18th July 2003, Ron Baker and Karin Nesdale joined the committee and Anne McDonald took over as the Secretary. As I will be leaving the country in December, the Vice-President Tony O’Brien is now the President of the NZ Branch until the next election.

National Nursing Organisations (NNO)
The NZ Branch once again signed a memorandum of understanding with other national nursing groups to comprise the NNO. This group meets five or six times each year to discuss national issues affecting all nurses. As mentioned, Kaye and Thelma have represented us at these meetings and have continued to provide a voice for mental health nursing.

Enrolled Nurses in Acute Mental Health Settings
The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) requested a position statement regarding the employment of Enrolled Nurses in mental health settings. As a Branch of the professional organisation, we chose to acknowledge the importance of nurse registration to the specialty area of mental health nursing practice. Although all members did not embrace the final position, I believe we also acknowledged the contribution of enrolled nurses to the field.

Nurse Prescribing
The original planned approach to nurse prescribing involved the preparation of specific scopes of practice for the role. Considerable work was carried out in preparing the mental health nursing scope for prescribing before the MoH and the NCNZ reconsidered the options. As a result, there has been little opportunity to advance nurse prescribing for mental health Nurse Practitioners as decisions have yet to be finalised. It would seem though that the plan will be for Nurse Practitioners to define their own scope of practice and determine the medicines that will be prescribed within that scope. The continued work towards nurse prescribing within mental health nursing will be led by the ANZCMHN members on the Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee (NPAC-NZ).
Nevertheless, we have been strongly supported in our endeavours to prepare for nurse prescribing by Janssen-Cilag. Linda Leydon, Senior Product Manager at Janssen-Cilag, has kindly given financial assistance in the form of a grant of $15,000 to the NZ Branch. Janssen-Cilag recognises that whilst considerable advances have been made towards making the Nurse Practitioner role a reality, lack of practical support has hindered and slowed the overall process. To this end, the expenditure of the grant is at the discretion of the NZ Branch, however, its purpose is clearly the advancement of the Mental Health Nurse Practitioner role.

**NPAC–NZ (Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee – NZ)**

This Committee has representatives from multiple specialty areas within nursing and Mark Smith (Nurse Practitioner), Kaye Carncross and Erina Morrison-Ngatai are our NZ Branch representatives. The committee is working toward streamlining the processes for nurses to apply for Nurse Practitioner status and to supporting applicants throughout the process of application. A leaflet responding to a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been released.

**The Rita McKewan Nurse Practitioner Fund**

Earlier this year, Miss Rita McKewan OBE, gifted $3000 to the NZ Branch to support the profession. We have decided to use this money to support mental health nurses to apply for registration as Nurse Practitioners so have named the fund the Rita McKewan Nurse Practitioner Fund. The NZ Branch has contributed a further $7,000 to start the fund off with a $10,000 balance. We hope this will ultimately be a fund in perpetuity and we are committed to annual contributions.

Rita McKewan was a very influential mental health nurse in NZ who made significant contributions to mental health nursing education both nationally and internationally. She is now 84, a life member of the College, and in frail health. The NZ Branch committee will develop the processes and protocols for applying for financial support from the Rita McKewan Nurse Practitioner Fund and will inform NZ members once these details are confirmed.

**Separation**

A sub-group within the NZ membership (led by Erina Morrison-Ngatai) has been considering our options in relation to the potential separation from the College. Feedback from the NZ members has shown clear support for separation and some form of reaffiliation with the Australian organisation. The separation working party met 12 October to set the agenda to progress separation.
Secretary Resignation
Anne Tacon in Rotorua has worked hard as the Secretary to the NZ Branch and, given her commitment to the Conference Committee at the same time, decided to resign during May this year. I’d like to thank Anne for all of her very hard work over the past year. The secretarial role can often be difficult and seemingly thankless. However, it’s pivotal to the functioning of the Branch and Anne has done a wonderful job despite the simultaneous responsibilities tied up with the Conference organisation.

Kaiwhakahaere
After working without a Kaiwhakahaere for most of the past year, we now have Hineroa Hakiaha in the position, as recommended by the Maori Caucus. Hineroa was a committee member prior to becoming Kaiwhakahaere. Welcome to the role Hineroa and we look forward to your guidance and support in ensuring culturally safe decisions within the NZ Branch.

