



Yvonne Falckh  
NT Branch Secretary

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The ANF has been busy promoting the national *Because We Care* campaign which was launched in Canberra on March 17th. So it comes as a shock to learn that the Red Cross Nursing Home in Katherine has been sanctioned for its appalling practices in the delivery of care to our older citizens. There has been much written about what the residents of this nursing home had to endure until someone eventually contacted authorities.

This 30 bed mainly low care nursing home had one unlicensed carer on duty over night duty. If patients happened to fall out of bed, that was where they stayed until morning when other staff arrived on duty. Medications were given to residents based on coloured dot coding by non clinical staff and at times residents did not receive some of their medications. No call bell was available for residents to seek assistance and residents felt unsafe. How such practices continued for so long is a question many are asking.

### Biennial Job Delegates Conference 2009

The Biennial Job Delegates Conference held on April 30th and May 1st was well attended by Job Delegates from around the Northern Territory. Feedback from the evaluation forms almost unanimously gave the thumbs up for the conference. General consensus was that the breadth of topics delivered by the guest speakers met delegates' needs. They rated the conference highly and look forward to the next one in two years time.

The conference dinner was great fun. Congratulations to the many job delegates who dressed in 'The Roaring Twenties' style for the night, a great night was had by all. The branch sincerely thanks Lee Thomas and Nick Blake for their attendance at the conference as well as their informative and dynamic presentations over the two days.



ANF NT Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh, ANF Senior Federal Industrial Officer Nick Blake and ANF Assistant Federal Secretary Lee Thomas at the Job Delegates conference

Congratulations to Rebekah Gilmour (Central Australia) and Karen Brown (Top End) who were duly nominated and elected to represent the NT Job Delegates at the National Biennial Job Delegates Conference in Sydney on October 28th - 30th. Only one motion was put forward for the national arena and two other motions put forward relate to the NT.

### Northern Territory Governments Nursing Awards for 2009

The ANF NT would like to congratulate the following winners of the Northern Territory Nurses Awards 2009. Presentations were held at Parliament House on Friday 15th May.

Enrolled Nurse of the year - Jonty Godwin (Paediatrics – Alice Springs), Acute Sector - Jenny Phillips (RDH), Aged Care - Marysia Kalcher (Terrace Gardens Aged Care), General Practice - Susan Mark (Katherine), Community - Cathy Hammonds (Audiology Nurse Katherine), Graduate Nurse of the Year - EN - Bronwyn Chesworth, RN - Jessica Myram, Mental Health - Amanda Worrall, Midwife - Jane Holland (DPH), Remote - Vivienne Latham (Wadeye), Amanda Harneiss - (Miwatj), Living Legend - Patricia Magee (Remote), NT Nurse of the Year - Cathy Hammonds (Audiology Nurse Katherine).



**MembersEquity**  
The Super Funds Bank

## from the branch office



Above left: Biennial Job Delegates Conference group photo

Above right: Alice Springs Delegates Alison Nicholls, Maxine Naismith, Jane Polkinghorne, Rebekah Spencer, Rebecca Gilmour, Daniel Gleeson and Maureen York with ANF Organiser Barbara Sharp (second from right)

### Central Australia - Part-time Organiser

The Branch warmly welcomes Barbara Sharp as part-time organiser for Central Australia. Barbara has been a member of the ANF since 1977. During that time she has been very active in industrial matters including taking industrial action in Victoria. She was a Branch Councillor, Job Delegate and enterprise bargaining team member during the 1990's in ACT and again a Job Delegate in NSW for community health on the south coast. During that time Barbara had the opportunity to work as an industrial organiser when officials were unable to attend meetings in person from Sydney.

Barbara will be working part time with the Australian Blood Bank Service in Alice Springs as well as for the ANF. Barbara has an amazing wealth of clinical expertise since starting her general nursing training in 1977. Areas include Corrections Health, Remote Health, Acute Care, Community Health, Mental Health and the list goes on. Barbara may be contacted on **0437 821 203**. Barbara is your organiser in Central Australia, so please contact her and make her feel welcome.

