



# IN TOUCH

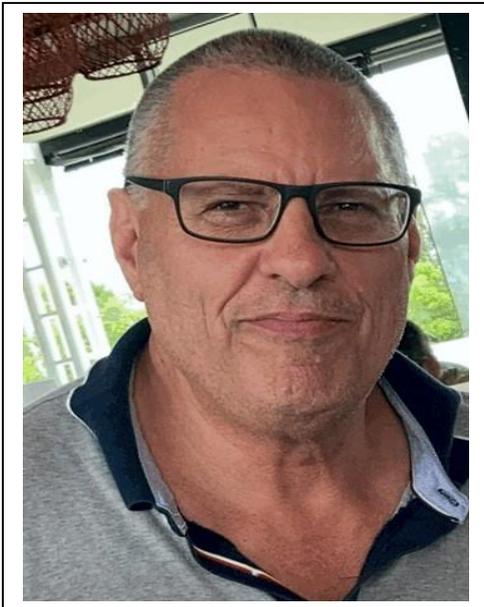
Newsletter of the Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia

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May 2021

## 2021 Nurse of the Year

The 2021 Lutheran Nurse of the Year is **Wayne Kroker**, of Nundah in Queensland. The award was launched last year to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is regarded as the pioneer of modern nursing. It recognises faithful and outstanding service rendered by a Registered or Enrolled Nurse who is an active member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church of Australia/New Zealand. It comprises a certificate and a monetary gift of \$100.



Wayne is employed in the thoracic ward at the Prince Charles Hospital at Chermside in suburban Brisbane. During the height of the coronavirus pandemic he has been providing nursing care for the most serious of the COVID-19 patients who have all come to his ward.

Wayne is an active member of the St Paul Lutheran church in Nundah, and has served there in various roles. *St Paul* Pastor, Mark Nitschke, wrote:

‘While I cannot comment directly on observed nursing skills, I have seen many personal qualities that I know would make him a great nurse! Wayne is incredibly relatable and self-effacing. This immediately puts other people at ease in his presence! He has a lovely wry sense of humour which also achieves the same result. This tells me that he is able to create an atmosphere in which people’s panic would be reduced in a medical situation and simultaneously help them feel comfortable with the person caring for them.

‘He often fills roles of leadership in times of crisis at the hospital, and is willing to pick up some of the difficult jobs and roles that simply need to be done. When needed, he can present himself in a suitably authoritative manner with those who may be difficult patients and posing a threat to others. He is both sensitive to people and firm in setting boundaries.’

During the height of the COVID lockdown, Wayne was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. After a short break for treatment, he returned to his nursing duties.

At *St Paul*, Wayne and his wife Misiel serve as the live-in managers of St Paul’s Accommodation Lodge on the church campus. The six lodge units are built over their family quarters below. The units are rented at reduced rates

to people who may be in need – students and single parents struggling to get on their feet. The most significant part of that role is the Christian care and ministry that Wayne and Misiel provide. They regularly invite residents into their home, involve them in their family life, and generally look out for them and their wellbeing.

Pastor Nitschke wrote: ‘Wayne really is a people person, and can’t help but serve others around him. As I also live on the church campus, I notice how easily he engages and converses with neighbours in the street and gives a wonderful witness for our congregation. He perfectly embodies the notion of someone who lives their faith with integrity in all settings. As well, he is a doting dad to his three young girls.’

Already 2021, the International Year of the Health and Care Worker, has seen many radical changes to health care that were created due to the COVID-19 global pandemic become the new norm in nursing delivery. The need to transfer the majority of out-patients appointments to telehealth not only provided an obvious solution to meeting patient needs, but also proved to be a time and cost saving initiative.

However, this also had the effect of increasing outpatient numbers, as more and more people became unwell in imposed isolation and cuts to in-home services. The overflow of this was the increase in presentations to acute care hospitals, leading to increased workloads, lack of preparation time, condensed patient contact and distracted handovers. (Rana, et al, 2017, 2020)

Another example is the delay in elective surgeries during peak times of suspected outbreaks. This not only had the effect of keeping the patient and health-worker population safe from possible infection, but created an increased backlog of patients urgently requiring surgery. This added to the already long waiting lists and pressure on a system in crisis.

Being present for our patients has never been more important. With limited opportunities to demonstrate a caring therapeutic relationship, nurses have shown the ability to adapt the shortest of interactions and focus on patients as individuals of worth. Actively listening to wishes and goals, and acknowledging their importance quickly builds trust and creates viable care plans. (Rana, et al, 2017, 2020)

According to Fahrenwald et al (2005), five core values of caring – integrity, human dignity, autonomy, altruism and social justice – are the basic requirements to address imbalances in power in forming these relationships with this vulnerable cohort.

