

## **Issue 16: June 2011**

### **In this Issue:**

#### **Regular Features**

**National Activities**

**State Activities**

**Student Space**

**Gerontology News**

**Looking Back**

**Upcoming Events**



## **Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the AAG e-newsletter!**

The last three months have been a busy period for the AAG. The AAG NSW Division held its annual rural conference in the Hunter Valley, the AAG WA Division held a seminar on the "Health Reform Agenda: The Impact for Older People", and both the Victorian Division and the Tasmanian Division held seminars to discuss the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Caring for Older Australians. The AAG also held its biannual Council meeting in May and discussed a range of issues affecting the association, including the structure of the AAG and how it can better meet the needs of members. Moreover, with the Productivity Commission set to release its Final Report to Government by the end of the month, issues around ageing and aged care research are only set to become more pronounced.

The AAG has also been busy preparing for the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) Asia/Oceania Regional Congress, which will be held in Melbourne from 23-27 October. Abstracts have now been reviewed and the program is being finalised. Registrations are also now open and it is worth getting in quickly to secure the Early Bird rate which is available until 30 June. The conference has been endorsed by Royal College of Nursing, Australia, and attendance attracts 40 RCNA Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) points as part of RCNA's Life Long Learning Program (3LP). For more information about the conference, see details below in the newsletter or visit [www.ageing2011.com](http://www.ageing2011.com).

The AAG has also been busy over the last few months putting together a host of seminars and workshops on the theme of this year's Hot Topic "Ageing in the Community". Of particular note is the AAG ACT public forum entitled "Ageing and Aged Care Research, Evaluation and Policy: Informing Options and Outcomes for Community Care", which will be held in Canberra on 11 August. The forum will include an address by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, as well as presentations from Professors Julie Byles and John McCallum, and a question and answer session led by Dr Anna Howe. The forum will be open to the public, although numbers will be limited. For information on the event, or other events that are happening in your home state, please visit the AAG website, [www.aag.asn.au](http://www.aag.asn.au).

The AAG membership renewal notices have also now gone out to all members, so be sure to look out for yours. For the first time, members are now able to renew their membership online, providing a faster and more convenient service. To renew online, or become a member, please visit the AAG website link above.

Below in the newsletter you will also find information on the RM Gibson Grants, which are now open for application, a summary of the findings from the recent AAG member satisfaction survey, and reports from the recent National Aged Care Alliance meeting held in Canberra and the Minister's Advisory Panel on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians, as well as all the latest news from each state and territory

division. So read on to find out more about news, issues and events relevant to the ageing and aged care research sector and be sure to engage in the various AAG events on offer.

Gill Lewin  
National President

Tony Coles  
Executive Officer

## National Activities

### Ministerial Advisory Panel on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians

What a great experience being President is turning out to be! Since I updated you in the last edition of the newsletter about my and Julie's meeting with the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, he asked me to be a member of the Advisory Panel on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians. I gladly accepted as I see this both as a great personal opportunity to learn and think more about the topics as well as an opportunity for the AAG to contribute to the shaping of government policy that will improve the experience of ageing. In order that the AAG's contribution may be maximised I encourage you to: bombard me with papers, advice and opinions that you wish to be included in the panel's considerations (send to [enquiries@aag.asn.au](mailto:enquiries@aag.asn.au)); meet with the Panel if invited; or as it is unfortunately not possible for the Panel to consult personally with everyone who has an interest in a topic, write a submission. The Panel's website address is <http://www.treasury.gov.au/EPISA/content/default.asp> and the Panel's scope of work is described below.



*Brian Howe, Mark Butler, Gill Lewin and Everal Compton (Chair of Panel)*

The objective behind establishing the Panel is to identify and respond to the economic and social opportunities that are presented by an older population. We have been asked to address the central question "What new opportunities will arise in the future with a larger, and more active, community of senior Australians?". The Government has asked us to consider a number of specific policy areas:

- Opportunities created by the National Broadband Network (NBN) for senior Australians to stay connected to their communities.
- Opportunities for senior Australians to get involved in activities to preserve our environment and help tackle climate change.
- Priority areas for consideration by the new Commissioner for Age Discrimination – helping cultivate positive attitudes towards senior Australians across all facets of the community.
- Improving workforce participation and investing in the skills and experience of senior Australians – allowing businesses and community groups to tap into an active and engaged talent pool of senior Australians.
- Opportunities for businesses and community groups to provide a wider range of recreational and preventative health services that meet senior Australians' interests and support healthy and active lifestyles.
- Creating new avenues for senior Australians to volunteer – supporting the networks and systems that can match the skills and abilities of a growing pool of senior Australians with community needs.
- Supporting seniors-friendly housing – influencing planning, design and construction decisions to take advantage of the opportunities presented by demographic change.
- Helping senior Australians plan for their future – helping senior Australians keep an eye to the future, make well-informed decisions and plan ahead for life's transitions.

I look forward to meeting with you/hearing from you/ reading your submission.

## **National Aged Care Alliance Report May 2011**

On Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 May, the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) met in Canberra to discuss a variety of issues concerning ageing and aged care. The AAG was again represented at the meeting by Prof Gill Lewin, President, and Dr Tony Coles, National Executive Officer. Top of the agenda was the imminent release of the Productivity Commission's Report into Caring for Older Australians which is set to make a series of recommendations to Government for reforming the aged care sector. NACA was fortunate to have the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Ageing, on hand to discuss what the release of the Report may mean for older Australians and the sector more broadly. Without pre-empting the Commission's final report or the Government's reaction to the recommendations, the Minister agreed to continue engaging with NACA over the coming months as the Government considers the Report.

