



PULSE

Notre Dame National School of Nursing and Midwifery
Newsletter 17 | December 2023



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Welcome from the National Head

There is a lot to celebrate in the School of Nursing & Midwifery as we reflect on the 2023 academic year.

The School has implemented 18 months of delivering undergraduate and postgraduate programs as national programs and I want to thank the staff, both academic and professional, who have worked on making this happen. This success is due to the team collaboration across all of our campuses.

This year we have seen authentic engagement with industry as we rolled out the first paid employment model with 20 students accepted into the midwifery program in July. The photo attached shows the WA Country Health Service registered nurses on campus. This initiative is the first of its kind in WA (Fremantle and Broome) and plans are in place to grow this in NSW and Werribee in the future.

We have strengthened our industry postgraduate partnerships, leading to some excellent initiatives that will help address nursing and midwifery workforce issues. An example is the partnership with St John of God on the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing (transition to practice) program. In the undergraduate landscape, we've rolled out programs with Bethanie Group Inc. Here students work as Assistant in Nursing (AIN) while undertaking their studies, then move to employment following graduation.

The School is celebrating the achievements of Professor Leanne Monterosso who won the Lifetime Achievement Award in the 2023 WA Nursing and Midwifery Awards and Associate Professor Annmarie Hosie who won 2 awards, Investigator of the Month and the Australasian Delirium Association's Deliriumologist of the Year. This is the first time a nurse has won this prestigious award.

We have now launched the first edition of the School's research annual report, showcasing the great work undertaken by staff in research and scholarship.

This 17th edition of the Pulse School newsletter captures the many events, activities and achievements of the national School and I want to thank all the staff and students for your contribution to this edition.

On a final note, over the past 8 months, the team have worked hard on the strategic plan for the next 4 years, we are very much looking forward to launching the 2024–27 Strategic Plan. It will demonstrate the School's ambitious program of student support initiatives, program enhancements and exciting future plans that align with the University's vision and strategic plan. This will be published on the School's webpage, do keep a look out in the next few months.

Professor Karen Clark-Burg

National Head, National School of Nursing and Midwifery

Nursing student emergency wound care excellence in the community

By Julie Dally, Lecturer and Course Coordinator

Dena Constantine has been a student in the semester 6 elective Advanced Wound Care during Semester1 2023. As a motivated student, she was able to take up a University-sponsored place at the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses & Asia Pacific Enterostomal Therapy Nurses Association conference held on site at Notre Dame (Fremantle) in April 2023. The conference included the latest in wound care. Dena and some of her peers attended various sessions and thoroughly explored the trade displays.

A few days later (as Dena was studying for her final Advance Wound Care exam) she heard a child scream and a dog barking. With the greatest presence of mind Dena launched into action and applied everything she knew (assessment, paediatrics, skills and, of course, wound care) to manage a child with multiple injuries.

Dena managed the scene, including family and bystanders, assessed and managed the child's wounds using products she had picked up at the conference, and ultimately delivered an iSoBAR handover to the paramedics and police. She noted that the child needed a tetanus shot, had no allergies and that other vaccinations were up to date. Dena even directed them to take the child to Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) so that there would be family-centred care. The child has since been discharged from PCH with follow-up for some of his injuries. And the family have been back to Dena with a huge container of Maltesers.

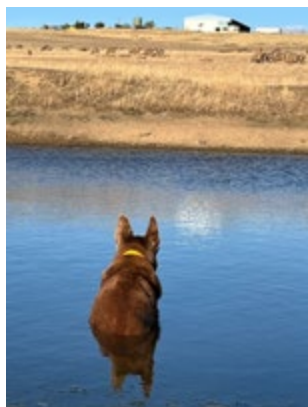
How fortunate this family was to have Dena with her knowledge and wound care products on hand. Well done, Dena. You are a credit to yourself and the School of Nursing & Midwifery.

Farewell Jane

Lecturer and International Students Coordinator Jane Bahen retired in July after 9 years in the School. Jane coordinated the Global Health and Rural and Remote Health electives for third year students.

Jane believed that a global perspective added a valuable dimension to the nursing program and accompanied nursing students overseas to gain clinical experience. A strong advocate for rural and remote health, Jane developed a remote immersion program in partnership with the Majorlin Kimberley Centre for Remote Health. This popular program supported students to live and study on Notre Dame's Broome Campus for their final semester.

Jane and her 4-legged assistant Brownie – a frequent visitor to campus – will be greatly missed. We wish Jane all the very best.



Double the giggles

A joint baby shower was held for mums-to-be Kate Laird and Jessica Oma. The Fremantle team celebrated the impending arrivals with a delicious morning tea. We wish them all the very best.



Welcome to the world

Kate Laird and husband Phil welcomed Fiadh Mary Craven (3.16 kg) on 12 October. Kate reports a 'lovely birth' at St John of God Murdoch. Congratulations Kate and Phil.

SMARTcare6: Beyond the Bedside

By Dr Benjamin Hay, Senior Lecturer

The school of Nursing & Midwifery, along with the student-led Notre Dame Nursing Society, were proud to bring together another successful SMARTcare event in August 2023. Beyond the Bedside was this year's theme, and SMARTcare6 inspired students and graduates to explore career pathways, network and engage with industry leaders, and hear from inspirational speakers.

