



NZFCNA

NZ Faith Community Nurses Association

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

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Special points of interest:

- *Diary in the 2009 Conference Now!*

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PARTNERSHIPS OF HOPE—Conference 2009

Our 2009 Conference is fast approaching.

It will be held on the 8th and 9th of August at Houchen House in Hamilton

This conference will provide an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the ministry of Faith Community Nursing.
- Gain an understanding of the partnerships FCN's work within.
- Network and fellowship with other Christian nurses.
- Take time out with God, through reflection and worship.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Judith Christiansen
- Dr Dianne Roy

For more information see the website www.faithnursing.co.nz

Or email admin.faithnursing.co.nz

For information on Houchen House see their website:

www.houchenhouse.org.nz



"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18: 19-20 NIV

Book

From International Parish Nurse Resource Centre

What are old people for? How elders will save the world.

ISBN 1-889242-20-9. Publisher VanderWyk & Burnham 2004

William H. Thomas, M.D.



“Wrinkles are painless and harmless. By trying to get rid of wrinkles we are being asked to get rid of what we have spent a lifetime making.

We only receive a facsimile of youth in return. What if the war on wrinkles was replaced by a crazy new wave of wrinkle promoting ingenuity? ‘You could look ten years older in two weeks’; it would be a different world.”

This is a fascinating book that should be read by anyone involved with care of the elderly or anyone approaching old age.

Bill Thomas is a geriatrician from the USA; he has some very different ideas about looking after our seniors when they are no longer able to look after themselves. His ideas are being adopted throughout the USA, Australia and have come to New Zealand.

As a young doctor visiting the residents in a nursing home Bill realised that loneliness, boredom and helplessness were three persistent problems in otherwise very well run facilities. The Eden Alternative is what Bill and his wife, Judith Meyer- Thomas developed as a response to what Bill calls these plagues of loneliness, boredom and helplessness suffered by those in long term care.

I quote below from the website www.edeninoz.com.au
“The core concept of the Eden Alternative™ is simple: we must teach ourselves to see existing and new care environments as habitats for

human beings that promote health and well being rather than facilities for the frail and elderly.

The Eden Alternative™ shows us how companion animals, children and plants help in providing an opportunity for a meaningful contribution and care, and how the Eden Alternative™ works at preventing and eliminating the aged care plagues of loneliness, helplessness and boredom.”

Later on in the book Bill goes a step further; starting completely from scratch when thinking about a place for the elderly to live. The result of that thinking is a Green House.

Described by Bill Thomas as:
“An intentional community for elders built to a residential scale and devoted to the pursuit of the most positive elderhood possible. The value of clinical services is recognised and then made part of a habilitative social framework that gives primacy to human development in late life.”

I found this book riveting and have had it out of the library for the maximum time allowed. Recently I was at a one day seminar hosted by AgeWise in Hamilton; one of the speakers was from Rangiura Rest Home and Retirement Village in Putaruru, South Waikato. Rangiura has become Eden Alternative accredited and will be the first place in New Zealand to build a Green House.

Helen Vaughan

Thanks Helen for your great book review.

If anyone else is keen to submit a book review or a story (see page 3) please e mail it to me;
krist@adhb.govt.nz

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Peleipu Tautua, for winning first prize in the inaugural 3M Tegaderm professional development grant. Pele is a Community Parish Nurse with the Healthy Village Action Zones initiative in Auckland.



A NZ Faith Community Nurse's Story

In my Parish Nurse role, I visit Barbara and Michael on occasions as both are in their late 80's and Barbara is very frail. If she is unwell and unable to attend Mass on Sunday, I take Holy Communion and just keep a general eye on them both. An Irish couple, they both are most entertaining, he being a keen vegetable gardener and a golfer while she still cooks meals for her lovely man. Last winter, Barbara developed Pneumonia and Michael, himself, severe Asthma, both were laid low for weeks. On a visit I noticed the bedroom ceiling in their council flat was black with mould despite the fact they slept with a window ajar.

Apparently Michael had requested something to be done about this problem well over two years prior, and even followed up the request a few months later. No response at all to their request, so, as often with elderly people they thought it wasn't going to happen....they complained no more. They had given up getting any help, they were slowly being encased in the fungal mess which was making them both ill, with no way of sorting the problem.

In my role as Parish Nurse, I was able to go into the housing section of City Council and request an instant review of the situation. That afternoon, the flat was inspected, photographed and in one week fully cleared of the fungus... actually re ceilinged and painted. Barbara and Michael were temporarily housed in a family member's home. Their stove was replaced and electrical problems sorted also. Barbara was so heartened about this. I have to say I kept on the case, and knowing the personnel in the section of council involved helped.

Barbara and Michael's health is so much better now and I anticipate a better winter for them both. The greatest joy for them if I take Communion is to make me a cup of tea, the hospitality flows as Irish people do.

This is an important part of my ministry, to allow the parishioners to love me as I love them.

(Names in this story have been changed)

Val Southcombe

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
 No hands but yours,
 No feet but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which to look out
 Christ's compassion to the world.
 Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
 doing good;
 Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men
 now.

St. Teresa of Avila

From International Parish Nurse Resource Centre

**The 23rd Annual Westberg Symposium
 "Opening Doors to Wholeness"
 will be held September 25—27 2009 in St
 Louis, Missouri, USA.**

**For more information see the
 International Parish Resource Center
 Website: www.parishnurses.org.**

NZFCNA UPDATE

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**NEW ZEALAND FAITH
 COMMUNITY NURSES'
 ASSOCIATION**

Our National Coordinator, Diane Webster has been very busy on our behalf. In mid March she visited Southland and Dunedin, and met with FCN's and several considering this ministry. In May she met with FCN's in the Taranaki area. Earlier in the year she met with FCN's on the West Coast.

Joan MacManus and Elizabeth Niven are spearheading the organization of the conference in Hamilton, along with the Waikato FCN's, and the programme is coming together well. It is a lot of work and we thank them for the time and effort they are putting into it.

International Conference on Aging and Spirituality

Sunday 30 August to Wednesday 2 September 2009 at the University of Auckland School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St., Auckland City, Auckland New Zealand.

Hosted by Selwyn Centre for Aging and Spirituality (SCAS)

Evidence-based models of medical care have paved the way for people to live much longer, healthier, physical lives. But has the quality of spiritual guidance and care offered to older people kept pace? Are older people's spiritual needs being adequately met in healthcare and social systems around the world?

The 2009 International Conference on Aging and Spirituality will bring together researchers, aged care practitioners, and anyone with an interest in helping older people find deepest meaning and fulfillment in life.

The issues of aging and spirituality will be discussed against the backdrop of gender, culture and new models of care. This conference will consider the positive possibilities of aging well, and flourishing, despite difficulties.



www.selwyncare.org.nz

From the Editor

I am sorry it has taken me so long to get this newsletter done. Life seems to have overtaken me a bit. However faith Community Nursing is still alive and well in NZ. There have been several nurses begin this ministry this year and several others interested.

I am looking forward to another fantastic conference this year in Hamilton.

Remember this is your newsletter so if there is anything you think should be included, if you would like to write about your area of FCN please contact me. krist@adhb.govt.nz

*Thanks
 God bless you in your ministry.*

Kris

Prayer Points:

† Please pray for the Board as they organise the next conference.
 Pray especially for Diane as the National Coordinator.
 & Joan MacManus & Elizabeth Niven

† Pray for those who are currently ministering as FCN's, especially those who are isolated and need support.