After meeting with the Minister for an hour, NACA spent the rest of the first day discussing the importance of aged care reforms being a priority for the 2012 Federal Budget. NACA will continue to engage with all sides of Government to stress the need for major reforms to the aged care sector, which will require considerable investment if it is to succeed. With the welfare of all older Australians at stake, bipartisan support across the political spectrum, as well as throughout the community, is essential.

The second day of the NACA meeting began with a presentation by Dr Charles Howse from the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) on the development of the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) which is due to be operational from 1 July 2012. Discussions around the concept of the PCEHR were generally favourable; issues around privacy and security have been mitigated under the PCEHR while still allowing for health practitioners to have quick and easy access to relevant patient information for the purpose of examination. Lyn Murphy from the Department of Health and Ageing then discussed the outcomes of recent national workshops on the accreditation of aged care standards, including guiding principles and the move towards person-centred care. Further community consultations will be conducted prior to the standards being finalised and released to the Minister.

Rae Lamb, the newly appointed Aged Care Commissioner, also had the opportunity to address NACA. Rae discussed the role of her new job in relation to complaints investigation and resolution and drew parallels with her previous job in New Zealand regarding complaints resolution. She stressed that effective communication with all parties involved in the complaint was essential, and that early and direct involvement leads to a greater chance of a successful resolution. The final session of the NACA meeting involved a report from Mark Cormack, Health Workforce Australia. Mark discussed the progress of work done to date around clinical education and training reform, workforce innovation, and international recruitment. Further updates on the work of Health Workforce Australia are available at [www.hwa.gov.au](http://www.hwa.gov.au). The next NACA meeting is scheduled to take place in Canberra on 9-10 August.

## **AAG Membership Satisfaction Survey Summary**

In April, the Australian Association of Gerontology sent an email to all members inviting them to participate in a member satisfaction survey to assist the association in identifying its strengths and weaknesses, and highlight where it can make improvements to the products and services that it offers members. A total of 217 members completed the survey, representing around one quarter of the AAG membership. Over three quarters of respondents were female (77.7%), with the majority falling into either the 35-54 years old age bracket (49.8%) or the 55-74 years old age bracket (42.5%). Regarding the professional background of respondents, the results showed that our membership comes from diverse fields (see pie chart below). While academics and researchers accounted for around 30%, nurses and allied health professionals made up a similar proportion. Those working in aged care, community services and government made up the bulk of the remainder.

The results from the membership satisfaction survey delivered the following key findings:

- By and large, members regarded access to ageing research and news, as well as education and professional development, as being of primary importance to them when considering their membership with the AAG. To address this, the AAG is currently looking at alternative ways in which it can bring ageing and aged care news to members beyond the Australasian Journal on Ageing and the e-newsletters, and it has recently established an Education Committee to report to Council on options for developing more structured educational programs for members.

- Generally, members were satisfied with member products and services, including the AAG e-newsletter, the National Conference, and the Australasian Journal on Ageing. However, members did state that improvements could be made in particular areas, including:
  - More local events that are put on at different days/times and in different locations
  - More educational and training events
  - Improving the website and including more up-to-date information
  - Improving the AJA ranking
  - Recording seminars to give people living in remote communities access to them via the website
  - Provide more opportunities for members to contribute to policy debates
  - Include more industry relevant news

The AAG Council will work with this information to look at ways in which it can improve its products and services.

- The majority of members (71%) who answered the question on social media were in favour of the AAG utilising Facebook as another medium for communicating with members. Over a third of respondents also suggested the AAG use LinkedIn as a professional networking and communications tool. Based on these responses, the AAG Council has agreed to establish both a Facebook account and a LinkedIn account over the coming months.
- Overall, members were very satisfied with the management of the AAG and its commitment to its mission of expanding knowledge of ageing. Members did, however, identify a range of areas which the AAG could improve upon, including:
  - Better and stronger advocacy
  - Connecting research to practice
  - Disseminating broader information on ageing research to members
  - Better use of electronic communication
  - Developing a higher media profile and greater self-promotion
  - Building stronger stakeholder relationships
  - Communicating more regularly with members

The AAG will work to improve these areas, and communicate these improvements to members.

A more detailed summary of the results from the survey can be found on the 'members only' section of the AAG website.

Thank you to all those members who took the time to participate in the survey. The feedback that was received was invaluable and will help to shape and grow the Association in line with member expectations. The AAG will continue to work with its members as it progresses its mission of expanding knowledge on ageing.

## FROM THE AJA EDITOR'S DESK

Some AAG members may not know that *Australasian Journal on Ageing* (AJA) is the journal of four Australian peak ageing organisations. Our partner organisations are: *Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine*, *Aged Care Services Australia*, *Australian Council on the Ageing*, and *Australian Association of Gerontology*, which cover the gamut of research, practice and policy, including strong representation by clinicians, consumers and the aged care industry. This means AJA is tasked with providing value and interest to all our partners, and the journal has always had a strong focus on practice and policy, innovation in aged care, and translational research.

There are two specific sections of the journal that encourage submissions outside traditional "academic" research:

**Policy and Practice Updates:** These articles, by an expert in the field, should aim to update readers in the areas of professional practice or policy, and must be evidence based. I strongly encourage practitioners to submit articles to this section, as AJA would like to publish more of these. However, AJA receives very few submissions to this section.