This is also true with our personal relationship with God. It's about finding the bits of time available to be present in the moment.

As Stormie Omartian wrote in *The Power of a Praying Woman*: 'It's not about finding ways to avoid God's judgment and feeling like a failure if you don't do everything perfectly. It's about fully experiencing God's love and letting it per-



ect you. It's not about being somebody you are not. It's about becoming who you really are.'

It is also about wanting for yourself what you want for your patients: healing and peace.

As we approach May 12, the International Nurses Day, take some time to recognise the changes that have been made to your daily practices and how you've adapted to the new way you service your patients. We have all come such a long way and developed many new skills, and this deserves to be recognised and celebrated..

In this issue of *INTOUCH*, the Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia announces the 2021 Lutheran Nurse of the Year, celebrating the amazing contributions of a dedicated nurse of faith.

We also acknowledge the service of a remarkable retired nurse, who receives an honorary life membership.

Those of us who are able to meet on 31 May, our next meeting, will have the opportunity to celebrate these and our personal achievements from the past year. Please also note that there has been a change in the presentation for this meeting. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to provide the presentation on Palliative Care and Cancer Research, but will have an interactive presentation on Coronary Angiograms. Details will be available on our Facebook page.

– **Megan Materne**

#### References:

- Fahrenwald, NL, Bassett, SD, Tschetter, L, Carson, PP, White, L and Winterboer, VJ, 2005, 'Teaching core nursing values', *ProfNurs*, Vol 21 (1), PP 46 – 57.
- Rana, LA, Avodish, MD and Berry, L, 2017 & 2020, 'The importance of making time to really listen to your patients, [Physician Leadership.org](http://Physician Leadership.org).

# CCTV trial in aged-care facilities

An Australian-first trial of CCTV in aged care has started in South Australia in an attempt to improve the safety and well-being of residents in residential care. The trial is the result of a \$785 000 co-investment from the Commonwealth and State Governments, and is taking place at two SA Health operated sites – Northgate House and Mount Pleasant Aged Care in the Adelaide Hills.

The trial comes two years after the damning report by South Australia’s Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, Bruce Lander, into the Oakden Nursing Home in Adelaide’s north-east, which was closed following incidences of abuse and neglect.

The Northgate House aged care and mental health facility was established to replace Oakden.

Recording devices, which are programmed to detect trigger movements and sounds, signalling the need for a rapid response, have been placed in residents’ bedrooms and in common areas in the two facilities

The technology uses artificial intelligence to identify falls, calls for help, or unusual movements. This triggers an alert that is sent to operators at an independent monitoring centre, who then immediately alert nursing staff to respond.

Footage of the incident, including the minutes before and afterwards, are also retained and securely stored onsite for review by authorised personnel.

Residents are able to choose whether to have their bedroom recording devices activated or not, and can opt in or out of participating at any time.



Despite residential care properties being owned by the providers and not the residents, arooms must balance the resident’s right to privacy with the requirements of the provider and its employees. Residents in aged care facilities are privacy protected under State and Federal legislation and common law.

The Director of the Office for Ageing Well, Cassie Mason, said that SA Health had worked closely with residents, families and staff to explain how the trial would operate and would continue to seek feedback to ensure respect for privacy is maintained.

The trial will allow an assessment of whether this technology can contribute to improving quality of care, while maintaining the privacy and dignity of residents.

An independent evaluator will work closely with residents, family, staff and the South Australian technology provider, Sturdie Pty Ltd, to assess the 12-month trial and its success.

A steering committee of consumer, stakeholder and government representatives is overseeing the trial.



## Scholarships available

Through its Committee for Ministry with the Ageing, the Lutheran Church of Australia makes scholarships available to anyone providing pastoral care and ministry in a Lutheran aged-care organisation or congregation.

The scholarships cover Clinical Pastoral Education or similar seminars, workshops, confer-

ences or courses, or assistance in developing resources for ministry with the ageing.

The amount available for each scholarship is normally \$2000. Funds are made available following the successful outcome to the course.

Application forms are available at:

[www.lca.org.au/departments/local-mission/ministry-with-ageing](http://www.lca.org.au/departments/local-mission/ministry-with-ageing)

# The Eye Bank of SA

In 2020, 203 people in South Australia received corneal transplants to restore their sight, from 111 donors.