The award-winning and co-organised event with students and academic staff commenced with talks from industry leaders and alumni from the school, followed by a networking session in the Drill Hall area with more than 40 interactive stalls and industry representatives.

The sold-out event meant more than 450 attendees engaged with representatives and speakers, undertook interactive activities, took part in mini-workshops on IV cannulation, suturing, advanced life support, and much more. An interactive Royal Flying Doctor Service simulator, an Ambulance Wish Van, food trucks and live music helped to create a memorable vibe with a relaxed and fun atmosphere to promote engagement.

Alongside the themes of networking and connecting in industry, an important side theme of looking after yourself and colleagues, and the importance of self-care, connected from the speaker sessions to themed activities and opportunities in the Drill Hall.

The organisers would like to again thank the valued sponsors and the University for their continued support of this fantastic event that showcases our students, graduates, staff and University to industry and beyond.



ACORN Perioperative Leadership Summit

By Dr Benjamin Hay, Senior Lecturer

The University hosted the Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN) Perioperative Leadership Summit on the Fremantle Campus from 31 August–2 September. Across the 3 days around 145 attendees from around Australia took part in the events on campus. School of Nursing & Midwifery staff presented a session that showcased its unique BN3536 Program pathway and successes over the years, and some of the ideas for the Professional Practice 4 (PP4) course and perioperative elective in the new national program.

School staff negotiated with event organisers to allow nursing students with an interest in the speciality to attend sessions, network and help with the organisation of the event. Several students from the school submitted an expression of interest and were successful. The students were acknowledged favourably a number of times in sessions from the speakers who met them.



A heritage of uncommon care

By Dr Toby Raeburn, Associate Professor

During the 1830s, progressive industrialisation of colonial NSW fuelled an economic boom, attracting large numbers of free settlers and contributing to the British government's decision to end convict transportation to NSW by 1840. Despite many colonists benefitting from the growing economy, most Aboriginal people, convicts and poorer classes missed out on sharing in NSW's rapid transformation. In response, the colony's first Catholic Archbishop, John Polding, sought nuns willing to immigrate to improve care for the poor.

Aware of the fine reputation for nursing and service held by an Irish order known as the Sisters of Charity, the Archbishop reached out to their founder, Mary Aikenhead, who agreed to send some of her religious sisters to the colony. Undertaking a perilous 5-month voyage upon the transportation ship Francis Spaight, the original group included Mother Mary John Cahill, Sister Mary John Baptist de Lacy, Sister Francis de Sales O'Brien, Sister Mary Lawrence Cater and Sister Mary Xavier Williams. Remarkably, within weeks of their arrival on 31 December 1838, the nuns moved into a temporary convent in Parramatta and began visiting some of the neediest people in NSW, the female inmates of the convict prison known as the Parramatta Female Factory.

Comprising a high proportion of Irish convicts, the factory had been designed as a rehabilitative type of prison where detainees spent their days making cloth and linen, washing and cooking, or working as needleworkers and hat-makers. Originally built to accommodate 300 women, by the time the Sisters of Charity arrived inmates numbered over 600, accompanied by children who grew up imprisoned alongside their mothers. Difficulties associated with overcrowding such as inadequate sleeping quarters, clothing, rations and sanitation often led to problems with hygiene and disease. Common outbreaks included dysentery, eye infections, influenza and fever. A small part of the factory included a hospital where women from the prison and around Parramatta were treated for illness and gave birth.

Despite receiving heavy criticism in colonial newspapers for their work, which has been a focus of some of my recent research, the Sisters of Charity quickly earned a reputation for high quality, non-discriminatory nursing. Whether visiting the poor in hospital or in their homes they showed no fear in the face of disease, working with cheerfulness and compassion, free of charge. Differences in patients' religious creeds were no barrier as they viewed Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Pagans and everyone else as God's creatures, worthy of care. Amid a colony often marked by religious sectarianism, economic competition and greed, theirs stood out as an uncommon type of care.



In 2023 it is obvious our world has undergone huge technological change since the mid-nineteenth century. However, it's also clear that much less has changed in relation to religious sectarianism, economic competition and greed. As we celebrate Christmas and another new year, may we draw inspiration from modern Australia's original Sisters of Charity and keep our eyes open for opportunities to provide uncommon care to others, as they did.

Written by Associate Professor Toby Raeburn; mental health nurse practitioner, author and educator based at UNDA's Darlinghurst campus in Sydney, NSW. Contact email: toby.raeburn1@nd.edu.au



Did you catch Notre Dame on the news?

Notre Dame has unveiled its new ultra-realistic nurse training facility: a hospital emergency department built inside the Fremantle Campus to provide nursing students with life-like scenarios.

[You can watch the Channel 7 Perth news segment online.](#)

Special thanks goes to Nitasha, Steve, Angela, Eunice and our 2 amazing students, Brooke and Niamh.

Our state-of-the-art nursing and midwifery training facilities were also showcased by Channel 10 Sydney. Visiting the Sydney Campus, the news crew met with staff and students who demonstrated how the newly installed high-tech training labs simulated the high-pressure environment of a real-world hospital.

Both staff and students were absolute stars, doing what they do best in a calm and confident manner. Many thanks to all of them for their time and effort.

The new labs are fully operational across our Fremantle, Sydney and Broome Campuses.