**Innovations in Aged Care:** These articles should describe and evaluate an innovation, such as new treatments, community and residential care programs, professional training courses and social policies,

and, again, must be evidence based. AJA receives some submissions to this section, and the success rate for publication is high. However, I welcome more submissions in this section, as again, there is the ability to publish more.

Ideally, AJA would like to publish articles across all the sections- **Research, Policy and Practice Updates**, and **Innovations in Aged Care**- in each issue, but this is limited by how many submissions are received in each section.

There are two other avenues whereby work in the field can be published:

I encourage AAG members to contact me and suggest people to undertake **Invited Editorials** on policy or practice of interest to them. **Letters to the Editor** can also be used to highlight findings and happenings of interest to our readers.

I welcome submissions through all these avenues, to ensure AJA can meet the important remit to take into account the interests of all our partner organisations, and to ensure that the AJA community remains invigorated and aware of the latest news and happenings.

*Lynne Parkinson, Editor-in-Chief*

## **RM Gibson Scientific Research Fund**

### **CALL FOR 2011 APPLICATIONS**

**CLOSING DATE 30 JUNE 2011**

A total of \$15,000 is available for the award of up to three grants to members of the AAG for medical research. Research can include any investigative project undertaken by a person practicing in the field of gerontology. Research projects must be related directly to issues or disorders associated with ageing. Projects must be innovative. There is no age limit for applicants but grants are intended for early career researchers. Applicants must be able to supply evidence that appropriate supervision will be available.

The fund supports research projects by contributing to salaries, equipment and materials, computing charges and other essential expenses. Grants are in the form of a single amount and will not be repeated for the same project. Grants may contribute to a larger project. Grant awardees will be expected to present the results of their research project at an AAG National Conference. A free registration will be provided and additional support for travel may be granted for this purpose.

The RM Gibson Scientific Research Committee will make the final decision regarding the award of grants. Application forms are available from:

Australian Association of Gerontology  
Suite 154, 236 Hyperdome  
Loganholme QLD 4129

Email: [enquiries@aag.asn.au](mailto:enquiries@aag.asn.au)  
Phone: (07) 3103 1391  
Fax: (07) 3112 6838

Or can be downloaded from the web at [www.aag.asn.au](http://www.aag.asn.au)



[www.ageing2011.com](http://www.ageing2011.com)

## gerontology & geriatrics 2011

Ninth Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of  
Gerontology and Geriatrics  
23 – 27 October 2011 Melbourne Australia  
Ageing well together: regional perspectives

### **Ninth Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics – Melbourne Oct 23-27, 2011**

The Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology is shaping up to be a vibrant and exciting conference, so make sure it is in your diaries! We have had a good response to the call for abstracts from across the region, with a broad diversity of topics and regional representation.

#### **Abstracts are now closed**

Successful abstract authors will be notified by early July.

I am also pleased to announce that this conference has been endorsed by the Royal College of Nursing, Australia, according to approved criteria. Attendance attracts 40 RCNA Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) points as part of RCNA's Life Long Learning Program (3LP).



A variety of half day and full day pre-conference workshops (on Sunday Oct 23rd) have been organised, including the newly listed workshop "Minerva and Sphinx: Two Softwares Illustrating a Combination of Phenomenological and Lexical Analysis". For a complete list of workshops and to register, be sure to visit the conference website.

A public forum is being planned to promote key issues being presented at the conference, and to provide a focus for media activity, in the week preceding the conference. Further details will be available in the near future.

Full details of all invited speakers, invited symposia, workshops, and related conference information is available on the conference website ([www.ageing2011.com](http://www.ageing2011.com)).

Remember, early bird registrations close 30 June 2011, so be sure to get in quickly. Looking forward to seeing you all in Melbourne in October.

*Professor Keith Hill, on behalf of the Conference Organising Committee*

### NSW Division/Hunter Chapter

#### AAG (NSW) Rural Conference 2011



#### ***Across the divide: lessons on care from urban and rural communities***

Delegates from around NSW were warmly welcomed to our annual rural conference, this year held in the beautiful Hunter Valley region. The conference made good use of the newly refurbished Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Cessnock. The conference *Across the divide: lessons on care from urban and rural communities* (31 March & 1 April) explored the theme of care and focussed on how people in communities connect with one another and how this affects the needs and experiences of people as they age. Giving and receiving care has the potential to bridge the divide between us as people, and between groups in our communities.

The program on Day 1 opened with presentations on dementia services across the divide, exploring the differences, strengths and challenges of the metro and rural services provided in the Hunter region. The concurrent program focussed on palliative care and end of life, consumer, carer and community perspectives, policy platforms and aged care reform, mobility and driving, providing care in the community and new approaches to better care.

The report *Women, Health and Ageing: findings from the Longitudinal Study on Women's Health* was launched during the conference and delegates were provided with a memory stick with copies of this and other reports derived from the research.

Day 2 showcased innovation, social engagement and ageing well. *Living to 100 years: Centenarians as examples of positive ageing* gave us something to strive for and provided a fascinating insight into the growing population of centenarians. The concurrent program focussed on care in residential settings, social inclusion and caring communities, innovations that work in urban and rural communities and a workshop – *Across the ethical divide: assisting carers with sexuality in residential care*.

Networking has always been a key benefit of our rural conferences. An extended morning tea was scheduled for Day 2 and local community groups were invited to attend and meet with conference delegates. The hum of voices and the level of energy in the room attested to the useful connections that were made.

