



# Western Australian State News



## Kellerberrin Study Day – March

In place of the State Infection Control Seminar this year (due to the National Conference in Perth in May 1998) half day seminars will be held throughout the State. The first of these is planned for March at Kellerberrin. Four speakers from Perth will travel to Kellerberrin to provide information on the practical aspects of Infection Control.

Further half day seminars are planned in June (possibly in the North-West) and in August (possibly in Albany).

## Endoscope Seminar – April

Christina Bradley, Senior Scientist at the Hospital Infection Research Laboratory in Birmingham, England, is visiting WA for a holiday in April this year. Little did she know that WA Infection Control nurses are well known for grabbing opportunity when it comes knocking, so naturally Tina was gently persuaded to give up some of her precious holiday time. Subsequently, a half day seminar on Endoscopy Decontamination will be held on the morning of Saturday 5 April 1997 at the CC Bennett Lecture Theatre, Fremantle

Hospital. The seminar is recommended for nurses and other health professionals employed in the areas of endoscopy management, Operating Room and Infection Control. Trade exhibitors are invited to provide a display. Those interested in attending should contact the Education Coordinator, Colleen Lark at Osborne Park Hospital on tel: 346 8000 or fax: 346 8008.

## Report on Dublin Conference

At the regular bi-monthly ICAWA Education Session on 4 April 1997, Madeleine McPherson will present a report on her attendance at the 4th International Conference and Exhibition on Infection Control held at the Trinity College Dublin from 9-13 September 1996. The ICAWA Executive were pleased to be able to contribute financially towards Madeleine's educational tour.

**Gabby Robathan**  
Sub-Editor ICAWA  
PO Box 674  
Claremont  
WA 6010



# South Australian State News



## What is Happening in South Australia?

### South Australian Group for Epidemiology

Last month Judy Carman invited a group of South Australians whose work or interests involve aspects of Epidemiology, to meet with her in forming the South Australian Group for Epidemiology (SAGE).

The group discussed whether in future to meet under a formal structure with a committee in place or hold a 'club' format with a principal person and a back-up to organise meetings.

The group discussed potential topics which could be brought to this forum:

- Presentation of current epidemiological challenges with subsequent discussion from members;
- Discussion of technical epidemiological matters;
- Advanced statistical training/updates
- Presentation of original research by members;
- Presentation of original work by interstate or overseas visitors.

The group aims to meet once a month at the South Australian Health Commission City Centre building. Interested persons are invited to contact Judy.

**Paulina May**

### Home Cancer Therapy Service

Queen Elizabeth Hospital are currently running a very successful Home Cancer Therapy Service. This program was setup through South Australian Health Commission funding

in March 1996 with a funding review for continuation in June, 1997 and is enthusiastically coordinated by Clinical Nurse Consultant Vinny Pegoli.

Objectives of the role were to reduce admission rates, facilitate early discharge and compare patient quality of life with those receiving inpatient treatment.

Precedent was set in Tasmania, where a similar program has been running since 1989. This form of home therapy is also established in Europe and the United States. Positive outcomes for the patient from this service include reducing time spent away from the family in order to receive treatment, fewer babysitting arrangements needing to be made, less stress on the patient, fewer transport requirements, less likelihood of the patient withdrawing from treatment.

New initiatives arising from the role include the use of long-term subcutaneous cannula for administering growth factor which makes self-administration of medication by the patient less painful.

Eligibility for home therapy includes patient and carer consent, medical stability, appropriate treatment regime, successful first dose as a hospital outpatient and telephone availability.

To date Vinny has treated over 1,100 patients. This is truly a positive step in the treatment of a wide range of oncology patients and we wish Vinny and this program all the best for its continuation.

**Marilyn Parkes**



# NSW State News



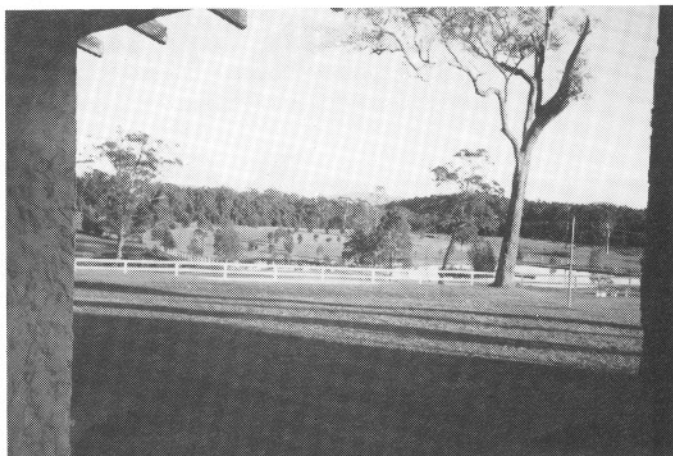
## Infection Control Goes to the South Coast. Hosted by the South Eastern Infection Control Interest Group.

