

FROM THE EDITOR - Heather Dawson-Byrne

MOVING ON: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL

This issue marks the retiring of the inaugural Editorial Advisory Board who have spent the last two years diligently monitoring quality control on the journal and providing much appreciated advice to the editor and publisher. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Lesley Barclay, Dr Herbert Biggs, Professor Alison Dixon and Associate Professor Sanchia Aranda. The directions suggested by this group of people have helped improve the journal immensely. During this time the journal has implemented many changes, such as the inclusion of the manuscript acceptance date, the inclusion of the Bits and Bytes segment and the change in appearance. I am sure most readers will agree with me that the inaugural committee has had a huge impact on the journal.

With the inaugural committee retiring I would like to welcome the new cohort. The current two year term sees Professor Kathryn Roberts of the Northern Territory, Professor Glenn Gardner of Canberra, Associate Professor David Arthur of Hong Kong and Associate Professor Rod Sims of Melbourne, take up their positions. I look forward to working closely with these people and to moving the journal onward and upward. Over the next few issues we will provide a brief on each of the board members.

One of the most attractive aspects of the *Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing* is the variety of topics which appear in print. The papers in this issue are not themed and are a cluster of eclectic topics that will provide interesting reading for nurses in many areas.

Anne Hofmeyer and Maggie Cecchin provide questionnaire development results that became evident during their research with international nursing students in undergraduate and postgraduate programs within Australia. Their research explored the issues impacting upon international nursing students' ability to achieve their study goals at an Australian university. This paper

principally describes the collaborative approach in designing the instrument.

Margaret Lett provides a scholarly paper discussing the use of chaos theory in nursing. She provides possible applications, and alerts the reader to the use of chaos theory as a framework for knowledge generation. Her comparison of Rogerian theory with chaos theory is enlightening.

Eleanor Hooke, Lydia Bennett, Robyn Dwyer, Ingrid van Beek and Carol Martin provide the results of research that examined the nurse practitioner role in client care, with a particular focus on the extended role of the nurse at the Kirkton Road Centre in Sydney. The results, which demonstrate that nurse practitioners were professionally appropriate in all of aspects of practice in over 95% of cases, are encouraging to the emerging nurse practitioner role.

John Doyle provides an excellent review of the literature examining the role, function and issues related to forensic nursing. He believes that forensic nursing is an emerging specialty area of nursing that has undergone substantive role development over recent years. He argues that forensic nurses are calling for greater recognition within the profession of nursing and that they are increasingly more and more in demand. Interestingly the literature provides a picture of forensic nurses as an integral part of the correction milieu.

The final article, by Heidi Silverston, provides a scholarly article focusing on the issue of rubber latex sensitivity and allergy as it relates it to the health industry. She outlines the cause, signs and symptoms associated with rubber latex and offers some ways forward. Health care workers in Australia and their managers should heed her concerns.

This month Bits and Bytes discusses newly developed I.T. teaching material and includes a review of the product by Joy Lyneham.