When conferencing in the Hunter region, what else could one expect but the opportunity to sample the delights of the region? Delegates were taken by coach to the Lindemans Estate for a conference dinner allowing us to view some of the countryside as well as to experience the hospitality the region is so well known for. Prof Bob Lusby, in his role as local winemaker, shared the history of wine making in Australia in his after-dinner presentation on *Wine and ageing*.

As usual the rural conference provided a diverse program that was challenging and engaging while providing plenty of opportunity for lively discussion and opportunities to learn from the best.

*Lisa Ralphs, NSW Division*

The NSW Committee would like to congratulate our past Secretary and newsletter editor, Taylor Dong, on the birth of her baby, Sophie

## **AAG NSW Annual General Meeting and Seminar**

Friday 26th August 2011

1 - 4 pm

Mechanics School of Arts, Pitt Street, Sydney

Details of speakers to be confirmed

For further information, or if you are interested in nominating for the NSW Committee, please contact Janet Gilchrist ([janet.gilchrist@sydney.edu.au](mailto:janet.gilchrist@sydney.edu.au))

*Dr Virginia Simpson-Young, Newsletter Representative, NSW Division*

## **Victoria Division**

### **The relationship between "Elder Abuse and Ageism"**

**The AAG Victorian Division held an Evening Forum on Wednesday 15 June 2011.** Featuring: Professor Simon Biggs, University of Melbourne and Brotherhood of St Laurence. A copy of this presentation will be uploaded onto the AAG Victoria Events page of the website shortly.

*Tess Tsindos, Victorian Division*

## **Queensland Division**

A reminder for all that the next major event for QLD AAG is our annual "Cutting edge research in ageing" showcase, where PhD students and early career researchers showcase their recent research projects. This is combined with our annual AGM and is held, as normal, at Ship Inn in Southbank, 6 -8pm on Wednesday 31st August. I really hope you can all make this a priority in your diary, because as well as a great night of food, drinks and learning about cutting edge recent research projects, we want to talk about the planning needed for the National Conference which is in Brisbane (at the Convention Centre, but the new building, linked to the existing centre but specifically designed for smaller conferences) next year - 20-23 November 2012 with a theme of 'Ageing: Challenging the boundaries'. We really need and want all QLD members to shape the program and planning, so please attend the AGM or email me to discuss your thoughts and how you can get involved!

Our next major event for the year is the annual Gary Andrews Visiting Fellow, Professor Iris Chi. Prior to the IAGGR Congress in Melbourne, she is visiting us in Brisbane and it has just been confirmed she will give a presentation on Monday 17 October on "Cross-cultural gerontology research methods: Challenges and strategies" (venue and time TBC). At the University of Southern California, Professor Chi was made the Chinese-American Golden Age Association/Frances Wu Chair for the Chinese Elderly in 2004 and currently directs the China Program and has a joint appointment in the USC Davis School of Gerontology. A social worker by training, her research interests centre on cross-cultural gerontology, including intergenerational relations among Chinese elderly, health care needs and health-related learning, and psychosocial risk factors associated with falls. We will confirm the exact details of her presentation as soon as possible.

*Evonne Miller, President, AAG Queensland Division*

## **West Australian Division**

### **Congratulations to Prof. Gill Lewin**

The Western Australian Division would like to congratulate Prof. Gill Lewin on her recent appointment to the *Advisory Panel on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians*. This advisory panel is being

established by the Commonwealth Government to ensure the potential of older Australians is considered in a range of policy debates and to provide evidence on the positive contribution of older people to the wider Australian community. Gill has been hand-picked for this panel due to her expertise and through her role as President of the AAG.

### **Health Reform Agenda: the Impact for Older People**

On Wednesday 30 March, the WA Division of the AAG held a seminar entitled "Health Reform Agenda: The Impact for Older People", which provided the opportunity to hear from two key public health leaders about the impact of the National Health Reform Agenda on older people and aged care services in Western Australia. The program of speakers included Dr Simon Towler, WA's Chief Medical Officer and Dr Hannah Seymour, Clinical Leader of 4 hour Rule Implementation at Royal Perth Hospital and Clinical Advisor, Aged and Continuing Care Directorate, Health Department of Western Australia.

Dr Towler provided an overview of the background to the Health Reform Agenda, describing how issues such as a growing ageing population, an escalating demand for services, substantial emphasis on tertiary hospital care, workforce shortages and increasing difficulties in funding growing health costs has led to the need to realign Australian healthcare provision for the future.

Focusing on Western Australia, Dr Towler described how substantial increases in the ageing population has led to what he terms "the burden of service". He then identified some of the more recent developments reforming healthcare provision; these included Home Hospital, RINH, Priority Home Assessment, Residential Aged Care Primary Care Providers, new communication models between providers and people at home, Facilitated Chronic Disease Care by insurers, new models of care and enhanced carer roles. He concluded by saying that quality of care to consumers is paramount, and that "change is possible" in Australian healthcare.

Dr Seymour identified current problems within the health and aged care system, noting that the current system is confusing for consumers, lack of coordination is leading to duplication and there is uncertainty as to whether services are effective. She outlined key features of the National Health Reform Agreement 2011 and discussed Activity-Based Funding (ABF) and resulting outcomes for healthcare provision.

Dr Seymour highlighted the importance of good collaboration between services and health professionals in providing good quality care. She finished by highlighting the importance of accountability, both at the individual and organisational level, noting that this is now being carried out in States and Commonwealth in a more transparent way.