### Llorabel Reynolds Inaugural Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships

Ronnie Taylor is another recipient of the scholarship for second semester 2008.

*"I was delighted to be successful in obtaining a Llorabel Reynolds Scholarship. Ms. Reynolds had a very long and involved history with the ANF and with NT nursing. I have been fortunate to spend 27 years as an NT nurse and ANF member. The scholarship enabled me to establish a contemporary library that assists my study as a student Nurse Practitioner. In these worrying economic times, this has been a blessing. I thank the Reynolds family, and the ANF NT for this terrific opportunity, and would encourage other nurses to apply."*



### NT employs its first nurse practitioner

The ANF NT would like to congratulate NT's first employed nurse practitioner, Ms Jennifer Byrne. Jennifer has worked at the Royal Darwin Hospital for the past eight years as wound clinical nurse consultant and stoma therapist, in that time she has developed protocols and procedures and advocated for patients on a regular basis. She is regularly invited to speak at both national and international level regarding these relevant fields and has published numerous articles in her chosen field. She has been involved in numerous trauma response teams at RDH including the second Bali bombing, Timor shootings, assassination attempt on President Ramos Horta and more recently the Afghan refugee boat explosion. Last year she was winner of the 2008 NT Nurse of the Year award. Jennifer finished her Masters of Clinical Nursing - Nurse Practitioner in 2007, in 2008 she become one of the first Nurse Practitioners to become authorised in the NT and is one of only ten Nurse Practitioners in wound management in Australia. She is also the founding member and current president of the Wound Association Northern Territory (WANT), NT representative for the Australian Association of Stoma Therapy Nurses (AASTN) and NT President of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP). She is moving forward into the next chapter of her career into the role of Nurse Practitioner in the acute setting at RDH. Congratulations Jenny.

## from the branch office

**Darwin Hospital Reunion (Pre Cyclone Tracey)**

This is a reminder to all nurses who trained and worked at Darwin Hospital Pre Cyclone Tracey, of the reunion occurring from June 9th 2009 at the Trailer Boat Club, then the next day at Government House and concluding the reunion celebrations with dinner at the Mindle Markets on June 11th. Contact Lynne Sullivan on (08) 8985 2882 or 0400 036 629.

**Organiser's Report**

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**Biennial Job Delegates Conference and Inaugural Professional Day 2009**

Well what a fantastic JD Conference & Inaugural Professional Day, the overall two days were a great success. Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh has stated from the information received from the delegates on the evaluation forms that the overall two days were well received by the delegates and much useful information from presenters was taken away by ANF delegates and members.

The conference dinner with the 'Roaring Twenties' theme saw delegates dress in some fantastic costumes and set the night ahead to be a lot of fun and entertainment by the few that ventured onto the dance floor. And the helium balloons seemed to be a favorite to some dinner attendees.

23 delegates also attend the May Day dinner and were warmly welcomed by Unions NT especially the delegates from Alice Springs, Gove and Katherine, this was ANF NT Branch's biggest contingent of members at this dinner. Yvonne worked tirelessly to sell the tickets with great results.

In summing up the two days I personally would like to thank the delegates and members who attended, you all were fantastic company and it was great to see such enthusiasm shown by you all in the endeavors of the Federal ANF, our Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh's challenges ahead for nursing in the NT and supporting your colleagues in their pursuits in making their work place a better working environment. We look forward to the next conference in 2011.



Above: (L-R) Jane Polkinghorne, Robyn Norris, Bill Norris, Damian Goggin, Amanda Hameiss, Rebecca Gilmour, Rebekah Spencer, Alison Nichols and Maxine Naismith at the conference dinner

**Central Australian Job Delegates Training**

Job Delegate Training will be held in Alice Springs on June 23rd - 25th 2009. If you have not received a registration form please contact the office or download a registration form from the ANF NT Branch website at [www.anfnt.org.au](http://www.anfnt.org.au).