**T**he idyllic setting of the Oaks Ranch, just inland from the beautiful South Coast beaches of the Bateman's Bay area, was chosen by the South Eastern Infection Control Interest Group for its education day on 10 August, 1996.

The day had its genesis in the group's desire to update infection control information to health professionals working in settings other than public hospitals. This group was seen to include general practitioners, dentists, nurses and technicians working in these practices and of course, nursing staff of nursing homes and private hospitals. To this end, a program was designed which tried to address issues of interest and concern in these workplaces. Speakers were recruited from NSW and the ACT, and details of the day's program were widely circulated throughout the south-east.

The Saturday of the seminar was a glorious country day. It was a measure of the interest of the participants and the expertise of the speakers that during the sessions there was complete concentration on the topics at hand. There was a total of 42 registrants from a variety of settings. Some of the participants had travelled for hours to attend, while others were grateful to have something presented close to home for once. Unfortunately, there was no attendance of general practitioners or dentists, but staff from private practices were well represented. There was also a strong showing from relevant trades, with six stands being set up for display and information.

All of the speakers were generous in sharing their



Above: Oaks Ranch, Batemans Bay.

knowledge and experience with the audience. Many of them had also travelled long distances, by a variety of modes of transport, to spend their Saturday informing and educating the seminar participants. Several of the speakers nostalgically remarked that the trip to the sunny South Coast brought back happy memories of childhood beach holidays in the area. However, they were nothing if not firmly in the present when addressing the seminar on the latest infection control trends and requirements. The wide range of topics covered included waste management, infection control in general practice, dental practice and long-term care facilities, and information about resources, including the Infection

## Below: Seminar participants during one of the sessions.





Control Association and the NSW Infection Control Resource Centre. The session about non-medical infection control issues, including skin penetration guidelines, was interesting if somewhat hair-raising.

The evaluations from the day were very positive overall. The venue and the organisation of the day were evaluated well, which was a relief for the Interest Group members. All sessions were evaluated by the registrants as being interesting and informative. The main criticism of the day was that the sessions were too short (45 minutes), with insufficient time for questions and general discussion. This would indicate that there is a great deal of interest in

infection control topics amongst many health professionals not actively involved in infection control. In response to this, the Interest Group has formed an education working party and is now looking at planning and running education seminars aimed at particular staff or workplaces, eg. private practices, nursing homes.

The South Eastern Interest Group would like to express its sincere thanks to the speakers who gave their time and expertise to make the seminar a success. It is hoped that this will be the first of many opportunities for our local colleagues in various work settings to update their knowledge of current infection control issues.

**Below: Trade representative and interested seminar registrants..**



## ACT State News



**O**ur small Association (25 members) is active with approximately two-thirds of the membership attending monthly meetings. There are speakers invited to most meetings. One most interesting recently was Dr Ashley Watson, Infectious Diseases Physician, who joined the staff of The Canberra Hospital in August 1996. His talk and slides on his work and conditions in a hospital in Zimbabwe were particularly interesting. Highlights: 50% of the patients were HIV positive; rubber gloves were washed and hung on wire fences to dry prior to being reused in the wards/clinics. However the operating rooms were using new sterile gloves on each occasion.

The CNC's Infection Control from ACT hospitals, Calvary, John James Memorial, The Canberra and NSW Queanbeyan met recently to discuss how surveillance could be improved

and similarly recorded in the four hospitals.

During the last 'Rotavirus season' the Paediatric Division of The Canberra Hospital (TCH) made the decision to administer Gastrogard-R to all admissions who met the criteria, and who were between the ages of 28 days and 3 years. Gastrogard-R is a high protein lactose reduced skim bovine colostrum powder which provides passive immunity.

'Glogerm' is used successfully to heighten the awareness of the importance of correct handwashing techniques at Calvary and TCH. The new interns were fascinated by the amount of the fluorescent dye remaining on hands due to incorrect handwashing techniques. Hopefully the demonstrated correct techniques might remain with them throughout their careers!

**Elaine Graham**  
ACT Sub-Editor

# 11th National Conference of the Australian Infection Control Association

**THURSDAY 8 MAY**

**0700 – 1700**

**REGISTRATION:** Bellarine Foyer

**0730 – 0900**

## **BREAKFAST SATELLITE SESSION**

### **SAFETY IN THE HEALTHCARE SETTING**

Key speakers will provide insight into occupational exposure risks to blood borne pathogens, EPINet™ data interpretation and prevention strategies.