[You can watch the Channel 10 news segment online.](#)

A huge thank you to Michelle, Morgan, Renee, Shelby, JR, Lala and our lovely students for organising and coordinating this event. Congratulations to all.

Deliriumologist of the Year

This award was given in recognition of Dr Annmarie Hosie for delirium research and advocacy, including leading and contributing to studies, obtaining funding and supervising higher research degree students. Dr Hosie was also recognised for being a committee member of the Australasian Delirium Association since 2014 and convening the 2023 DECLARED meeting. Professor Andy Teodorczuk (incoming President of the Australasian Delirium Association), noted her role in raising awareness of patients' distress during and after delirium, and the need for compassion responses by clinicians and others.



Associate Professor Annmarie Hose (right) and Associate Professor Gideon Caplan (left), outgoing President of the Australasian Delirium Association, who received the Legacy Award.

Multidisciplinary team simulation practice at the Annual Education Meeting

Our lecturer Katie Janz presented her recent research on Multidisciplinary team simulation practice in the ED at the Annual Education Meeting for the Australian College of Critical Care Nurse Conference. Her paper explores staff attitudes, behaviours and non-technical skills in in-situ simulation practice. The full article is published in the International Journal of Advanced Medical Sciences and Technology.

Publication title: 'Strategies For Safety: A Mixed Method Study of Communication, Teamwork and Health Professional Attitudes When Implementing Multidisciplinary Simulation in The Emergency Department'



Contemporary nursing

Two postgraduate nursing students share their experiences of studying with Notre Dame in order to return to nursing.

Joanna Hunt, Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Nursing student

It was with excitement and a lot of nerves that I logged onto my first Zoom induction meeting for the Graduate Certificate of Contemporary Nursing (GCCN). Before starting a family, I had worked as an registered nurse and loved it. I chose not to return to work after I had my twins, as I had 4 children under 3-and-a-half! As the years went on, I did a few other jobs. However, it was when one of my children spent a few days in hospital last year that, for the first time in 12 years, I really missed being a nurse.

I began to explore my options and decided to submit my application to Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and see what happened. To my great delight (and surprise) I was granted provisional registration to enable me to undertake a re-entry to practise program. I was advised that successful completion of a re-entry program would reinstate my registration. As I looked at various options, I saw that Notre Dame offered the GCCN, which is an approved re-entry course.

GCCN was fast-paced and intense. I was apprehensive about how live Zoom lectures would go but, apart from a few minor hiccups, it was a way of learning I easily slotted into and enjoyed. I found all the lecturers to be incredibly professional, knowledgeable, personable and supportive as we all navigated our way back to being registered nurses. I was with an amazing cohort and I was quickly reminded of the wonderful comradery that often exists among nurses. Despite the intensity of the course, we had a lot of laughs. Some of the others were like myself, returning to nursing after having a break for family, others had been out for less time that myself and there were overseas qualified nurses seeking to gain registration in Australia.

GCCN equipped me theoretically and practically to return to the ward environment and I was surprised at how much came back to me. I was pleased I could practise some of my practical skills on 'Jack Black', the university's mannequin, before heading onto the ward.

I am so grateful I have had the opportunity to return to the profession I love, and that I was able to do a course that gave me the tools and support to feel confident to step back into the clinical environment, with the added bonus of making some lifelong friends.

Melanie Bayoud, Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Nursing student

After spending several years doing volunteer nursing in Asia, I recently returned to Australia and successfully completed the Graduate Certificate of Contemporary Nursing – an intense and transformative 3-month program. I was part of a close-knit cohort of 16 individuals, all of whom shared a strong desire to re-enter the workforce after various periods away from clinical practice.

Despite the rigorous nature of the course, I found it to be exceptionally well-balanced and comprehensive. The field of nursing has evolved significantly since my last clinical practice, and the professional transition to practice semester emphasised essential skills such as communication, leadership, evidence-based practice, risk management and IT proficiency, particularly in the context of paperless hospitals. The clinical placement was invaluable to get used to the fast pace of practice in hospital settings.

What made this experience truly exceptional was the faculty's understanding and respect for students returning to the field. Their unwavering support and willingness to address any questions or concerns created a nurturing learning environment. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity I had at Notre Dame, and I am now thrilled to announce that I have successfully re-registered as a registered nurse with Ahpra. I couldn't be happier with the outcome and have now secured a registered nursing position.



Breastfeeding sources of knowledge

By Dr Gail Ross-Adjie, Senior Lecturer and Postgraduate Partnership Coordinator

Acknowledging that inconsistent and confusing advice from midwives is a significant reason why women stop breastfeeding, it is imperative we understand how this problem has been allowed to develop and continue.

I am the Chief Investigator on a study entitled 'Breastfeeding sources of knowledge: where do Australian midwives gain critical breastfeeding education,' working with co-investigators Professor Sadie Geraghty and Professor Leanne Monterosso. The study will start as soon as I can get the study coordinator appointed!

The midwifery curricula should provide knowledge of human lactation physiology and management. It should also provide midwifery students with the basic skills they need to assist breastfeeding women. However, research such as this study may reveal a more in-depth knowledge is required.

Western Australian Simulation in Healthcare Alliance general meeting

The School of Nursing & Midwifery and the School of Medicine at Notre Dame hosted the annual general meeting for the Western Australian Simulation in Healthcare Alliance (WASHA) on 8 November. The event allowed us to showcase the newly built ND40 labs to other universities and industry leaders.