If you do not have a JD in your worksite and you would like to nominate a colleague or yourself, please contact the ANF office ASAP so you can attend the training. Helena Dalton Bridges will be delivering the training and is one of the most dynamic ANF trainers in Australia. Delegates who have attend the training session with Helena have found her to be an exceptional motivator and teacher.



May Day March, May 4th 2009. Above left: (L-R) Shirel Nomoa (Branch President), Libby Webb, Yvonne Falckh (Branch Secretary), Frank Pearson (Executive Branch Council), Angela Phillips (ANF Organiser), Emelia Phillips, Karen Brown (Executive Branch Council) and Denis Blackford. Above right: Shirel Nomoa, Libby Webb and Frank Pearson

## news briefs

### Dates to Remember

Event	Date	Visiting Official
<b>ROADSHOWS</b>		
Katherine Region	September 9th - 10th	Secretary/Organiser
RDH	September 16th	Secretary/Organiser
Central Australia	October 4th - 9th	Secretary/Organiser
DPH	September 18th	Secretary/Organiser
Gove	September 30th	Secretary/Organiser
<b>JOB DELEGATES TRAINING</b>		
Central Australia	June 23rd - 25th	Secretary/Organiser
Top End	September 22nd - 24th	Secretary/Organiser

### Know Your Job Delegates



**Damian Goggin**

I am originally from Ireland where I completed my formal education. I moved to Surrey in England in 1989 and trained and qualified as a Registered General Nurse in 1992. Following qualification I continued to work in Surrey until 1995 working mainly in Orthopaedics and General & Renal Surgery.

I Initially came to Australia in 1995 for a years "backpacking" and found myself working in RDH and Wadeye Community (Port Keats), my first taste of "nursing on communities". Returned to London for two years where I worked mainly in Emergency Depts, ITUs and Trinity Hospice (HIV & Cancer).

I attained residency status and returned to Australia in 1998 where I have worked mainly in Remote Areas in Western Australia & The Northern Territory including Warmun Community (Turkey Creek), Christmas Island, Wadeye (Port Keats) & Groote Eylandt. I have also worked as an Agency Nurse in most of the main hospitals in Perth. I became a Job Delegate in September 2008 and have been actively involved since, mainly in teleconferences relating to pay and conditions of Remote Area Staff which is the field in which I am currently employed.

### Cherie Wisneski

I completed my nursing training in New Zealand in the Waikato region. I moved to the NT six years ago and instantly fell in love with the place - hence why I'm still here! I initially spent six months in both Alice Springs and Katherine before settling in Darwin five years ago. I currently work in the Rapid Admission and Planning Unit (RAPU) at Royal Darwin Hospital as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. I have worked in RAPU since its beginnings in 2006. I am also the ANF job delegate for RAPU. I see my role as a JD as an important one as it is vital that we as nurses have a strong voice. Part of my role includes promoting the ANF to staff, recruiting, informing staff on ANF news and also being available for staff to discuss any problems or issues.



**Maureen York**

Maureen York started her nursing career as an AIN in Cooma District Hospital in NSW in 1958. In 1963 she completed her EN training at the Royal Womens Hospital in Sydney. She started working in Alice Springs in 1964 until 1967 with a brief interval working in Canterbury Hospital in Sydney before moving to the USA for 13 years where she worked in Jefferson Memorial Hospital Arlington, Virginia.

Maureen returned to work in Alice Springs Hospital in 1984 working mostly in the Surgical Ward. For the past 16 years Maureen has been the only EN Working in Community Health in Alice Springs. Since 2003 Maureen has been recognized as an Exemplary Enrolled Nurse. She specializes in Wound Management and Stoma Care, in fact Maureen is the Stoma Resource Nurses for Central Australia.

Maureen was a joint winner of the inaugural Enrolled Nurse of the year category of the Nursing and Midwifery Awards of the NT in 2007 and was joint Centralian Citizen of the year in 2009. Maureen commenced as a JD for Community Health Alice Springs in February 2008.