Partnerships in Wellbeing Awards
This collaborative venture with Eli Lilly New Zealand began last year with the allocation of a single award of $7,500 to the service that demonstrated the most innovative programme to assist people living with a serious mental illness to optimise their lifestyles and improve their quality of life. This year we distributed one major award of $5,000 and two minor awards of $2,000 each. The awards were presented once again at the Conference in Rotorua in September.

29th International Conference of the ANZCMHN
(Rotorua, 9–12 September 2003)
A very well organised conference was enjoyed by more than 350 registrants in Rotorua this year. The city of Rotorua provided a wonderful backdrop for the conference and enabled visitors to get a better understanding of Maori culture and the bicultural nature of NZ. There were some great papers presented as well! Well done to Tio Sewell and the rest of the conference organising committee. Our commiserations to Suzette Poole who required an appendicectomy a couple of days prior to the conference opening and, after being part of the organising committee, was only well enough to manage the closing ceremony.

Membership Numbers
The membership of the NZ Branch has continued to climb steadily. We now have around 400 members within the New Zealand Branch making it one of the larger Branches of the College.

I am confident that the NZ Branch, under the leadership of Tony O’Brien, will continue to thrive and work solidly toward representing mental health nurses within this country.

Christine Palmer
NZ Branch President
Northern Territory Branch Report

President                  Pat Bradley FANZCMHN  
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Councillor                Pat Bradley FANZCMHN

Secretary                 Frank Pearson FANZCMHN  
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Treasurer                 Denise Gilchrist  
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Vice President           Neil Spencer FANZCMHN  
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Membership
Branch membership has increased over the past year. Frank Pearson and Neil Spencer have achieved Fellowship status this year. Our congratulations go to both for the same.

Links with Government
Following the Council’s Strategic Planning Workshop with Professor Harvey Whiteford, a letter was sent to the Minister for Health outlining the College’s ability to contribute to local changes and innovations within the mental health sector. The letter outlined strategic issues prioritised by the NT Branch. These issues were presented as essential items for discussion as the Mental Health Service moves to consolidation after restructure, and looks to the future. It was emphasised that Branch members believe it is important for the College to work proactively and positively with government to achieve quality outcomes for consumers. The Minister’s response was very favourable and has resulted in increased visibility for the Branch.

Committee Activities
The Branch is represented on the Mental Health Services Steering Committee of the Department of Health and Community Services.

The Branch has a place on the working committees of the ‘AIMHI NT’ Project, an NHMRC Joint Project, aimed at improving mental health services to indigenous communities.

Reports and Submissions
The Branch submitted a response to the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) draft NT Aboriginal Emotional and Social Wellbeing Strategic Plan. The Branch also submitted a response to the RANZCP.

Pat Bradley
NT Branch President
Queensland Branch Report

President        Di Seifert
Email: Di_Seifert@health.qld.gov.au
Vice President   Geoff Allen
Treasurer        Graham Kearney
Secretary/Councillor  John Quinn
Email: quinnjj@optusnet.com.au
A/Secretary      Mark Quadrell
Education Officer Mary Murray
Policy Convenor  Pam Beavis

Looking back the Queensland Branch has been busy over the year 2002–2003. We have achieved some great successes including the North Queensland Sub-branch Tropical Symposium in Townsville, the Leadership and Management in MHN Forums, and the Symposium “Keeping Mental Health Nursing on the Menu” in Brisbane – to name just a few of our activities.

We are forging ahead with regular meetings with the Director of Mental Health Services, Dr Arnold Waugh and the Principal Nursing Adviser Ms Sue Norrie. We continue to meet twice yearly with the Health Minister Ms Wendy Edmond. The aim of these meetings is to keep mental health nursing on the agenda so that our professional needs remain a priority. Hopefully the next twelve months will see further progress on these issues.

Mental health nurses whether working in clinical, management, education or research are faced with many challenges in the scope of their practice, yet everyday we rise to meet these challenges to undertake our work. The College is committed to forging ahead to improve our profession, and for equity in addressing the range of priority areas in mental health nursing.