### **Upcoming Event**

The AAG WA committee are currently planning their Community Care Seminar which will be held in Perth in August/September 2011. Date is to be confirmed

*Orla Hill, WA Division*



*Dr Hannah Seymour*



*Dr Simon Towler*



*WA President Donelle Rivett and Committee Member Leon Flicker, thanking our Guest speakers at the Health Reforms Seminar*

## Tasmanian Division

### Recent events:

On March 31st the Tasmanian AAG held a seminar "Productivity Commissions' Discussion Report on Caring for Older Australians – the good, the bad and the ugly". Three speakers presented responses to the Commission's report from different viewpoints. Steven Cooper from the Australian Nursing Federation (Tasmanian Branch) focused on how well the report addressed nursing workforce and structural issues in the Aged Care Sector. Darren Matthewson, CEO Aged and Community Services Tasmania, presented the viewpoint of industry and Christine Stirling, Senior Research Fellow with the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre discussed the place of research in the report. The presentations were followed by a panel session with lively interaction between the audience and the speakers, who were joined by David Owen from Advocacy Tasmania. There was a strong sense that seminar participants supported the move towards a system that allowed more consumer choice and flexible services. Participants flagged the need for government to ensure that systems supported those who might be disadvantaged in the new system, such as clients with a 'weak voice' and rural and regional areas. The lack of support for research and improved education systems in the report recommendations was felt to be an oversight.

### "Healthy Ageing and the brain: How to prevent Dementia"

This was held on Wednesday 15 June with guest speakers: Prof James Vickers, Dr Mathew Summers, Kelly Limbrick, and Sheila Given.

### New Committee member profile

Rowena MacKean is our student representative and she certainly does not fit the usual "stereotype" for being a student. She writes:

"Since leaving paid work twenty years ago, I have been involved as a founder, member and organiser of older people's voluntary self-help groups, as an advocate for learning opportunities for older people, and as a member of State and local committees promoting Positive Ageing. In 2007 I was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to adult and community education.

In 2010 I completed an M.Ed (Research) at the University of Tasmania on 'Ageing Well: An Inquiry into Older People's Experiences of Community-based Organisations'. I have now begun a PhD, looking more closely at the effects of participation in a peer-run organisation on older people's self-rated health and wellbeing. I see my research as a complement to and further development of my strong interest in older people's leisure and learning activities and the empowerment of older people."

*Jean Elder, Newsletter representative, Tasmanian Division*

## Northern Territory Division

Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) and General Practice Network NT - Alice Springs

### Topic: Aboriginal Health and Ageing, A lifecycle approach

*The Koori Growing Old Well Study*

**Speaker:** G A (Tony) Broe,  
Senior Principal Research fellow,  
Neuroscience Research Australia

When: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Where: NT GP Network – Skinner St Alice Springs

Time: 5.30 pm for refreshments

6-45pm presentation

6.45 – 7.00 discussion and questions

Direct RSVP email to [Sheryn Hemley](mailto:Sheryn.Hemley@nt.gov.au) on 08 8950 4882.

For content queries, please contact [Marianne Cummins](mailto:Marianne.Cummins@nt.gov.au) on mobile: 0400 652 262



I'd like to welcome all new AAG students and early career researchers and practitioners to the AAG Student Group. If you are not currently receiving emails or are on the Group's database, make yourself known via email to your State rep using the emails below. The Student Group offers valuable networking opportunities for those studying or starting a career in the field of ageing. The Group also hosts numerous social and educational events.

The Student Group has been active in 2010, particularly in the lead up to the IAGG regional congress. Details of activities being organised for students and early career researchers are reported below. Dates for the 10<sup>th</sup> National Emerging Researchers in Ageing conference have also been set for the 24-25<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The conference will be hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research and will be held at The University of New South Wales in Sydney. Abstracts are due by 5pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

### **9<sup>th</sup> IAGG Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics conference**

The Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) and the New Zealand Association of Gerontology are hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> IAGG Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics conference to be held in Melbourne, October 23-27, 2011. The student group is involved in organising three student workshops and two social functions. The workshops are to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October with the topics 'After the PhD,' 'Developing an academic career' and 'Writing and reviewing for scholarly journals: a view from Oceania'. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October students will be invited on a trip to Healesville Sanctuary. The student dinner will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October and provide a unique opportunity for local students to network with international students. The Student Group AGM will also be held during the conference. For further information on events for students at the conference visit the website: <http://www.ageing2011.com/Student.htm>

### **Student Bursaries**

As part of their mission to strongly support and engage with students and emerging researchers, the Organising Committee are pleased to offer several bursaries for students and emerging researchers to assist them in meeting the financial costs of attending the conference. Eighteen bursaries of AUD 600 will be available, and awarded at the discretion of the local organising committee.

### **Brief summary (maximum of 600 words) to include:**

1. Evidence of studies being undertaken ( Masters or PhD) in the field of gerontology, including details of your study;
2. Details of any other qualifications you may have;
3. Contributions to the ageing community;
4. Reasons for applying for a bursary;
5. Abstract submission details for the IAGG Regional Congress (if applicable);
6. Details of any other funding sources being applied for.

