

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Victorian branch has been working on a proposal which they have now submitted to all private health insurance funds in Victoria for the recognition of social work services.

A copy of this submission has been provided to the WA branch. At the last meeting of the Committee of Management it was decided that with suitable amendments this branch would embark on a similar project.

It is vital that we are successful in this attempt so that social work continues to be competitive in the private market place. Branch members interested in the revision of the Victorian proposal for a WA context, or who would like to help the branch in this project, should contact Virginia Scott, Convenor Professional Practice Subcommittee (9450 2833).

In 1997 there was a considerable focus in the media of social work practice. I have no doubt that as a profession we will continue to be scrutinised.

Unfortunately, more often than not the media concentrates on negative aspects of our practice. This seems to be inevitable as the primary purpose of the media now appears to be the marketing of its own products and a belief that the sensational is always more attractive to the buying public than the mundane.

1998 will bring new challenges for us and it is hoped that the Branch will be able to rise to those challenges. Of course, this will be totally due to the continued good work of all those long suffering members of branch committees and working parties that have contributed so much in 1997.

Now that the festive season is upon us, I would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and hope that you have a wonderfully exciting and happy 1998. The last year has been a fairly momentous one in which the Branch has continued to grow and the work demands on the Committee of Management and all the Subcommittees was at times very heavy.

BRIAN WOOLLER

MAKE A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

*Join the movers and shakers
in your Association*

Join a Branch Subcommittee

State Conference Committee

The State Conference Committee are seeking new members to join in the planning and preparation of the 1998 Annual State Conference.

If you are interested in participating in this creative committee please contact the Convenor Daphne Cross on 9222.2816 or the Conference Project Officer Marian Maughan on 9330.2585.

Recent Graduates Subcommittee

The Recent Graduates Subcommittee invites any new graduate members interested in being actively involved with the Association to attend their next meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 1998 at 7.00 pm.

The venue is the Northbridge Hotel. At this stage the subcommittee is attempting to increase its membership and are keen to get a balance of both Curtin and UWA graduates.

For further details contact Rachel Davey on 9371 8665.

Wanslea Family Services

Enhancing the Care of Children

FAMILY CARE MANAGER

Wanslea is seeking the services of a qualified senior social worker eligible for membership of the AASW.

Wanslea's Family Care Program has been working to keep families together for over 20 years and continues to do so in the context of an industry experiencing much change.

Wanslea requires an energetic dynamic leader who will be involved in the management of change in the agency whilst maintaining service provision to the hundreds of families Wanslea assists each year.

This vacancy comes at a time of change in the industry and Wanslea is well positioned to respond to new opportunities. The successful applicant would be involved in this process.

The successful applicant would also carry management responsibilities whilst maintaining a caseload across Wanslea's three short term emergency programs.

Enquiries and requests for selection criteria should be directed to Pauline Dixon or Sue Ash on (08) 9245.2441.

**Applications should be lodged no later than
5 pm January 21st 1998.**

THE ACCIDENT by ERICA FUNKHOUSER

She heard the nasty scraping of sole and heel
against the clipped turf of the doormat;
then their neighbor rushed in,
just back from the hospital,
where everything was fine, she said.
Fine. Her son had to spend the night
for observation, that was all.
He had been grazed by a delivery van
while crossing the street on his bike.
A few bruises, a superficial wound
above one knee. Incredible luck.
The neighbor was still wearing
her jogging clothes—pale blue
ripstop nylon, the same blue flame

along the instep of her running shoes.
She slid a chair from underneath
the kitchen table and sat down,
her long legs straight in front of her
like a ladder to a different world.
It was when the neighbor answered "yes"
to a question the woman's husband
had not yet asked
that the woman finally understood.
Her husband had not even mentioned eggs,
but the neighbor knew he was going to cook
for her.
How many times had they eaten together,
the woman watching wondered. Enough.
Her husband worked slowly,
strolling back and forth between the stove,
the coffee maker, and the table
where his wife and the still-flushed neighbor
leaned on their elbows discussing
the hazards of dusk.
On the counter, the eggs
developed little caps of moisture.
Her husband put lots of butter
in the pan and popped the toaster manually
before the toast could burn.
At long last he broke the eggs.
She had never seen him
do it like this before, two-handed.
He always liked to show off
by breaking the eggs with one hand.
This evening
his hands were trembling
as he cracked the eggs
on the skillet's rim, hurrying to slide
the whole brimming mess into the pan
to quiet the sizzling fat.

Originally published in *The Atlantic Monthly*; December 1995; Volume 276, No. 6; page 114.

[<http://www.theatlantic.com/atlantic/atlweb/poetry/>]

Global aphasia

by Erid Shomer

It's like a two-way street, the hospital speech therapist explains, drawing lanes with arrows

and curves. Information swerves in through the ears; replies arrive in the mouth. The brain is the driver.

"Okay okay okay," Mother answers without delay when asked about the food, her health, this task.