Our membership continues to grow. Over the past year we went past the 400-member mark for the first time. This means that almost a quarter of practising Queensland Mental Health Nurses are College members! Sub-branches have been established on the Sunshine Coast and re-established in Toowoomba. In next year’s Annual Report there will be formal reports on their activities. The Gold Coast sub-branch and particularly the North Queensland sub-branch have been cornerstones of the strength of the Queensland Branch.

We have ceased mailing monthly minutes to all our membership as the cost and energy involved was prohibitive. In their place, minutes from the Qld Branch monthly meetings minutes are available on the North Queensland Sub-branch website at: www.nq-anzcmbn.org The minutes are also available via email from the President. The Queensland Branch does mail a quarterly newsletter to all our members and there is an ongoing call for contributions to the same from any interested member.
We would like to remind south-east Queensland members (and non members) of the regular monthly meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the West End MHS in South Brisbane at 6.15pm. The meetings recommence in February 2004 and there is always an interesting educational followed by supper and a brief business meeting. Members are reminded that attendance also counts towards credential points!

Treasurer Graham Kearney has kept Branch finances in good shape and at the end of the financial year we continue to have a healthy bank balance. Auditor Keith Jenkinson has since audited our branch accounts with everything in order.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all College members who continue to support their profession and the College. We would especially like to thank the members who continue to give generously of their time to attend the college meetings and attend college functions – your ongoing support is appreciated.

Di Seifert
Queensland Branch President

John Quinn
Queensland Branch Secretary

**North Queensland Sub-branch Report**

President 
Mick Blair  
Email: blamel@ozemail.com.au

Vice President 
Andrew Brownlie

Treasurer 
Tom Ryan

Secretary 
Mark Quadrell

A/Secretary 
Richard Lakeman

The North Queensland Sub-branch continues to support the Queensland Branch of the College whilst representing members from Rockhampton in the south to Thursday Island in the north of Australia.

Our primary event of the year is the Tropical Symposium. In 2003, the 5th Tropical Symposium was held in Townsville with the support of James Cook University – School of Nursing.

In 2003 we were proud to have the College Council meet consecutively with the Symposium. We also had a presentation by Jon Chesterton on the credentialing project. This meant we could expand the symposium to a three-day event that proved to be a great success.
Plans for the 6th Tropical Symposium in 2004 are well under way. It will be held in Cairns on the 4, 5 and 6 June 2004. The venue is to be the Radisson Plaza Hotel on the Pier (a much sought after conference venue that has recently won awards for its conference facilities). The inclusion of the Consultation Liaison Mental Health Nurses Forum will allow us to again hold a three-day symposium with concurrent sessions and joint guest speakers. The CL Forum (established in 2003) aims to continue and our assistance and the assistance from the college will aid in this process.

Support from sponsors is being sought, and to date the James Cook University have pledged support once again. This year we aim to have trade displays from sponsors and prizes awarded for the best clinical paper, the best novice presenter, and the best C.L. Paper.

We still face the difficulties of meeting with persons from such a large catchment area and teleconference has been the only solution affordable to the Sub-branch to date. Thanks to Richard Lakeman and his IT skills, we have an active email list that keeps college members informed of events and allows for group email list discussion. The Sub-branch website is also a great asset in making sure all our members are kept informed of events. The address is: www.nq-anzcmhn.org

*Mick Blair*  
*President*
South Australia Branch Report

President and Treasurer
Jacky Talmet

Vice President
and Councillor
Pat Barkway

Secretary
Jan Thompson

Committee Members
Marie Brazier, Ann Crago, Eimear Muir-Cochrane,
Briony Lia, Bernie Stefan-Rasmus, Judy Taylor,
Caroline Wales

Branch Activities
The aim of the Branch over the last twelve months has been to build the branch infrastructure and lay solid foundations for the future. The last year has seen an increase in the number of active branch members that has enabled the Branch to consider and begin planning for expanding the breadth and range of activities and educational programs.

In laying the foundations for the future, the Branch has sought to raise the profile of the College, encourage membership and establish the College as the professional and credible voice for Mental Health Nursing.

College Information Session
The Branch has developed an information session on the College and the activities of the Branch. All Branch committee members have electronic copies that can be used to provide information to individuals or groups interested in the College and promote membership.