### **Further information**

Potential recipients are asked to send their brief summary to: Claudia Meyer, Student Representative on the Local Organising Committee [c.meyer@nari.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:c.meyer@nari.unimelb.edu.au)

### **Interested in becoming more involved in the Student Group?**

To help the Student Group grow and to increase the events offered to the Group, we are seeking interested Student and Early Career AAG Members to take on any of a number of positions as Student Group representatives. Over the coming months a number of Student representatives are stepping down from various positions. Also, to assist State Reps to transition into their role, we have recently established Deputy Rep positions with the aim of Deputy Reps taking on the State rep role when the State rep stands down. We are also seeking a newsletter rep whose role is to develop these newsletter reports on

the Student Group for the four editions throughout the year. Positions are usually for a minimum of one year, but can be extended. We hope to announce new reps at the Group's AGM which this year will be held during the Regional Congress. The role of State reps is to distribute information to their Student Group members, organise two or three events for their Student Group members and attend half a dozen teleconferences through the year. Some of the benefits of being on the Student Group committee include; increased networking opportunities on a national level, a great addition to the CV and opportunities for support to attend National AAG conferences. If you are interested in finding out more please contact the National Student rep, Kirsten Moore or your State rep:

Kirsten Moore: [StudentPresident@aag.asn.au](mailto:StudentPresident@aag.asn.au)  
Anthony Brown: [StudentVicePresident@aag.asn.au](mailto:StudentVicePresident@aag.asn.au)  
Claudia Meyer: [StudentPastPresident@aag.asn.au](mailto:StudentPastPresident@aag.asn.au)  
Kim Kiely: [ACTStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:ACTStudentRep@aag.asn.au)  
Anthony Brown: [HunterValleyStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:HunterValleyStudentRep@aag.asn.au) and  
[NSWStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:NSWStudentRep@aag.asn.au)  
Currently vacant: Northern Territory Student Rep  
Ellen Meissner: [QldStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:QldStudentRep@aag.asn.au)  
Chris Materne: [SASStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:SASStudentRep@aag.asn.au)  
Sharon Andrews: [TasmaniaStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:TasmaniaStudentRep@aag.asn.au)  
Tess Tsindos: [VictoriaStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:VictoriaStudentRep@aag.asn.au)  
Lucie Baker: [WASStudentRep@aag.asn.au](mailto:WASStudentRep@aag.asn.au)

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Kirsten Moore, National Student Rep*

### Ed's Note:

Below is an article we have received from one of our members regarding a new project she is involved with. It is always interesting reading to see what our members are up to.

### **Hazel Ryan Nurse Practitioner Aged Care Older Persons Mental Health Service – introducing a new role to improve provision of health services to older Tasmanians**

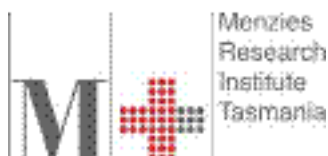
I have recently been employed as a Nurse Practitioner Aged Care in the integrated team of Older Persons Mental Health Service (OPMHS) & Dementia Behaviour and Management Advisory Service (DBMAS), Southern Tasmania. Establishing this new role over the past 6 months is a very exciting undertaking and I am grateful for the support I have from my work colleagues, senior managers and medical directors. In addition to providing clinical care to the clients of our service and support to their carers, one project I will be involved in this year is a research project with the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, to research the requirements and scope of a 'Nurse-Led Memory Clinic'. Prior to this, my most recent geriatric/acute care experience has been working with the Southern Tasmania Area Health Service in a variety of clinical roles.

I have also undertaken to complete a Graduate Diploma of Nursing (Mental Health) and I look forward to expanding my scope of practice to reflect the new qualifications and competencies. I hold a tutor position for the University of Tasmania's Perspectives of Ageing undergraduate nursing unit. I have a strong commitment to support the initial and continual education of nurses which is integral to our delivery of best practice care.

On a personal note, I have three great teenage & young adult children and a supportive husband, and I sing for relaxation in a six part a cappella group which has been together for close to nine years and I have directed a community choir, the experience of which has led to the establishment of a new choir this year for people living with dementia and their carers with Alzheimer's Australia Tasmania and OPMHS/DBMAS.

Hazel Ryan

Ph: 03 6230 7986



### **Nurse-Led Memory Clinic Project**



This new project will trial a nurse-led memory clinic in order to explore the clinics potential as a model of early primary health care for augmenting dementia diagnosis and therapeutic interventions in collaboration with Dr Martin Morrissey of the Older Persons Mental Health Service.

Funded by the Mason Foundation (Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams) this Wicking Dementia Research and Education clinic will offer a two-visit model and retain a primary health care focus by ensuring that General Practitioners remain part of the diagnostic process. Clients will either self-refer or be referred by health professionals for the first visit. Following the initial assessment by Hazel Ryan, Nurse Practitioner Aged Care, a personalised plan will be prepared for those with identified cognitive deficits.

The nurse-led memory clinic model aims to maintain the role of GPs and specialists while providing support in the time consuming aspects of assessment and referral, and providing an alternative avenue for individuals to access initial assessment. This project has the potential to address the rapidly rising demand for dementia specialist services and increase the numbers of Tasmanians with an early dementia

diagnosis. The evidence obtained from this trial will have national and international significance as all developed countries look for innovative workforce solutions to deliver services to the projected rising number of people with dementia (numbers more than doubling by 2030 in Australia). The evidence gathered will inform the development of an expanded scope role for nurses in dementia diagnosis, while highlighting future areas needing research in this model of diagnosis.

The benefits to people with cognitive impairment and their families will include access to improved and timely diagnosis of dementia, enabling earlier linking to care and services with the resultant improved capacity to plan for the future including timely accesses to community services and commence discussions around high risk, complex tasks such as driving. The benefits to health

care providers will include better support for GPs and specialists in diagnosis and management of a person with dementia, and a referral and management avenue for other health providers.