This "automatic response," a kind of static, relieves the silence she emotes like a high-frequency note

of distress. "Brush your . . . ?" "Suitcase," she rushes to fill in the blank, shaking her head as you would to free the ink

in a ballpoint pen. "Tie your . . . ?" Mother's eyes roll.

"Suitcase?" she pleads. At the root of "perseveration," the name

for this odd repeating of words, is the word "persevere," that hopeful bird which sits on my chest with its head

snaked under a wing and its talons digging in as she shakes

more and more suitcases loose from her mind. One shines

on her finger, one barks like a dog. O singer with your one-word song, you knew I was there but not for how long, so all

day you conjured up luggage, all day you lured my bags from the thicket of thought and picked at the locks of my visit.

Originally published in *The Atlantic Monthly*; December 1993; Volume 272, No. 6; page 94.

[<http://www.theatlantic.com/atlantic/atlweb/poetry/>]

UWA OFFER NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSES

Diploma, Master's and CPE credit

Commencing June 1998 the Crime Research Centre at UWA will be offering a comprehensive program of criminal justice courses. The main target is criminal justice professionals as well as anyone working in the welfare field. There is a wide choice of units, so that different specialist interests can be covered.

The Diploma consists of four units and the Master's of eight; within each two core units are required. These must be selected from *Measuring Crime*, *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Policy* and *Research Methods in Criminal Justice*. However, enrolment is possible for single units only, either core units or electives.

The method of teaching will be intensive. This involves the issue of reading materials in advance, classroom contact of about 40 hours over a period of about six days, and follow-up assessment by way of a research paper. Those deadly evenings in University classrooms at the end of a hard working day have been put behind us for ever!

Dr Barbara Meddin, National AASW Vice President for Professional Practice has indicated that the courses could accrue CPE points. She added: "I suspect if you had some social worker involvement in the actual teaching, they'd be more attractive to social workers."

The intention is in fact to involve a wide a range of people along with Crime Research staff. For example, in 1998 the unit *Women Crime and the Criminal Justice System* will mainly be taught by Dr Anne Worrall of Keele University (UK), herself a qualified social worker as well as being a renowned feminist scholar and a community corrections practitioner.

Melbourne University experts Dr Rob White and Dr Adam Sutton will be involved in the *Juvenile Crime* and the *Crime Prevention* courses respectively, whilst personnel from the Aboriginal Studies Unit at UWA will participate in *Aboriginality, Crime and Justice*. Generally, all units will draw upon a range of expertise – academic and practitioner.

The courses are fee-paying, set at \$1,100 per unit for 1998. Fuller details can be found in the brochure enclosed with this newsletter.

PROFESSOR RICHARD HARDING

COMING CPE EVENTS

Organised by the Continuing Professional Education Committee of the WA Branch and eligible for double CPE points.

Tuesday 20 January 1998

Seminar and Lecture with Dr Karen Kayser

Seminar: Working with Cancer Patients and Their Families

Lecture: Women Coping with Cancer: A Relational Perspective

Mary Lockett Theatre, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Monash Avenue, Nedlands

Dr Karen Kayser is currently Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Social Work at Boston College. She has a PhD in Social Work and Psychology and has a substantial publications record. Dr Kayser has had extensive clinical experience with couples and families and currently conducts research at Brigham Women's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston USA.

See enclosed flyer for more details and registration.

Tuesday 24 February 1998

Seminar with Professor Bryan Tanney
Youth Suicide and Copy Cat Suicide

Loftus Community Centre, Loftus Street, Leederville
7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Professor Bryan Tanney is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Dr Tanney is in Perth, which he has visited regularly over the past few years, on a year long Sabbatical leave. He is working with the Psychosocial Research Division of the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and with the state government's Youth Suicide Advisory Committee.

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His major interest is in suicidal acts and in particular the competencies of caregivers and communities in responding to these distressing and turbulent problems.

Further details will be circulated with the February issue of the newsletter.

Tuesday 17 March 1998

One Day Workshop with Aldo Gurgone
Short Term Intervention with Families

Aldo Gurgone is a Clinical Psychologist and Director of the William Street Family Therapy Centre.

For further details about any of these CPE events contact (9 am - 5 pm) either Liz Retamal (9443 2934) or Anne Pickard (9273 0253).

New Members

Katherine Britton (Student Associate)
Annette Cross (Student Associate)
Jennifer Faulkner (Student Associate)
Linda Froggett (Armadale Home Help Service for the Aged & Disabled)
Tania Girona (Student Associate)
Rhona Haining (Student Associate)
Lana Hawkes (Student Associate)
Antonia Hendrick (Student Associate)
Peta Hiron (Student Associate)
Catherine Hollingworth (Student Associate)
Nicolette Hugo (Centrelink)
Karen Hulmes (Student Associate)
David Jones (Student Associate)
Debra Kennedy (Student Associate)
Debra Lang (Student Associate)
Carole Macey (Student Associate)
Robert McKrill (Disability Services Commission)
Michael Riou (Volunteer Centre of WA Inc)
Merome Vernon (Student Associate)
Paula Watters (Student Associate)