*Dr Janine Jagger, MPH, PhD, University of Virginia.*

### **EPIDEMIOLOGY OF PERCUTANEOUS INJURIES IN HEALTH CARE WORKERS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PREVENTION**

*John Kaldor – National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research*

### **NATIONAL MONITORING OF OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES**

*Fiona Cheney – Flinders Medical Centre. Needlestick injury prevention in practice*

**0915 – 1030**

**SESSION 1:** Bellarine Room 6

### **OPENING REMARKS**

*Bronwyn Holbeche – President, Victorian Nurses Association (VCNA)*

### **WELCOME ADDRESS**

*Graham Rouch – Chief Health Officer, Dept of Human Services*

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

**NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS: CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

*Raf Mertens – Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Brussels, Belgium*

**10.30 – 1100**

**MORNING TEA:** Bellarine Room 7

**1100 – 1230**

**SESSION 2:** Bellarine Room 6

### **TUBERCULOSIS AND THE HEALTH CARE WORKER**

*Lindsay Grayson – Director, Infectious Diseases and Clinical Epidemiology, Monash Medical Centre, Victoria*

### **PREVALENCE OF LATEX ALLERGY IN HOSPITAL STAFF IN HONG KONG**

*Roland CC Leung – Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **SCREENING UNIVERSITY HEALTH-CARE STUDENTS FOR CHICKEN POX BY HISTORY AND SEROLOGY**

*Mark GK Veitch, RJ Darlington, D Tallent, JRL Forsyth, GG Hogg – Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria*

### **A NORWALK-LIKE VIRUS OUTBREAK FOLLOWING A HOSPITAL OPEN DAY**

*Stephen Lambert – Infectious Diseases Unit, Department of Human Services, Victoria*

*Craig Dalton – Master of Applied Epidemiology Program, National Centre of Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University*

*Catherine Marshall, Mary O'Reilly – Infectious Diseases and Infection Control Unit, Box Hill Hospital, Box Hill, Victoria.*

**1230 – 1400**

**LUNCH:** Bellarine Room 7

**1400 – 1530**

**SESSION 3:** Bellarine Room 6

**NOSOCOMIAL BURKHOLDERIA (PSEUDOMONAS) CEPACEA INFECTION IN PRETERM INFANTS FROM MANUFACTURER CONTAMINATED ULTRASOUND GEL.**

*Terri Orrell, Tony Keil, Johanna Stevenson – King Edward Memorial Hospital, Subiaco, Western Australia*

**ROTAVIRUS – OUR BOVINE FRIENDS MAY PROVIDE THE ANSWERS**

*Dianne E Dreimanis – The Canberra Hospital, Canberra, ACT*

**POINT PREVALENCE SURVEILLANCE IN A PAEDIATRIC SETTING**

*Victoria Smith – Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand*

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS TRANSMISSION IN A RURAL COMMUNITY**

*Janet Terry, Marianne Trent, Tim Sladden – North Coast Public Health Unit Lismore, Southern Cross University, Lismore NSW*

**1530 – 1600**

**AFTERNOON TEA:** Bellarine Room 7

**1600 – 1730**

**SESSION 4:** Bellarine Room 6

**INFECTION CONTROL WORK PRACTICES MANUAL**

*Judy A Goode – Dental Assistant – President, Australian Institute of Dental Assistants (SA) Inc*

**A CHANGE OF EMPHASIS – SETTING UP AN INFECTION CONTROL SERVICE FOR A COMMUNITY AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE**

*Victoria Smith – Auckland Healthcare, Auckland, New Zealand*

**IMPLEMENTING INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

*Peter Mac Issac – West Vic Division of General Practice, Ararat, Victoria*

*Mary Smith – West Vic Division of General Practice, Ararat, Victoria*

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS 4187 AND OFFICE-BASED PRACTICE**

*Margaret Jennings – Trezise Pathology, Fairfield, Victoria*

**1730 – 1830**

**AICA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Bellarine 6

## **CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT**

11TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN INFECTION CONTROL ASSOCIATIONS  
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Telephone: +61 3 9682 0244 • Facsimile: +61 3 9682 0288

e-mail: aica.97@icms.com.au

## **CONFERENCE VENUE**

Melbourne Convention Centre (formerly World Congress Centre, Melbourne), situated on the corner of Flinders & Spencer Streets in the Melbourne CBD

## **REGISTRATION FEES**

MEMBER DELEGATE REGISTRATION

**Before March 27**

**AS350.00**

**Non-Member**

**AS450.00**

**DAY REGISTRATION**

**AS250.00**

**After March 27**

**AS400.00**

**Delegate Registration**

**AS500.00**

**AS250.00**