

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## EDITORIAL

Well another good year for the PGNA comes to a close. Thanks to all of you for making it a success and especially to the Executive Committee for their support and enthusiasm for progressing the PGNA. A special thank goes to James Turner for his great commitment to the Secretary's position

The PGNA celebrated 10 years of service in great style with a lavish dinner at the Courtyard By Marriott Hotel Parramatta on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> November attended by 31 members, including several associate members. Those that attended were entertained by Dr Tracey McDonald, Professor of Ageing, School of Nursing, ACU National.

2005's AGM was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at POW Hospital. The Executive Committee is largely without change.

I would like to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and the all the best for a prosperous New Year.

Regina McDonald  
Editor of the PGNA Newsletter

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## Members of the Executive Committee for 2005 - 2006 are:

- Regina McDonald (President & Public Officer).
- Dianne Wikstrom (Vice President).
- John Nadjarian (Treasurer)
- James Turner (Secretary).
- Lin Chan (Membership Secretary).
- Bryan McMinn (Ordinary Member).
- Elizabeth Brandis (Ordinary Member).
- This committee makes executive decisions about the PGNA operations as a nursing body. A Constitution has been developed for the Association.

Happy New Year  
Happy New Year

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Education and Research Committee

The Education and Research Committee consists of:

- ✓ Elizabeth Brandis -Secretary (caretaker)
- ✓ Dr Christine Neville
- ✓ Regina McDonald
- ✓ Peter Brown
- ✓ Dianne Wikstrom
- ✓ Bryan McMin

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## 1. BUSINESS PLAN NEWS

The "Website" is now up and running and being maintained by The College of Nursing under PGNA's direction. The site is incomplete but will be added-to as time progresses.

## 2. ANNIVERSARY DINNER

# 10 years

Two versions of this report are available. If you're reading this in hardcopy you are missing out on some snapshots of the evening. Fear not! Just go to our website ([www.pgna.org.au](http://www.pgna.org.au)) - the publication section, and click-on PGNA December 2005 Newsletter. Behold - same words but with pictures added!



Thirty-two members booked to attend the PGNA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & Education Evening held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at Parramatta's Courtyard By Marriott Hotel. One member was unable to make it at the last minute, but everyone else turned up in their evening finery.

Our guest speaker, Dr Tracey McDonald, was there before all of us so everyone had a wonderfully informal time to get to know her before the evening officially got under way.

The Courtyard By Marriott staff did a wonderful job of setting-up the Marsden Room for us - from fabulously presented tables to assisting Dianne to make sure her technical equipment would function properly. The three-course dinner was a real treat and served



unobtrusively together with some fine beverages. A special table was allocated for the anniversary cake: this was a bit of a show-stopper - both the cake & the table.



During the course of the evening several notable events occurred. Life Member Shelley Taylor was presented with a framed confirmation certificate of her life membership, adorned with the Association's new title & logo and appropriately affixed with the Association's common seal.



Much to his surprise Peter Brown was awarded with a similarly-presented life membership certificate.

Regina & I were labelled "naughty monkeys" by Peter for springing that award on him. We coped with that, however, amongst the celebratory laughter and the applause of the members present.

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Regina officially launched the new PGNA website. Dianne Wikstrom did a great job of her PowerPoint presentation of the site, taking us through each page and giving easy-to-understand explanations of how to navigate the site.



Dr Tracey McDonald, Professor of Ageing at Australian Catholic University National, delivered an entertaining presentation - "A Point of View". She took us through the wide world of relationships nurses have with one another, with other health professionals, and with our patients/clients. Horizontal violence, bullying, and the "games" into which we sometimes become inadvertently drawn featured large.

Her informality and humour were in keeping with the ambience of the evening.



*[Members of the 2005-2006 PGNA Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting at Prince of Wales Hospital earlier in the day. From Left of picture to right: Bryan McMinn, Elizabeth Brandis (Ordinary Members), Dianne Wikstrom (Vice President), Regina McDonald (President), Lin Chan (Membership Secretary), John Nadjarian (Treasurer), and James Turner (Secretary) ]*

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All in all the dinner and the evening was a successful event. Not only was it a time to celebrate our ten years as a formally constituted Association, it was great time for members to relax, to network and to catch-up with what's happening in the various fields of psychogeriatrics in which we work.



(Report by James Turner -  
PGNA Secretary)

### **3. CONFERENCE REPORT**

Planning for the 2006 conference will begin early next year.

### **4. EDUCATION NEWS**

➤ Courses offered at the Institute of Psychiatry specifically tailored to suit those working in Aged Care and Aged Care Psychiatry.

1. Graduate Certificate in Mental Health (Aged Care)
2. Graduate Diploma in Mental Health (Aged Care)
3. Introduction to Mental Health in Old Age
4. Managing Challenging Behaviours in Old Age

For details on these programmes contact the Institute of Psychiatry on 9840 3833.

### **5. MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

The Association currently has a financial membership of 109 members, including associate members and life members.

For more information on PGNA membership contact the Membership Secretary Lin Chan on 9682 3133.

### **6. SCHOLARSHIPS**

Don't forget to submit applications for scholarships for next year. Applications are available from Elizabeth Brandis or Regina McDonald.

Two scholarship applications have been approved so far this year. Congratulations to those applicants.

### **7. NEXT FPOA MEETING - 2006**

The next FPOA meeting will be at St Joseph's Hospital, Normanby Road AUBURN on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2006. PGNA General Meeting at 1pm followed by the general education forum commencing at 2 pm.

**ALL WELCOME!**

**Happy New Year**