Laerdal and The Experience Lab sponsored the event, allowing collaboration across disciplines and promoting simulation in healthcare advances and current projects.

Our very own Nitasha Narayan was a presenter during the event, while Darren and Katie represented the WASHA committee by assisting with coordinating the evening.

Thank you to all who attended.



Dr Amanda Graf, National Postgraduate Program Coordinator

Port to Pub swim 2023

By Amanda Graf, Senior Lecturer and Postgraduate Program Coordinator

Some time ago I joined a team with the aim to swim to Rottnest. Our skipper was from Sea Rescue, and the rest of the team were from the School of Nursing & Midwifery. The conditions were not the best but they were OK. We left and made good time for the first 10 km. At that point, one of our swimmers was so seasick she became hypothermic and needed the medics on board. She was given Phenergan and slept the next 9 km. It was tough but our paddlers managed to keep us on course and our skipper predicted the current. We made it in 9-and-a-half hours – phew!

Fast forward 10 years and I found myself in another team swimming in the Port to Pub. The average team age was 67 and my fellow swimmers were all veterans of the swim. One had completed 26 times and all had achieved a solo swim to Rottnest. Although I was the youngest I had a fabulous team of swimmers.

The weather was great until the sea breeze came in. The skipper (my awesome husband) kept trying to move us south early in the piece but we swimmers didn't really listen, instead we took advantage of the easterly. The 2 paddlers, who became my heroes, both fell in at different times so the only one in the team who didn't get wet was the skipper. When the wind picked up one of the kayakers got a cramp and couldn't keep up so I just kept swimming, and our second paddler kept up and tried in vain to steer us south. Now the ocean was not so pleasant and it was like swimming in a washing machine. Once the support crew left it was meant to be 700 m to shore but it felt a lot longer – being closer to shore did not provide protection and the stingers had come out to play.

On a more pleasant note I did see a school of fish that was pretty cool, the only wildlife I had seen all day. Although we all finished separately as a team we made it in just under 9 hours. I can assure you the challenge and training was all worth it in the end, along with the money raised for Perth Children's Hospital and a great day had by many.



Connections and koalas

By Dr Cathryn Josif, Senior Lecturer

The school welcomed senior academics Dr Cynthia O’Sullivan and Dr Heather Ferrillo from the College of Nursing, Sacred Heart University Connecticut. Sacred Heart nursing students gain global health experience and learn about the role of nursing internationally through placements within the School of Nursing & Midwifery at Notre Dame Fremantle. Heather and Cynthia met with students currently on placement, toured the nursing facilities and met with senior leadership to discuss opportunities. With the hard work over there was time to cuddle some koalas – pictured with George at Caversham Wildlife Park.



Vale Madeleine McPherson

The School of Nursing & Midwifery acknowledges the passing of Madeleine McPherson in August 2023. Madeleine was one of the first sessional academics appointed to the School, where she taught for 10 years. She is remembered as a popular educator, well liked by students and highly regarded by all who knew her. Madeleine made an enormous contribution to the promotion of infection control at state, national and international levels. We are grateful to Madeleine for her contribution to nurse education within the school.

CLASSIFIED THE WEST AUSTRALIAN
OBITUARIES
The West Australian
 Monday, September 11, 2023

Patients her virtue

Madeleine McPherson
 Nurse, pioneer in infection research
Born: Kellerberrin, 1933
Died: Perth, aged 90



Many nurses of a certain vintage have horror stories of Matron and her insistence on dress rules and behaviour of regimental propriety. Nurse Madeleine Kirby's first hospital training, in 1961, was in the era of uniforms, caps and "hideous hall shoes," as her later memoir put it.

A generation on, the world had changed in many ways, but not — as far as Madeleine could tell — in the rigid world of hospital hierarchies. Her second medical career was as Fremantle Hospital's infection control nurse. Motherhood had broadened her experience but she was again under the thumb of a senior now known not as matron but deputy director of nursing.

"Your veil is creased. Go and iron it," was the sort of thing Madeleine heard every Tuesday. "Take that cape off."

The deputy's discovery that the infection nurse had changed into her uniform inside the broom cupboard was further cause for frowns.

None of this fazed Madeleine McPherson, who had married a bank manager, Ian McPherson. Friends, family and colleagues could imagine that facing up to stern authority merely made her more defiant in the cause of health.

Among the memoir's serious value is a record of her innovative role in infection control, in which there were, half a century ago, "no appropriate courses" in Australia. The only launch in this field was a laboratory-based course in New South Wales.

"I was determined to see this specialty as patient-focused," she wrote.

Commitment to this specialty had no more active leader.

The Infection Control Association of WA was formed at a meeting Madeleine organised.

In 1983 came her first overseas trip, an all-expenses-paid visit to Vienna for the first international conference on infection control. Though the AIDS disaster was not yet on the formal agenda of such expert gatherings, she did hear that "many of the Americans were talking about this strange disease that was killing young men."

Growing up during the Great Depression and World War II, Madeleine had learnt an important lesson: she had a much happier childhood than many.

Her values, such as sharing, were shaped by having a father who was an Anglican priest and a brother training for the priesthood. "I considered nursing a Christian vocation appropriate to my upbringing."

Madeleine Mary Kirby was born in the Wheatbelt town of

Kellerberrin on January 9, 1933, daughter and second child of Edna Madeleine (nee Evening), always known as Madeleine, and Liverpool-born Walter Kirby.