Raising the Profile of the College

Liaison with Key Agencies
The Branch has been active in raising the profile of the College through seeking to develop regular liaison meetings with key agencies to provide information on the College and identify areas for possible collaboration on key issues. The Branch will be seeking to establish liaison with other nursing organisations in the near future.

Nurses Board of South Australia
The Branch in collaboration with the NBSA has instigated twice yearly liaison meetings to brief the Board on College initiatives and issues for MHN and to receive reciprocal briefings from the Board.
Department of Human Services – Mental Health Services and Programs
The SA Branch has initiated twice yearly meeting with the Director Clinical Reform (Mental Health Services and Programs) to discuss matters relating to MHN and provide briefings on College initiatives. Part of this briefing includes providing information on the College Research Grants. Following this, an in principle agreement was given to consider matching any grants received under the College Research Grants for any SA MHN new researcher submitting a successful research proposal. Other initiatives are also under discussion and are being explored.

Mental Health Week
The Branch participated in the Royal Adelaide hospital (Glenside Campus) Mental Health Fair held on World Mental Health Day, 10 October 2003. This event is a celebration, which aims to address stigma by inviting the public into a psychiatric institution for a fun day of entertainment, eating and information about mental health and illness.

Enhancing the College as the Voice of Mental Health Nursing
The Branch has been receiving an increasing number of requests to participate in nursing committees at the state level.

Branch Representation to State Committees
The South Australia Branch has had representation to the following groups.

Nurses Board of South Australia
- Forum – Assessment Criteria for authorisation to practice as Nurse Practitioner
- Forum – Prescribing Medications and Diagnostic Investigations

Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Clinical and Admitting Privileges Committee
- Nurse Practitioner Project Working Party
- Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Nurses Advisory Group
- Education and Training sub committee of MHNAG
- DHS/Australian Nursing Federation
- Recruitment and Retention Committee
- SA Nursing and Midwifery Summit
Consultation

Nurses Board of South Australia
The Branch Executive and met with the NBSA as part of the Board’s investigation into unregulated health care workers.

Continuing Education Program

Eli Lily Symposium
Eimear Muir-Cochrane and Bernie Stefan-Rasmus organised a clinical symposium which was held at the Raddison Hotel Adelaide on 1 August. There was a strong focus on clinical issues in addition to research and mental health reform. Speakers included:

• Darrin Cowan: Mental health in the emergency department, McArthur Health Service, NSW).
• Lynne James: Celebration: Mental Health Fair 2002, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Glenside Campus.
• Kieran Turnbull: Mental health liaison in the Royal Flying Doctor Service, RFDS.
• Brenda Happell: Mental health nursing research, Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Research and Practice.
• Des Graham: Mental Health Reform in South Australia, Director Clinical Reform (Mental Health Services and Programs), SA Dept Human Services).

We wish to acknowledge the financial and organisational support provided by Eli Lily for this symposium.

Education Committee
The Branch has formed an education committee that has been given the terms of reference to expand the Branch’s educational program.

Jacky Talmet
Branch President

Pat Barkway
Branch Vice President
# Tasmania Branch Report

**President**  
Cecily Pollard  
Work Tel. 03 62228895

**Vice President**  
Dr Gerry Farrell  
Work Tel. 03 63 243318

**Secretary**  
Coral Muskett  
Work Tel. 03 62 307554

**Treasurer**  
Coral Jankowiak  
Work Tel. 03 62 338480

**Councilor**  
Jim Pearson  
Work Tel. 03 62 479960

**Proxy Councilor**  
Paul Plummer  
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The Tasmanian Branch continues to meet monthly in Hobart with the objective of obtaining a regular and relevant guest speaker. The February meeting is regarded as the planning meeting for the rest of the year.

Branch activity during 2002–2003 has included the following.

1. The Branch’s commitment to education continues with the provision of very successful seminars held twice yearly. Workshop themes were Clinical Supervision and Credentialing. In October 2002, the Branch hosted the visit of Professor Ruth Gallop. The theme of this workshop was working with the challenging client who has a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder. Significant media coverage of the seminars continues to raise the profile of the Branch.

2. Promotion of the College as the professional body representing mental health nursing continues with government, non-government agencies and educational institutions.

