

Executive Officer's Report



Hello everyone! We've had an exciting start to 2009 and we hope to keep it a very successful year for AWCH.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our new Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Her Excellency represented AWCH from 1978-1981 as the first National President and received an AO in 1988 for her services to the community in particular women and children.

Ms Bryce recognises the vital role the family plays in supporting children and young people receiving healthcare. She is passionate and a firm supporter of children's healthcare and was active in bringing about change in hospital and health services for children and young people.

We are indeed fortunate to have Her Excellency as our Patron and to have her support at a time when we need to continue to highlight and advocate for the improved healthcare of infants, children, young people and their families in Australia.

Ward Grandparent Volunteers and Seniors Week in NSW



AWCH and the Ward Grandparent Scheme joined in the events of NSW Seniors Week during March 2009.

We got off to a cracking start on Monday 16 March. AWCH was presented with a **NSW Seniors Week Achievement Award** in the Community Service/Volunteering category www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/

Professor David Bennett and the longest serving ward grandparent, Dot Tanner from Sydney Children's Hospital, accepted the award on behalf of AWCH. Dot has been volunteering since 1988.



As part of Seniors Week, AWCH organised a **training day** for ward grandparents. Eleven volunteers based in Sydney and Gosford jumped on a bus and headed for John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle for a much anticipated visit to meet with the Kaleidoscope ward grandparent volunteers at JHH.

Details about our trip are on the [Ward Grandparent Scheme](#) report of this newsletter.

AWCH would like to thank the Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au for providing funding for the coach trip and Kaleidoscope Social Work Department for hosting the event.



Conference Proceedings On AWCH Website

The 2008 [Health Care for Kids Conference Proceedings](#) are now available on the AWCH website.

It was a pleasure to have hosted an interesting and thought provoking forum in conjunction with Children's Hospital Australasia and we have received very positive feedback about the conference content and organisation.

If you were a presenter and would like your presentation posted on our website please do not hesitate to contact Rowena at rowena@awch.com.au

We still have several items of conference merchandise available for purchase which are useful for work, school or play. For orders, just give us a call or send us an email.

Congratulations

Hats off to Ann and Arthur Taylor on their tremendous and dedicated volunteering efforts! Ann is President of AWCH WA and has been volunteering and promoting the ideals of AWCH at Princess Margaret Hospital for over 20 years.

Post Conference Items:



Satchel Bags: Useful for sports bags, gym bag, swimming bag, travel bag for accessories and more!! \$5.00



2GB, USB stick: This adorable figurine is a novelty way of carrying around your files and folders. Simply remove the head which acts as a cap. Arms and Legs are adjustable :), \$25.00

NEWS

Couple making a difference

To stay in one job for 20 years has become a feat in itself, so to remain a volunteer for that long seems almost saintly.

As Princess Margaret Hospital turns 100 this year, an Andrews couple have been recognised for their volunteer efforts spanning two decades at the children's hospital.

Ann Taylor has volunteered at PMH for more than 20 years and is a former president of the volunteer program.

Arthur Taylor joined his wife in 1981.

Mrs Taylor said she initially felt anxious in a hospital environment but was soon reassured. "The longer you stay in the hospital the more you gain a sense for it," she said.

"I feel comfortable walking up to patients and families and asking if they are OK."

Mrs Taylor helps in a variety of departments including outpatient services, the ward look trolley and, along with Mr Taylor, in the Friendship Room - a volunteer-run waiting room for parents whose children are undergoing surgery.

Mrs Taylor said the Friendship Room was special to her as she was instrumental in extending its hours of operation, making it available to families in the evening.

A former aircraft engineer, Mr Taylor devised a comprehensive volunteer database for PMH in 1982 to allow his wife, as the then president of volunteers, to keep track of all helpers, the departments they work in and their years of service.

The database remains in use today with Mr Taylor updating it as requirements change.

Mrs Taylor said she felt fortunate to have the opportunity to volunteer in such a supportive environment where the collaborative efforts of each volunteer make the program worthwhile.



Volunteers Ann and Arthur Taylor. Picture: Mark Kormanis

Article courtesy of the Melville Times

Well done Ann and Arthur. What an achievement!

Thank You to Jenny, AWCH Volunteer

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Jenny who is leaving us to start a career as an accountant. Jenny has been working as a volunteer in the AWCH Office for the last two years while studying at Macquarie University. Jenny has spent her time at AWCH scanning documents and photos, and as we soon found out, is very good at designing brochures and flyers. Thank you very much for your dedication and hard work. Best wishes Jenny and lots of luck in your new career.

Contemplated donating to AWCH?

Sue has thoughtfully chosen AWCH as her charity of choice for a fundraiser she is involved in. Since 2007, Sue has raised \$462.88 for AWCH. Cheers Sue you're a champ!



It was a very nice surprise to come back after our Christmas break and receive a donation in the mail! We are indeed grateful to [Perforce Software](#) for their generous gift which will help us with our work in advocating for the wellbeing of sick children, young people and their families in hospitals and other health services in Australia.

If you are interested in donating to AWCH '[click here](#)'

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ann and Arthur Taylor on their combined 20 years of volunteer service at Princess Margaret Hospital. Ann is the President of AWCH WA.

Welcome to Michelle Sloane

AWCH would like to welcome Michelle Sloane, from Diversity Management. Michelle will be working with AWCH to design and implement a fundraising strategy which will ensure that the Association will be well placed to expand its activities in the next few years. Michelle has a wealth of experience and expertise in business planning and development; marketing; relationship management and ongoing management of a growing business. Watch out for updates in the next e-newsletter.

Don't forget these dates:

- 11-17 May 09 National Volunteer Week
www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/default.asp?nav_cat_id=357&nav_top_id=55
- 17-20 May 09 10th National Rural Health Conference
<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/?IntCatId=14>
- 22 May 09 Inaugural Positive Schools 2009 Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference
www.positiveschools.com.au/
- 27-28 May 09 National Conference on Anxiety and Depression
<http://www.reconnexion.org.au/www/464/1001127/displayarticle/1002787.html>

Anne Cutler
AWCH Executive Officer