The couple had met at Perth College, Mt Lawley, where she taught dressmaking and he was visiting as curate from nearby St Patrick's church. He was running late for chapel and in haste tripped and hit the floor at Madeleine's feet. Naturally he would assure all that he had fallen for her straight away.

When Madeleine junior was three, Walter accepted an invitation to become rector of St Mark's, Bassendean.

This district is where she began schooling . . . and learnt a little practical zoology by visiting the local swamp to catch tadpoles in a jar and watch them turn into frogs.

In 1943 Walter Kirby was given another rectorship, at St John the Evangelist in Albany.

The family's seven-year stay became a treasured memory for a 17-year-old about to start steering her own way. After leaving Albany High School, she spent 1950 improving her piano skills, as well as playing tennis and basketball. She earned a few pounds playing the organ at weddings.

Work at the new Perth Chest Hospital in Nedlands offered social as well as medical enlightenment, including visits to prisons, Aboriginal camps and Claremont Mental Asylum.

She met Ian McPherson while admitting him for surgery. They married in August 1963.

Her versatility during years of

full-time motherhood was tested during moves occasioned by Ian's bank postings and promotions.

Boulder was lively and welcoming, she recorded, though the accommodation was awful. Boyup Brook was less interesting but the house was nice.

The loss of her brother, Mark, to a brain haemorrhage at 37 was a severe blow. She coped by staying busy. In 1967 she left the hospital environment to establish a private consultancy. She lectured in microbiology and epidemiology at The University of Notre Dame's new school of nursing.

Ian's death in 2015 was a jolt so great she was glad to have such a supportive family.

Madeleine died on August 18, survived by her daughter, Susan Golding, sons, Stuart and Duncan, and six grandchildren.

Barbara Elliott and Rebecca McCann, friends and former colleagues, describe Madeleine as the "doyenne of infection control" in WA. While at Fremantle Hospital, she implemented the first infection control course for nurses.

Madeleine went on to co-author the "bibles" for infection control practitioners, Hospital Infection Control for Nurses, and Infection Control in Healthcare. She lectured at The University of Notre Dame's Fremantle and Broome campuses and became a founding member of the WA Wound Care Society. Her key lesson was "safety first".

Patrick Corrish

A new research strategy for the School

By Professor Caroline Bulsara,
Postgraduate Research Coordinator

A survey and online student workshop was developed on the proposed School of Nursing & Midwifery Strategic Research Plan 2024–26. The School plan was based upon Notre Dame's University Research Plan 2023-26, with its focus on Good lives, Exceptional care and Strong communities.

Key messages from the feedback included establishing a number of mentoring incentives, such as disseminating a monthly calendar of research events to staff, students and external collaborators, as well as a mentoring program that includes tailored workshops and partnering of protégés and mentors. Feedback also suggested offering incentives to staff and postgraduate research students for publishing.

Barriers to engaging in research were noted as time and workload, as well as less funding, including conference costs. A whole-of-school research planning day will be held to consolidate the strategy for the School moving forward.



Research Bites

By Professor Caroline Bulsara,
Postgraduate Research Coordinator

Research Bites continues to be successful as a way for sharing both research ideas and knowledge from the experts. Examples of the diversity of sessions held in recent months are a session on randomised controlled trials, a session by Dr Giselle Gallego on increasing inclusion of people with disabilities in the health workforce, and another session by 3 Masters by Coursework students on research projects. We look forward to delivering more interesting sessions in 2024 and staff and students are encouraged to contact either the Postgraduate Research Coordinator, Professor Caroline Bulsara or Jane Gaspar, Research Officer, if they wish to present.

Graduate Nurse of the Year and Excellence in Aboriginal Health

The University would like to congratulate former students Tori White and Maddison Bell for the recognition they received at the WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

Tori, who completed a Bachelor of Nursing in 2021 and now works at Fiona Stanley Hospital, was named Graduate of the Year.

Maddison completed a Bachelor of Nursing in 2015 and works as a midwife in the Kimberley while also implementing the 'Birthing on Country' model of care. She was recognised for Excellence in Aboriginal Health.

Both Tori and Maddison have made outstanding contributions to their professions and the health of West Australians since graduating from Notre Dame.





Professor Leanne Monterosso receives lifetime achievement honour

By Chris Adams: Professional Practice Program Coordinator and Senior Lecturer, Melissa Berg: Research Assistant and Project Manager, and Jane Gaspar: Research Associate & Professional Practice Officer, Institute of Health Research & School of Nursing & Midwifery.

Professor Leanne Monterosso was named as one of 2 people inducted onto the Lifetime Achievement Honour Roll, receiving a standing ovation at the Gala Ball held on 6 October 2023 for the WA Nursing & Midwifery Excellence Awards.

Leanne holds a strong legacy at both St John of God Murdoch Hospital and the University of Notre Dame Australia. She was jointly appointed as Chair of Nursing (Clinical Nursing) at Notre Dame and Chair of Nursing Research (Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research) at St John of God Murdoch.

During the presentation, Leanne was acknowledged for her clinical and research career, which included a 40-year commitment to the nursing and midwifery professions. She has focused on the nursing care of neonatal and paediatric patients, adult patients with cancer or undergoing palliative care, and midwifery patients, directly and through her impact on interventions and policy changes at the state, national and international level.