3. A milestone for the Branch and the College was the launch of the Credential for Practice Program by the Tasmanian Minister of Health, Mr David Lwelleyn, MHA. Four nurses were credentialed at the time of the launch, including three from Tasmania.

4. The Branch by-laws will be endorsed at the Annual General Meeting to be held in October 2003.
Planned Activity for 2003–2004

1. Membership has been enhanced by the appointment of a Membership Coordinator who is responsible for the maintenance of the accuracy and financial status of branch members and to improve on the already very effective database which communicates to members and delivers a service with a whole statewide perspective.

2. A two-day workshop covering the subject of Deliberate Self Harm will be held in November 2003 conducted by Professor Margaret McAllister, Griffith University, Brisbane.

3. The pilot study for the process of the Credential for Practice Program will continue during the forthcoming year.

I acknowledge the commitment of current members who put a great deal of time and energy into the business of the Branch.

*Cecily Pollard*  
*Tasmania State President*
Victoria Branch Report

President
Ian Munro
Vice President
Kay McCauley
Secretary
Charanjit Singh
Treasurer
Julie Hercelinskyj
Councillor
Phil Maude
Proxy Councillor
Kay McCauley
Assistant Secretary
Stephen Elsom
Professional Development officer
Julie Sharrock

Branch Activities

The first activity of the 2002–2003 Branch Committee was a strategic planning meeting. The major agenda item was to plan out a strategy for increasing the membership base and profile of the College within Victoria.

The first strategy to emerge was the support of members in regional areas with a view to the possible development of sub-branches. This year the first sub-branch to be established was in the north west of the state at Wangaratta. An initial meeting was held with a guest speaker, Pierre Baume discussing the impact of suicide in the rural region. This meeting was reasonably well attended and a formal hand over of a seeding loan to the sub-branch was completed.

Professional Development

One other decision what was made at our strategic planning day was to support existing educational and professional development activities taking place within the clinical field as a means of raising the profile of the college. To this end there were several support grants given to various education forums including the Practice Development Conference and Summer School at Monash University and the Consultation Liaison Psychiatric Nurses Forum in Melbourne.

Once again the Branch worked with the Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Research and Practice, the ANF and HACSU to host the 3rd Collaborative Psychiatric Nursing Conference. This event continues to grow in popularity and this year attracted delegates from interstate and overseas as well as being strongly supported by Victorian services. The conference was particularly successful in attracting new college membership with approximately 20 new members joining at the conference.

The annual Cunningham-Dax Oration is held to coincide with the Branch Annual General Meeting and was delivered in 2002 by Dr Don Gorman and in 2003 by Dr Eimear Muir-Cochrane. This year the Oration was generously supported by Lilly Australia.
Representation and Consultation

Members represented the College on a range of decision making and policy development bodies including the following.

- The Nurses Board of Victoria committee for the development of guidelines for the mental health nursing of undergraduate nursing programs.
- The Nurses Board of Victoria committee for the development of guidelines for the accreditation of postgraduate mental health nursing programs.
- The writing group for the new edition of Therapeutic Guidelines – Psychotropic.
- Department of Human Services working party developing guidelines for the implementation of Clinical Supervision.
- Various university course committees.

The Branch continues to work on the development of improved mechanisms for communication with members. To this end, all members in the Victorian Branch have been asked to choose whether to receive documents in hard copy or via email. An increasing number of members are choosing electronic means of communication which saves the Branch both time and money.

The Branch is growing in numbers and this is directly attributable to the hard work of committee and other members who give their time freely and generously.

Kay McCauley
Vice President and Proxy Councillor
Western Australia Branch Report

President       Chris Bone
Vice President  Michael Finn
Secretary       Gary Phillips
Treasurer       Michael Finn
Education Committee Corianne Richardson
National Councilor  Michael Finn
Committee Members  Michael O’Kane, Lee Collison, Diane Wynaden,
                  Gelaye Nadew, Debra Moen

The WA branch continues to meet monthly on the third Wednesday of each month and meets centrally at the Selby Lodge of the Graylands-Selby-Lemnos Campus.