Luke Weinel, Operations Officer at the Eye Bank of SA, told those at the LNAA March meeting that, although there are some exceptions, most people are eligible to become an eye donor. This includes people who suffer from some cancers, those up to about age 80 and those who wear glasses. However, there are some diseases, previous eye surgeries and social history aspects that exclude a person from becoming a donor.

It is only the clear, front part of the eye – the cornea – that is used for transplants. The cornea allows light to enter the eye, and a clear cornea is required for normal vision. Corneal transplantation can involve replacing the entire cornea or select parts of the cornea, depending on the location.

Quality testing of the corneas is performed in the Eye Bank laboratory at Flinders Medical Centre, in conjunction with blood testing by SA Pathology. Occasionally following these processes, a donor's corneas may be deemed unsuitable for transplant. However, they may still be suitable for research into eye disease.

Human eye tissue is the only material suitable for corneal transplants. One donor can provide sight for two people.

Eye donation is performed within 15 hours of death. A person does not need to die in a hospital to become a donor. While the whole eye is extracted, care is taken to preserve the appearance of the donor during the retrieval process so funeral arrangements, including viewings, may proceed without delay.

The donation is performed at a hospital or funeral home suitable for the family so there is no disruption to the preparations of the funeral. Eye donors are treated with great respect during the process and will simply appear as though their eyes are closed.

The corneas will be transplanted ideally within seven days of donation.

Generally, the whole diameter of the cornea is not used for transplantation. This made it possible for the cornea of an 80 year-old to be transplanted into a baby. The sections not used in the transplant are donated to research, if this is the wish of the family. World class research of eye disease is performed in SA, leading to greater outcomes for those who suffer from such illnesses as glaucoma, retinal disease, vision complications from diabetes and other sight disorders.

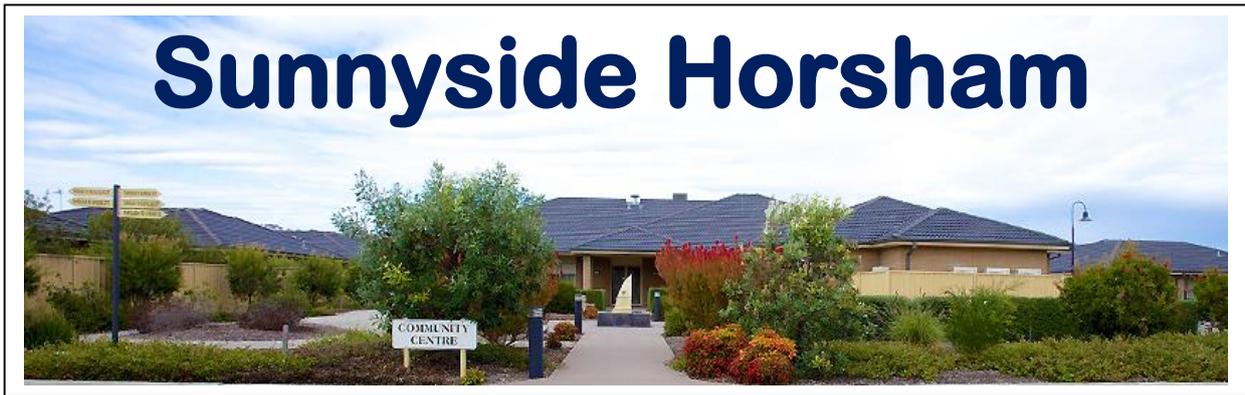
http:[www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-organ-donor-register](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-organ-donor-register)

able for the cornea of an 80 year-old to be transplanted into a baby. The sections not used in the transplant are donated to research, if this is the wish of the family. World class research of eye disease is performed in SA, leading to greater outcomes for those who suffer from such illnesses as glaucoma, retinal disease, vision complications from diabetes and other sight disorders.



The donor's next of kin receives a Thank you letter from the medical director and the coordinator, as well as a gift-of-sight pin to wear in honour of their loved one. The coordinator also phones the family to inform them of the outcome of their donation. They will also receive an invitation to a *DonateLife SA* rose planting ceremony and a memorial service the following year.

It is important that those who wish to become an eye donor speak with their family about their wishes, as ultimately, it is the next of kin who make that decision. They may also register their wishes with The Eye Bank of South Australia (8204 4928) or on the Australian Organ Donor Registry (1800 777 203), at



# Sunnyside Horsham

Sunnyside Lutheran Retirement Village in Horsham is owned and operated by the Victorian District of the Lutheran Church of Australia. It provides residential care for older residents of Horsham and surrounding districts in north-western Victoria. Care staff are on duty 24 hours a day providing supported living in a caring, home-like environment. Staff provide personal care for daily living activities, assistance with medical needs, health, exercise and social connections.