One of Leanne's significant accomplishments was the evaluation of the WA Cancer Nurse Coordinator Service in 2011, which led to key recommendations for enhancing the network's framework, resources and clinical/strategic components.

Her research findings influenced the development of survivorship objectives for the 2012 WA Cancer Plan and a Cancer Survivorship Collaborative, highlighting her commitment to improving the lives of cancer patients beyond their treatment.

Leanne also conducted extensive national and statewide research that culminated in providing the evidence to support the development of the statewide Child and Adolescent Health Service's Paediatric Palliative Care Service.





All creatures great and small

The physical and psychological benefits of pet ownership are well known. We celebrated our furred and feathered friends and their role in getting us through a very busy semester at a morning tea in October. There were prizes for favourite pet 'Bilbo' and favourite pet name 'Scrambled' the chicken. No pet was left out though thanks to our special guest Vice Chancellor Professor Francis Campbell, who declared all pets winners and awarded each with a small toy.



Sydney Nursing & Midwifery team Christmas party 2023

The Nursing & Midwifery School at our Darlinghurst campus held their annual Christmas party at Strike Bowling and PJ O'Brien's Irish Pub on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

It was a great night to cap off a wonderful year at Notre Dame!



International students lunch with the head of school

What a rare and exciting opportunity for the international nursing students to meet and greet the Head of School, Karen Clark-Burg, and have lunch with her! The international students took turns to share their journey and university experience with us, as well as the support they have received from teaching staff. Thank you Student Life for sponsoring the lunch. Please look out for more Meet and Greet sessions in the coming semester. Details will be posted on the International Students Blackboard Page.

Simulation lab – Sydney

By Morgan Stephenson, Deputy National Stimulation Lead, Academic Advisor, Course Coordinator

In 2023, the School of Nursing & Midwifery embarked on a transformative refurbishment to enhance the simulation learning spaces for our undergraduate student nurses and midwives at the Darlinghurst, Sydney Campus.

The refurbished laboratories boast state-of-the-art equipment, upgraded resources and expanded bed spaces, all carefully designed to elevate the educational experience for our students. These improvements are a testament to our commitment to providing a cutting-edge learning environment that mirrors real-world healthcare settings.

This upgrade not only enhances the quality of education for our students but also continues to strengthen our position as a leading institution in nursing and midwifery education. The School of Nursing & Midwifery believes that these improvements will empower our students to excel in their studies and better prepare them for the dynamic challenges of their future healthcare careers.



NURSOC's year

By Madelyn Reissis, NURSOC President

This year NURSOC – the Notre Dame Nursing Society Sydney – has focused on improving the communication between students and the University, as well as enhancing student experience by implementing on-campus events for students to enjoy at Darlinghurst.

NURSOC established fortnightly meetings with University staff to communicate issues, concerns and queries that the student body were experiencing. The content of these meetings was facilitated by our amazing year representatives that spoke and interacted with their respective cohort to be able to pass on the concerns of the student body.

Moreover, throughout the year, NURSOC put together barbeques and pancakes lunches for students to enjoy and assisted the facilitation of SAUNDA events to take place on the Darlinghurst campus for the nursing and medicine students to enjoy.

During Semester 1, a NURSOC initiative provided colouring sheets and pencils in the refractory for students to enjoy and take time away from their devices. On our Instagram page we ran Nurse of Week throughout Semester 2, where each of our committee members researched a nurse and their achievements to encourage students by showing that nurses can do anything! These events were well received by students, and we aim to continue them in 2024.



Photobook of midwifery student Aboriginal art

By Dr Sheena McChlery, Senior Lecturer and National Midwifery Professional Development Coordinator

Each semester between 2019 and 2022, art workshops were held for midwifery students enrolled in the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Health: Women and Babies' course. Under the expert guidance of Aboriginal Elder, Ms Neta Knapp, students completed an Aboriginal dot painting depicting a story specific to Aboriginal women's business. While the students painted, Ms Knapp, who has been the artist-in-residence at Notre Dame for many years, talked with the students about Aboriginal traditions around birthing, and the value of family, collaboration and teamwork in the culturally safe care of birthing women.

With the permission of Ms Knapp, a book of all the paintings has been printed and is exhibited in the glass bookcase on the stair landing in ND37. In the book, each painting is displayed alongside the meaning of the painting as told by Ms Knapp. Below are excerpts from a couple of the paintings.



Birthing on Country

This painting represents mothers coming together: young, birthing mums meeting with older mums and aunties. Aboriginal women have specific birthing sites, and they are chosen because there is water and trees around the sites.

Water is needed for cleansing, and running water helps to relieve the stress of labour. The cool breezes blowing off the water also reduce stress. Trees are needed for their leaves; leaves are laid on the ground for the birthing woman to rest upon, and the oils from crushed leaves are used to rub over the newborn baby.

The physical surroundings are important in these settings; women learn the importance of birthing on country, and this is vital for their mental wellbeing. The running water, the swaying trees, the flowers-in-season and the gentle chirping of the birds contribute to the connection to country, and to soothing the birthing woman.



The colours of our land – Women's yarning circle on ochre

This painting represents the various colours of the ochre pits, as well as the Aboriginal peoples walking on land. The white ochre pits are places for Aboriginal peoples to meet and yarn; the deep colours of the red and yellow ochre pits are also shown in this painting. The ochre is used in the various ceremonies held by Aboriginal peoples.