Quarterly General Meetings
We have continued to have our general meeting usually with excellent support by Eli Lilly and have found over the past two years that the most successful method is a breakfast meeting. We have consistently attracted a larger audience although we do acknowledge it does disadvantage others. Attendance has been good and the guest speakers interesting. I would like to thank Eli Lilly for their continued support.

Membership
This remains our most difficult item. Membership growth is slow and difficult. Until recently the branch has been unhappy with the maintenance of membership lists but recent changes by the national body have seen some improvement in accurate and currency of the list. Some of our life members have been disadvantaged in the past and we are working to ensure that these members continue to be recognized. The number of complaints from nurses who have joined and received no contact from the National or WA Branch has reduced, however we still need to identify a process were the local branch is notified of new members so committee members can follow up.

External Representation
1. The Office of Mental Health in WA Strategic Planning Group includes nursing representation. While the nurse represents Mental Health nursing, the nurse is a College member. This direct access to the strategic planning group does allow us as the professional body to have some useful input into Mental Health and Mental Health Nursing issues. This was evident earlier in the year when we used the avenue to raise our concerns related to the Senior Nurses Work Value review. The college continues to assist in providing a communication network for the dissemination of information to and from the Strategic Planning group.
2. The same nurse was nominated for the Clinical Senate a strategic group that provides the Director General with information related to strategic clinical issues.

3. Eli Lilly sponsored a weekend workshop to look at strategic issues that are impacting on Mental Health in WA. The president of the branch was invited to present a paper along with other senior MH professionals with a variety of interests and backgrounds. The weekend was successful but requires further development of some of the common issues each of the professional groups face, ie. educational preparation of nurses and doctors at the undergraduate level.

4. The College Branch provided submissions to the Draft State Strategic Mental Health Plan and the Consultation Paper on the National Mental Health Plan and the review of the National Competition Policy. Various members are also involved in all of the areas associated with the review of the Mental Health Act.

5. We continue to have an affiliation with the WA Branch of the Joanna Briggs Evidenced Based group. Unfortunately we have not identified a research project to undertake and the resources are limited at present. However should members be interested in activating this please contact a committee member.

6. The College has been invited to the regular meetings with the Chief Nursing Officer. While these are information-sharing exercises, most members are involved either in their College capacity or through their normal employment role.

Website and Email List
The WA website is at: http://www.psycadian.com/anzcmhn/ has been functioning now for over 12 months. There are still a few items to sort through but this is a good link for local news and to the national body. We are successfully using this and our electronic distribution list to actively provide relevant news and information to MHNs across Western Australia.

Education
Once again we had a successful annual Symposium that demonstrated there is a strong desire for quality educational programs. Hopefully we can continue to deliver one in the metro area next year but also organize one in a regional center. I would like to thank Corianne Richardson for attracting out keynote speaker A/Prof Kim Usher from James Cook University. I would also like to thank the Chief Nursing Officer for his commitment and support in assisting us to during this time and sponsors Astra Zeneca who through Mark Lewis provided significant funding for this.

Conference
The WA Branch was successful in its application for the 2005 international conference. Congratulations to Michael Finn for his superb effort in bringing it all together. I think this will be a raging success and I hope that many members get to contribute.
Finance
At the end of the 2002–2003 financial year, the Branch is in a reasonably healthy financial state and has experienced a significant turn around in the past 2 years from an extremely perilous state. Although we have some monies still outstanding from the past financial year, we ended the year with a Balance of $12,000+ and currently have around $14,000+ in our operating accounts. As a Branch, we pleased to now again be able to offer financial sponsorship for members to attend College Conference and we have 2 members who each received $500 grants to assist their attendance. Additionally, the Branch awarded prizes to two students who presented papers at the June symposium and one of the students has subsequently taken up membership with the College. We are confident that the WA branch is in a sound financial state that will enable the committee to plan future educational activities and commence planning for the 2005 conference.

Conclusion
As President for the last five years and Branch Councillor for over two years now, we would both like to thank all the committee members for their commitment during this time and the work that they put in. We wrote a business plan that gave us a vision for 2003 five years ago and we have done very well with most of our objectives. It is now time for the plan to be revised. The WA Branch is in good shape but we need new committee members to ensure that. The corporate knowledge and vision needs to be shared around so that too few people do not have all the knowledge and we can continue our work.