The first hostel was established in Roberts Avenue in 1949. It operated there until 1978 when a 60-bed hostel was opened in the Sunnyside area of the city; 24 Independent Living Units (ILUs) were added to the village over a period of time.

In 1997 the Federal Government introduced the Aged Care Act which included a standardised building code providing for minimum standards to be met by the year 2008. As the hostel did not meet those standards, the Board of Management decided that the only option available was to demolish the existing facility and build a new facility. A new 75-bed facility – *Trinity Manor* – was completed in 2004.

*Sunnyside* care staff are on duty 24 hours a day providing supported living in a caring, home-like environment. Staff provide personal care for daily activities, and assist with medical needs, health, exercise and social connections.

By 2007 a further 42 two-bedroom ILUs and a multi-purpose community centre had been erected to provide an Ageing-in-Place facility within a surrounding community of retirees. Accommodation is based on a licence agreement and a fortnightly service/maintenance fee is charged.

There are also 13 State Housing rental units for disadvantaged people.

The Community Centre offers large indoor and outdoor entertaining areas, comfortable lounges, dining room, library, theatre room, meeting rooms, chapel, pool table, bar and kitchen. It is designed for regular social functions and get-togethers.



Resident are encouraged to take part in a wide range of fun and stimulating social activities on a daily basis. Activities include arts and crafts, Bingo and games, church services and discussion groups, cultural events and celebrations, exercise sessions, indoor bowls and golf, movies, singing, visiting entertainers, special information sessions, visiting mobile facilities, and word games.



# Nurses in the Defence Forces



The passing of another ANZAC Day reminds us of the part nurses have played in the armed forces, both in war time and in peace time.

The Australian Army Nursing Service was formed in July 1903, as part of the Australian Army Medical Corps.

During World War I, more than 2000 of its members served overseas alongside Australian nurses working with other organisations, such as the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Red Cross, or other privately sponsored organisations.

When World War II broke out, some 5000 Australian nurses served in various locations, including the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Britain, Asia, the Pacific and Australia. After the war, nurses helped with the repatriation of thousands of prisoners of war.

Today the Australian Regular Army (ARA) employs Registered Nurses primarily in its deployable health units. However, there are opportunities for employment in primary health-care facilities and in-patient facilities, as well as roles in training, health management, administration and command and leadership.

Nurses work in units which, when deployed, provide primary health care and immediate resuscitation in a pre-hospital setting. The Army also has a certified surgical field hospital that can provide comprehensive hospital capability. These units deploy during combat, peace-

keeping and humanitarian relief operations.

When not on exercises or operations, nurses train for operations through a range of individual and group activities. There are opportunities to maintain clinical skills through employment on Defence bases delivering primary healthcare and low acuity in-patient care. There are also programs through which nurses are placed in major metropolitan hospitals to maintain higher order clinical skills.

The Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps (RNZNC) was formed in 1915 from nurses who volunteered for service during World War I, and who were granted honorary officer ranks. A Nursing Reserve had been formed as part of the New Zealand Medical Corps in 1908.

Today, the corps is an officer-only corps that consists of commissioned officers who are employed for their specialist skills and knowledge as Registered Nurses. The corps works with the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps and the Royal New Zealand Dental Corps to promote health and disease prevention and provide care for the wounded and sick.

Nursing Officers in the New Zealand Army can be employed broadly in primary health or in perioperative, surgical or emergency settings.

# Hymn-singing resource

Last year a group of South Australian Lutheran musicians began producing *Hymnsing* -- a series of easy-to-access videos and CDs of hymns as they appear in the LCA Hymnal and Supplement. The hymns are performed live, with the words on screen.



*Hymnsing* musician-singer, Kathy Renner

The aim of the artists is:

- to create songs and worship resources that support groups and individuals and bring communities together;
- to provide a resource for person-to-person use by family members or professional carers

- supporting people with disability, forgetfulness, confusion or other health issues, and to help them remember as they sing;
- to help local faith communities who have no musicians to support community singing;
- to encourage Christian faith in individuals and families through personal devotion and prayer.
- to create songs and worship resources that support groups and individuals and bring communities together;

Digital Download Packs are available for purchase by aged-care facilities and congregations at [www.hymnsing.com.au](http://www.hymnsing.com.au), where you can also support the project financially so more hymns can be added to the collection.