When women meet at the ochre pits, they might have a singing and dancing ceremony, and use ochre markings to celebrate the birth of a baby. At these ceremonies, the women discuss the birth and the baby's totems. The yarning includes discussion about the importance of knowledge of culture and traditions. The naming of the baby is celebrated, and the women discuss the baby's bloodlines and songlines. The women Elders are important in this tradition. There might be 4 or 5 Elder mothers supporting each birthing woman, and the Elders impart all this traditional knowledge to the younger women.



From left to right: Megan, Colleen, Chloe L., Ane, Chloe F., Nicky, Steve

Fremantle Nursing & Midwifery team

Ane Dearlove

Hi, I'm Ane and I am coordinating NURS3033 Transition to Practice 3 – Leadership & Management this year. I have been teaching this course as a sessional tutor for the past 4 years along with some other courses. My background is mostly critical care which is also where I started my postgrad by doing the critical care course and continued on through Notre Dame. I'm super excited to be part of the team in a new way. I'll probably be pestering you all with questions for a while settling into this new role and look forward to meeting everyone. I am 0.4 FTE and WFH on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can contact me on ane.dearlove@nd.edu.au

Chloe Lennox

My name is Chloe Lennox and this semester I am course coordinating NURS2039 Mental Health and Wellbeing and NURS3039 Advanced Mental Health. I completed my undergraduate studies, my postgraduate certificate and Masters of Nursing at of Notre Dame. I come from a mental health nursing background and currently work clinically at St John of God Midland in the mental health unit and the ESUS Centre which specialises in the management of people living with eating disorders. I am 0.8 FTE and work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I'm in ND37/213 and my phone number is **9433 2988**. Email chloe.lennox@nd.edu.au

Nicky Maxwell

Hi, I am Nicky and I am a proud Notre Dame alumnus. My background is ICU and I have also worked in community palliative care and volunteer with a mobile GP clinic for marginalised and homeless people. I have completed a Master of Public Health and the longer I work in ICU, the more value I see in primary health. My area of interest is hospital presentations in the palliative patient cohort. Nursing is a great profession, and I love the teamwork and friends you make. I am currently course coordinating NURS3034 Primary Health and look forward to meeting you all! I am 0.5 FTE. I'm in ND37/216 and you can best reach me on nicky.maxwell@nd.edu.au

Chloe Foglio

I'm Chloe. I completed my undergraduate degree at Notre Dame and my Master of Nursing (Critical Care) from Griffith University. I have worked rurally, in Emergency and in ICU. Prior to becoming a registered nurse, I spent 7 years as an Army Combat Medic in the Australian Defence Force and has also taught at the Army School of Health. When not at work, I can be found underwater. I am a keen freediver. I also have an Airedale Terrier called Toast who is in training to become a therapy dog. I am Course Coordinator for NURS3034 Advanced Wound Care and NURS2038 Illness Prevention and Management. I am 0.8 FTE and work Monday – Thursday. I'm in ND37/217 and my phone number is **9433 0138**. You can email me on chloe.foglio@nd.edu.au

Megan Westphalen

I am the gift that keeps on giving. A Notre Dame alumnus from 2011 who came back in 2021 as a tutor, graduated with my MPhil in 2022 and now a lecturer for NURS1043 Professional Practice 2. I am 0.8 FTE. I'll be keeping up with my clinical skills on Wednesdays, the rest of the week I'll be on campus. I balance out my work life by donating time to my local Fire and Rescue brigade as a volunteer firefighter. I like getting out and about on my motorbike and taking my dog, P, for walks. I am up for the challenge of running a professional practice course, with a typical millennial sense of humour. I am in ND37/214 and my phone number is **9433 0669**. You can email me on megan.westphalen@nd.edu.au

New staff member introductions



Katie Janz Lecturer and Course Coordinator

Katie has worked in the Emergency Department (ED) setting for over 16 years, gathering experience across tertiary, peripheral, rural/remote, private, public, interstate and international sites, offering specialty skills across the lifespan with exposure to medical, surgical and trauma care presentations. Throughout her clinical experience, she has worked in many senior leadership roles, including Nurse Manager and Clinical Nurse Specialist positions across different regions.

Katie moved across to the world of academia in 2022, where she was a Program Coordinator in the School of Medicine; she has now undertaken the role of a Lecturer and Course Coordinator, where she teaches in the undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Katie also holds a casual registered nurse position in a tertiary ED and teaches the internationally accredited Trauma Nursing Core Course to maintain clinical relevance.

Katie is very passionate about clinical education with an interest in simulation practice, with her Master of Health Professional Education dissertation focused on the topic. Katie has since commenced a PhD with a focus on simulation practice.

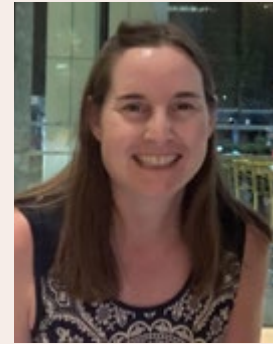


Eunice Tan Lecturer, Course Coordinator and International Student Advisor

Eunice is a Lecturer within the School of Nursing & Midwifery and has worked at the University since 2015 as a sessional tutor and clinical facilitator, and taught in many courses in the undergraduate curriculum. Eunice is a registered nurse with more than 10 years of postgraduate experience in perioperative nursing specialisation. Eunice has worked in the operating theatres of a variety of metropolitan WA hospitals. Her areas of expertise are ear, nose and throat surgery specialising in major ear surgeries, general surgery specialising in bariatric surgeries, and cardiothoracic surgery specialising in thoracic surgeries.