The Clinic is open for referrals and operates currently one day a week at the Menzies Building. A referral form will soon be available on the GPSouth web site via a link. Alternatively a letter referral via Older Persons Mental Health Trio data base is also accepted.



*Stella Bucher/Hazel Ryan*

**Contact person:**

Hazel Ryan, Nurse Practitioner Aged Care

Phone: 0400 545 666

Email: [hazel.ryan@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:hazel.ryan@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

## **Dementia and Sleep Resources**

A team of researchers from the University of Alberta has completed a structured review of the evidence for non-pharmacological sleep interventions for persons with dementia. The review was supported by the Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network ([www.lifeandminds.ca](http://www.lifeandminds.ca)) The full report is available on the website [www.sleep-dementia-resources.ualberta.ca](http://www.sleep-dementia-resources.ualberta.ca) . The website contains a collection of evidence-based sleep resources for healthcare providers and caregivers of persons with dementia. Downloadable patient education brochures about evidence-based sleep interventions are also provided. A PowerPoint presentation on the findings of this project and on sleep problems in persons with dementia can be accessed in the archives of the Canadian Dementia Resource and Knowledge Exchange website <http://www.dementiaknowledgebroker.ca/>"

### 2011 IAGG Asia/Oceania Regional Congress

#### October

**23-27 October 2011 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

#### ***Ninth International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) Asia/Oceania Regional Congress***

The Australian Association of Gerontology, in collaboration with the New Zealand Association of Gerontology, is hosting the **9th IAGG Asia / Oceania Regional Congress** in Melbourne, Australia, from October 23-27.

Accommodation booking deadline: 23 September 2011

P: +61 3 9682 0500

Registrations now open through the website.

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### AAG STATE EVENTS

#### AAG Queensland

**31 August 2011 BRISBANE, QLD**

*AAG Queensland event: "Cutting Edge Research in Ageing", Student and early career showcase*

Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Upstairs function Centre, Ship Inn, Southbank (Cnr Stanley & Sidon Sts)

Schedule: Supper will be provided at 6pm, presentations will begin at 7pm

Cost: Free for AAG members / \$5.00 for Non members

P: +61 7 3138 9011 (Evonne Miller)

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

#### AAG South Australia

**12 August 2011 ADELAIDE, SA**

*SA Gerontology Conference: This Goes with That – Synergistic Ageing*

This conference brings together a wide range of people with an interest in issues of ageing – aged care providers, professionals, policy makers, advocates, researchers and students, and older people themselves.

Venue: National Wine Centre, Adelaide

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

#### AAG Northern Territory

**30 June 2011 ALICE SPRINGS, NT**

*AAG NT and General Practice Network NT - Alice Springs*

Speaker: G A (Tony) Broe, Senior Principal Research Fellow, Neuroscience Research Australia

Venue: NT GP Network - Skinner Street, Alice Springs

Time: 5.30pm for refreshments

5:45pm presentation

6:45 - 7:00 pm discussion and questions

Direct RSVP email to [Sheryn Hemley](#) on 08 8950 4882.

For content queries, please contact [Marianne Cummins](#) on m:0400652262

# NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

## June

### **23-24 June 2011 SYDNEY, NSW**

*HammondCare Aged Care Conference 2011*

Rehabilitating Aged Care: A fresh look at Rehabilitation and Aged Care Services.

[Website](#)

### **29 June–1 July 2011 GOLD COAST, QLD**

*Occupational therapy Australia, 24<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Exhibition*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **30 June-3 July 2011 ADELAIDE, SA**

*Ageing in the Migrant Diaspora and the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Greek Research*

Early Bird Registration: Extended to 16 May 2011

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

## July

### **7-10 July 2011 GOLD COAST, QLD**

*Australasian Association of Bioethics & Health Law 2011 Conference*

*Expectations, Hope and Futility: Law and Bioethics in Contemporary Healthcare*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **20-22 July 2011 GOLD COAST, QLD**

*2011 Nurses in Management Aged Care (NIMAC) Conference*

[Email](#)

## August

### **2-3 August 2011 BRISBANE, QLD**

*Symposium for leisure and lifestyle staff working in aged care*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **10-11 August 2011 SYDNEY, NSW**

*Carex 2011 – Australian's Premier Health & Aged Care Expo*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

## September

### **12-15 September 2011 SYDNEY, NSW**

*2011 ACSA National Conference*

Venue: Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **21-22 September 2011 MELBOURNE, VIC**

*Aged Care Nurse Managers (ACNM) Conference 2011*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **22-23 September 2011 SYDNEY, NSW**

*5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Dementia Research Forum*

Hosted by Dementia Collaborative Research Centres – An Australian Government Initiative

Venue: Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney

Keynote Speaker: Ronald C Peterson, MD., Director of the Mayo Alzheimer's Disease Research Centre, USA.

Closing Date for Abstracts: 30 June 2011

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

## **22-23 September 2011 SYDNEY, NSW**

*5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Dementia Research Forum*

Hosted by Dementia Collaborative Research Centres – An Australian Government Initiative

Venue: Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney

Keynote Speaker: Ronald C Peterson, MD., Director of the Mayo Alzheimer's Disease Research Centre, USA.