Chris Bone
RMHN, RGN, B Sc (Nig), MANZCMHN, MRCNA
Branch President

Michael Finn
RMHN, RGN, BHSc(Nig), GCert Ed, MNig, FANZCMHN, MRCNA
WA Branch Councillor
30th International Conference Report (Canberra 2004)

Introduction
The ACT Branch is proudly hosting the International 30th Conference of the Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses (20–24 September 2004). The College is the professional body for practicing mental health nurses in Australia and New Zealand. You are invited to participate in this conference, which will provide an international forum celebrating the life of the College at this period of significant change in mental health nursing, under the theme of “Mental Health Nursing: A Changing Landscape.”

Keynote and invited speakers will lead the technical program and be followed by concurrent sessions drawing participants principally from Australia and New Zealand but also from many overseas countries, including the United States of America, Britain and Canada.

The venue for the Conference is the National Convention Centre, a facility with an excellent reputation as a high quality venue for conferences. The National Convention Centre is located near the centre of Canberra City, and within walking distance of some of Canberra’s finest dining and nightlife precincts. The Crowne Plaza Hotel, where some social events are scheduled and where many delegates are staying, is a three-minute walk away. The National Convention Centre is also located close to the Parliamentary Triangle and to many of the capital’s national icons.

Why “Mental Health Nursing: A Changing Landscape”? 
Our chosen theme “Mental Health Nursing: A Changing Landscape” acknowledges that the past thirty years have heralded unprecedented change in professional practice and in the interrelationships between professionals, consumers, carers and services.

External change has been influenced by developing local, national and international policy in areas such as consumer rights, education, culture, legislation, research and de-institutionalisation. Other drivers of change include the adoption of tertiary institutions as the basis for training in conjunction with increasing emphasis on research and evidence based approaches.

A clearer definition of role and a greater emphasis on ethics, clinical leadership, reflective and independent practice have emerged as central concepts underpinning the professional identity of each mental Health Nurse.

Challenges facing mental health nurses today include the impact of change on our stakeholders (including fellow clinicians and the wider community) and, in particular, on the acute shortage of mental health nurses facing each and every provider of mental health services. And, of course, on the ANZCMHN itself.

Our theme encourages papers that address the manner in which mental health nurses and mental health nursing are positively positioning themselves to meet the challenges of the future.
Keynote Speakers
Keynote speakers include the following.

Margaret Grigg
Margaret Grigg is a mental health nurse with extensive clinical, administrative and academic experience. Most recently she has been working as a Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing in a joint appointment between the Centre for Rural Mental Health and LaTrobe University Bendigo. In August 2003 she will commence a temporary post with the World Health Organisation as a Technical Officer within the Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence, Mental Health Services Policies and Services Team. Her position includes the coordination of the evaluation of the WHO Policy project and the provision of technical assistance to countries in mental health policy, planning and service development.

Kelly Koerner
Kelly Koerner, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and an expert trainer and consultant in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She served as Clinical Supervisor and research therapist for Marsha Linehan’s National Institute of Mental Health grant treating chronically suicidal women who meet criteria for borderline personality disorder. She is currently Vice President of Behavioral Tech and co-investigator on grants developing computer-based courses for mental health professionals. Her most recent publications include a review of the empirical support for DBT and how to overcome barriers to implementing DBT and other evidence based practices in routine settings.

Professor Paul Morrison
BA(Hons), PhD, GradDip Counselling, PGCE, RMN, RGN, Associate Fellow and Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society, Member of the Australian Psychological Society and the Royal College of Nursing Australia. Registered Nurse and Registered Psychologist. Currently Professor in the School of Health Sciences at University of Canberra.

Paul held academic positions in the UK and Australia and has taught in a range of subject areas with undergraduate and postgraduate students including mental health, research techniques, psychology applied to nursing, professional development issues, communication skills and the psychology of caring relationships. In recent times he has focused on counselling skills and narrative therapy and Web enhanced modes of teaching and learning.