## Newsbrief



The library at Australian Lutheran College in North Adelaide comprises approximately 94 000 books and 14 000 bound volumes of periodicals. The collection is strong in Biblical Studies (both Old and New Testament), Church History, Systematics and Pastoral Theology. It can be accessed by congregational staff and lay workers. Books can be mailed out upon request, but return postage costs apply. The library has a substantial eBook collection. To become a member contact: [alc.edu.au/library/using-the-library/apply-online/](http://alc.edu.au/library/using-the-library/apply-online/).

Brenda Hutchinson, the hospitality manager at St Paul's Lutheran Home in Hahndorf, SA, was recognised in the recent Newscorp *Thanks a*

*Million* campaign for her efforts to protect residents from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Tanunda Lutheran Home in South Australia's Barossa Valley recently received the Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award at the SA Community Achievement Awards for 2021. The award recognises businesses and organisations with a strong focus on staff engagement, safety and wellbeing, training and higher education opportunities.

Allen Kupke retired as CEO of the Lutheran Laypeople's League (LLL). In November. Due to COVID restrictions, a formal farewell was delayed until March. Allen served the LLL for 32 years. He has been succeeded by Ross Smith, who was installed by Bishop John Henderson on 4 March. This year is the LLL's centenary year. In recent years it has supported LNAA and Parish Nurse seminars.

Back in the 1950s, in order to encourage hesitant people to get vaccinated against polio, health authorities got stars like Elvis Presley to get vaccinated on TV shows, targeting teenagers to lead the way for more reluctant parents and grandparents.

## LNAA Program

Venue for regular meetings: LCA/SA District Office, 137 Archer Street, North Adelaide

30 May 7.30pm **What is a coronary angiogram?** – Megan Materne

26 July 7.30pm **Forum: Embracing life in later years** – Pastor Chris Gallasch

27 Sep 7.30pm **To be advised**

29 Nov 7.30pm **Dementia and Understanding Alzheimer's** – Pastor Chris Gallasch

Visit our Facebook page: @lutherannursesassociationaustralia

### † LCA PARISH NURSE TRUST FUND MEMORIALS

Mervyn Henry Nuske  
25/12/1925-06/03/2021

Norma Melva Matthias  
16/03/1934-29/03/2021

Jean Cuff  
Died 25/04/2021

### LNAA office bearers

**President:** Mrs Megan Materne, 48 Saltram Pde, Oakden, SA 5086 ☎ 04 0391 9061

**Vice-President:** Mrs Dianne Proeve, 20 Annesley Ave, Trinity Gardens SA 5068 ☎ 04 7550 9048

**Secretary:** Mrs Rose Howard, 2 Glen Eyre Crt, Aberfoyle Park SA 5159 ☎ 08 8270 1575

**Treasurer:** Mrs Vicki Minge, 16 Douglas St, Lockleys, SA 5032 ☎ 08 8352 8819

**Extra Members:** Mrs Sylvia Hutt, 6 Brook Dr, Aberfoyle Park, SA 5159 ☎ 04 1785 4873

Mrs Lynette Pech, 51 Alabama Ave, Prospect, SA 5082 ☎ 04 1889 2131

**Spiritual Counsellor:** Rev Chris Gallasch, 1215 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley, SA 5090;  
☎ 08 8265 8001

### *IN TOUCH*

*IN TOUCH* is published six times a year. **Editor:** The Rev Robert Wiebusch, 200/1215 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley SA 5090 ☎ 08 8336 3936. Email: [robert.wiebusch@lca.org.au](mailto:robert.wiebusch@lca.org.au) Deadline for next issue: **15 June 2021.**

### Membership renewal for the 2020-21 financial year is now overdue

Kindly return the form below, together with your cheque, to the LNAA Treasurer, Mrs Vicki Minge. Funds can be transferred electronically to: BSB: **704942** Account name: **Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia.** Account number: **155449** If you transfer funds electronically, please advise the Treasurer. Your name or postcode may be given as a reference. This should be included when notifying the treasurer.

#### LNAA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2020–2021

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ NURSING STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

My membership fee of \$25.

I arranged electronic transfer of my membership fee of \$25 on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

In future, please send me electronic copies of *IN TOUCH*

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

LNAA TREASURER: Vicki Minge, 16 Douglas St, Lockleys, SA 5032 [pvminge@hotmail.com](mailto:pvminge@hotmail.com)