Closing Date for Abstracts: 30 June 2011

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

## **November**

### **2-4 November 2011 BRISBANE, QLD**

*10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion*

Registration opens: 16 May 2011

Pre conference workshops: 1 November 2011

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **6-8 November 2011 GOLD COAST, QLD**

*Aged Care Association Australia (ACAA) 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **24-25 November 2011 SYDNEY, NSW**

#### **10<sup>th</sup> National Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference**

This is the only national conference in Australia focusing exclusively on the work of higher degree research students undertaking research in ageing across a range of disciplines. Now in its tenth year, the conference presents a unique opportunity for higher degree research students to come together to share their research.

Call for Abstracts: Closes 5pm Monday 15 August 2011

For Abstract submission guidelines, click [here](#)

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES / SYMPOSIA 2011**

### **June**

#### **30 June – 1 July 2011 BARCELONA, SPAIN**

*IAGG - Intensive Course on Ageing*

Internationally recognized specialists will share their knowledge on topics on main aspects of social gerontology, biological aging and clinical gerontology.

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **September**

#### **1-2 September 2011 TALLIN, ESTONIA**

*3<sup>rd</sup> International SHARE User Conference (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe)*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

#### **18-20 September 2011 NICOSIA, CYPRUS**

*Ageing & Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region*

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **October**

#### **16 October 2011 NEBRASKA, USA**

*Ageing with Passion and Purpose: IT Happens – A conference on Aging*

[Website](#)

**16-19 October 2011      WASHINGTON DC, USA**  
*IAHSA / LeadingAge Global Ageing Conference & Exposition*  
To view information on the associated study tour, click [here](#)  
[Website](#)

**21-23 October 2011      OTTAWA, CANADA**  
*IAGG PAN American Congress 2011: New Directions for Ageing*  
[Website](#)

**23-27 October 2011      MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**  
***Ninth International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) Asia/Oceania Regional Congress***

The Australian Association of Gerontology, in collaboration with the New Zealand Association of Gerontology, is hosting the **9th IAGG Asia / Oceania Regional Congress** in Melbourne, Australia, from October 23-27.

Accommodation booking deadline: 23 September 2011

P: +61 3 9682 0500

Registrations now open through the website.

[Email](#)      [Website](#)

## November

**2-3 November 2011      DUBLIN, IRELAND**  
*International Conference – Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally*  
Call for Abstracts close: 11 May 2011 (noon)

[Email](#)      [Website](#)

**18-22 November 2011      BOSTON, USA**  
*64<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America: Lifestyle – Lifespan*

[Email](#)      [Website](#)

## 2012

### January 2012

**25-27 January 2012      DIJON, FRANCE**  
*International Symposium "The right to Age". Citizenship, social inclusion and political participation of older people*

Context: The UN Plan of Action on Ageing – 10 year on

[Email](#)      [Website](#)

### May 2012

**28 May-1 June 2012      PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**  
*IFA 11<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Ageing – "Ageing Connects"*

[Email](#)      [Website](#)

### June 2012

**10-13 June 2012      COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**  
*21<sup>st</sup> Nordic Congress of Gerontology*

[Website](#)

### September 2012

**17-21 September 2012      NEW DELHI, INDIA**  
*TRANSED 2012: 13<sup>th</sup> International conference on 'Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons'*

Call for Abstracts close: 30 March 2011

[Email](#)      [Website](#)

## 2013

**23-27 June 2013                      SEOUL, KOREA**

*IAGG's 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress*

Facing the challenges of global aging and the increasing need for digitalization, the Organizing Committee led by Professor Heung Bong CHA, has chosen "Digital Aging: New Horizon for Health Care and Active Aging" as the main theme for the Congress.

[Website](#)

## TRAINING

### **Age Concern RN Forums**

[Email](#)                      [Website](#)

Age Concern- Dementia Program for Registered Nurses

[Email](#)                      [Website](#)

Age Concern – Dementia Program for Enrolled Nurses

[Email](#)                      [Website](#)

Age Concern – Dementia Program for Carers

[Email](#)                      [Website](#)

**30 June – 1 July 2011              BARCELONA, SPAIN**

*IAGG - Intensive Course on Ageing*

Internationally recognized specialists will share their knowledge on topics on main aspects of social gerontology, biological aging and clinical gerontology.

[Email](#)                      [Website](#)

### **End of Life Care Master Classes**

Join UK Expert Les Story in this full day practical master class which draws upon the UK approach of reducing hospitalization and providing individual choice for individuals nearing the end of their life. Registrations now open.

#### **Dates and venues:**

11 October 2011	Auckland, New Zealand
13 October 2011	Christchurch, New Zealand
17 October 2011	Melbourne, VIC
19 October 2011	Sydney, NSW
21 October 2011	Brisbane, QLD
24 October 2011	Alice Springs, NT
26 October 2011	Adelaide, SA
28 October 2011	Perth, WA

[Email](#)                      [Website](#)

**22-24 November 2011              TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

A Master Class on Ageing is organized to train young geriatricians with research potentials. This Course will be held at the Taipei Chien Tan Activity Centre on November 22-24, 2011. Eight international tutors have accepted to share their know-how and experience during the 3-day event.

[Website](#)

\* \* \* \* \*

## **POSITIONS VACANT**

### **ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing**

The University of Sydney node of the [ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research](#) (CEPAR) offers exceptional opportunities for suitably qualified researchers and postgraduate students to join a multi-disciplinary team investigating determinants of healthy and productive ageing, cohort change and international comparisons. For further information, or to express your interest, please visit [Sydney Recruitment](#).