Prior to moving to WA, Eunice worked in many different public hospitals in Singapore for 16 years working in paediatrics, medical/surgical wards, nuclear medicine and community nursing.

Eunice has completed multiple graduate certificates, diploma and master in nursing and is currently undertaking her Doctor of Nursing Degree at Notre Dame. Eunice is currently course coordinating NURS2035 Law and Ethics and is the International Student Advisor for the School of Nursing and Midwifery.



Kerren Flanagan-Juurik Lecturer

Kerren has been an academic at 3 tertiary institutions in Victoria and NSW, and is an advocate for progressing the nursing profession and improving contributions made by nurses to the Australian healthcare system. Kerren has also worked in public health as a health promoter and on various research projects in both New Zealand and Australia. Kerren is a current practising registered nurse at a small metropolitan hospital in Sydney, having previously worked in both a large teaching hospital and general practice setting.

Improving population-based health outcomes, particularly among vulnerable population groups, and addressing gaps in health literacy levels across age groups, level of education and cultural backgrounds has been an interest of Kerren's over the past 10 years. Closing the gap between time taken for research to be implemented by clinicians working in the public health sector is another area of interest, and Kerren has seen positive improvements in this area since starting out as an academic a decade ago.

Kerren is passionate about interprofessional collaboration between the medical, nursing and allied health care professions within hospital and community settings. She is excited about educating the next generation of healthcare leaders and the contributions they will bring to further advance the nursing profession. Kerren reminds future nurses of the invaluable role nurses have towards making innovative changes to current practice to better prepare for future health challenges.

VIP visits

Terry Merchant



Terry Merchant is a retired WA businessman and a generous donor to Notre Dame, particularly in supporting nursing students through scholarships and awards. Terry established these generous programs in memory of his late wife Geraldine, who was a nurse. He describes nurses as, “wonderful and committed people”.

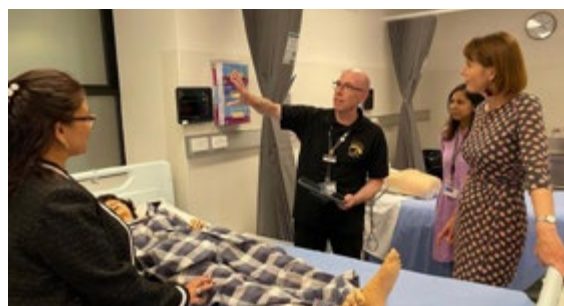
In 2020, Terry created the Geraldine Merchant Scholarship fund to support nursing students experiencing financial hardship and starting their undergraduate studies in the School of Nursing & Midwifery at Notre Dame Fremantle and Broome Campuses. The scholarship value is \$15,000 per scholarship for the duration of the recipient’s studies.

In 2022, Terry inaugurated the Terry Merchant Re-entry Award for the Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Nursing. He created this fund to support nursing students experiencing financial hardship while endeavouring to re-enter the workforce. Each successful applicant receives \$5,000.

Since 2020, 11 students have received the Geraldine Merchant Scholarship and 3 students have received the Terry Merchant Re-entry Award since 2022.

New scholarships and awards will be offered again in 2024, thanks to Terry’s generous commitment to Notre Dame and its students.

Hannah Fitzhardinge, Mayor of Fremantle



The Mayor of Fremantle visited Notre Dame’s new simulation laboratory at the School of Nursing & Midwifery. Mayor Fitzhardinge was able to experience the latest state-of-the-art technology that is used for teaching. We simulated a real patient scenario and she successfully cannulated the patient.



Vyoma Rajyaguru Lecturer and Course Coordinator

Vyoma has recently joined Notre Dame in Fremantle as a course coordinator for undergraduate nursing students. Prior to this, she was a sessional academic for postgraduate nursing at Edith Cowan University, where she focused on teaching applied bioscience and conducting various skills workshops. She gained her Master in Nursing from Curtin University in 2012 and has been a registered nurse for the last 10 years, working at Joondalup Health Campus.

Since 2015, Vyoma has been with the coronary care unit at the Joondalup Health Campus where she gained extensive experience in caring for patients with various heart conditions. In 2020, she was offered the role of staff development nurse to look after upskilling the existing team members as well as training new nurses that joined coronary care unit. During this time, she successfully completed her postgraduate qualification in cardiovascular nursing from University of Tasmania.

Vyoma has a passion for teaching and had the opportunity to mentor nursing students from various universities on their placements for which she has consistently received great feedback. During her time as a staff development nurse, she successfully conducted various training sessions on cardiac nursing, advanced ECG, basic life support and advanced life support.

Since her appointment at Notre Dame, Vyoma has worked with the national coordinator and senior members of the School to bring about positive changes to enhance the learning experience of first-year nursing students. Her friendly and approachable nature allows her to engage with her students and promote their critical thinking so they have every chance to succeed in their chosen career path.



National School of Nursing and Midwifery

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If you would like to contribute to the PULSE newsletter, please contact
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