Paul is an established researcher with a commitment to clinical research which has a direct impact on the quality of patient care and the work environment of practising nurses and other health care workers. He has been awarded a substantial number of grants for studies which evaluate care in mental health settings, in the management of medication side-effects, and in an interim secure forensic unit. He has presented at many international conferences. Paul has over 80 publications (12 books and refereed and professional journal papers). Two of the books have been translated into German, Norwegian and Indonesian.
Virginia Trotter Betts
Virginia Trotter Betts has been appointed Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Prior to this appointment, Commissioner Betts was the former Director for Health Policy and Professor of Nursing at University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center. Previously she served as the Senior Advisor on Nursing and Policy to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms Betts is a psychiatric mental health nurse and an attorney and joined the Department of Health and Human Services from her prior positions at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. She has been actively engaged in the development of mental health initiatives including a national campaign to combat the stigma of mental illness. Ms Betts has received numerous awards for her outstanding services in nursing and health care and has also led various associations including her time as president of the American Nurses Association. She continues her active contributions to the Mental Health industry and improving health care to seriously mentally ill populations.

Barbara Wolfe
Dr Wolfe has been actively involved in Mental Health Nursing for the past seventeen years. She has been a faculty member of Harvard Medical School since 1990, in the Department of Psychiatry. She is the President Elect of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and currently the Director of the Research Collaborative at the Institute for Nursing Healthcare Leadership-Boston. Dr Wolfe is a clinical specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, and has also worked in the field of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Over the last ten years she has written an extensive range of publications including studies in biobehavioral nursing research and eating disorders. Her contributions to Mental Health have been recognized through many awards including Psychiatric Nurse of the Year Award, American Psychiatric Nurses Association in 2000.

Simon Champ
Simon Champ has been an activist in mental health reform for twenty years. He was a founding member of the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW and inaugural chair of the Australian Mental Health Consumer Network. He served for five years as an independent on the National Community Advisory Group on Mental Health and served on the Mental Health Council of Australia. He is currently a Director of Sane Australia. Simon has a B.A. in fine arts and graduate diploma in painting from Sydney University. His work is informed by a keen interest in spirituality.
Simon Corbell MLA (Opening Speaker)
Minister for Health; Minister for Planning; ACT Legislative Assembly At age 31, Simon Corbell became the youngest Cabinet Minister in the history of Territory self-government when he was sworn in as part of the Stanhope Labor Ministry, following the election of the ALP to government at the 2001 ACT elections. As Minister for Planning, Mr Corbell successfully developed and passed legislation to establish an independent Planning and Land Management Authority and Land Development Agency; introduced a collaborative planning partnership between the ACT Government and those who live, work, play, learn and invest in a neighbourhood; and protected Canberra’s garden city character while encouraging sustainable development. He is overseeing a long term plan for Canberra's future through a collaborative strategic spatial planning exercise, which will incorporate an integrated Transport Plan. In December 2002, Simon Corbell became ACT Minister for Health while retaining responsibility for Planning. Simon will continue Labor’s program of reforms to deliver a public health and community care system that is accountable, efficient, cooperative and consultative to achieve better governance, better health outcomes and provide better services for people in the ACT.

Pre Conference Workshops and Program
Whilst the program for the Conference has not been finalised, the Committee are planning on a number of pre conference workshops. Workshops under consideration include; a one day workshop on DBT, a half-day workshop on Clinical Supervision, and a half-day Research workshop. The Committee are still negotiating around having a special half-day hypothetical potentially videoed for TV. Workshop fees (where applicable) and the hypothetical are still to be finalised.

Registration Fees
There will be the usual range of registration fees. Following the last Council meeting, the fees have been reviewed and are now proposed as follows.

- Member Early Bird: $765.00
- Member Late: $875.00
- Non-member Early Bird: $965.00
- Non-member Late: $1,075.00
- Student: $525.00
- Carer: $525.00
- Group: $585.00
**Sponsorship**
The major sponsors who have signed on to date are Eli Lilly, ACT Mental Health, Mayne Health, other sponsors include Qantas and Kwik Kopy. Sponsorship is on target to meet our budget.

**Social Activities**
The Social Sub-committee are keeping their plans a closely guarded secret at this stage. Please check the College website at: www.anzcmhn.org for the latest conference information.

*Mr Kerin O’Brien and Mr Herb Krueger, Co-Convenors*

*2004 30th International Conference, Canberra*
Australian & New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.
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