



Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses

Meet the ACCCN National Board

Georgina Neville, ACCCN Treasurer & QLD Branch President



Georgina commenced working in Intensive Care in the mid 1990's. After working in several adult ICU's, she developed a particular enthusiasm for neuro trauma patients. Georgina then worked in a post-op cardiac ICU for 5 years before joining Griffith University in 2007 as a Lecturer and 3rd Year Coordinator in the Bachelor of Nursing program, where she still works today. During her time at Griffith University Georgina has been awarded accolades such as a Staff Excellence award from the PVC, a Health Group Teaching Citation and in 2016 was admitted as an Honorary Fellow to the Golden Key Honours Society after being nominated for 'Lecturer of the Year'. Periodically, Georgina has taught in post graduate critical care courses.

Georgina completed her Master of Nursing (Advanced Practice-Critical Care) plus a higher education teaching qualification. After joining ACCCN in 2014, Georgina joined the QLD committee in 2017 and has held roles such as Committee Member, National Representative and now QLD Branch President. She currently sits

on the ACCCN Board of Directors as National Treasurer. Georgina also sits on the Community Advisory Group & the Assessments Committee for the College of Intensive Care Medicine (CICM).

Georgina is extremely passionate about nursing as a profession and regularly implores her students to understand that nursing is a privilege (amongst other things). Georgina states that *"Critical care nurses are in a position where you are trusted to care for someone who cannot advocate for themselves. This is something that must not be taken lightly. In addition to this, critical care nurses must develop advanced patient assessment skills, perform complex interventions, demonstrate effective communication and master highly complex technologies to safely care for their patients. If you are up for the challenge, it is truly a brilliant career!"*

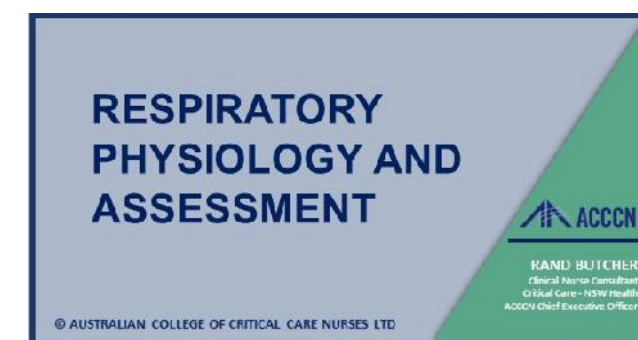
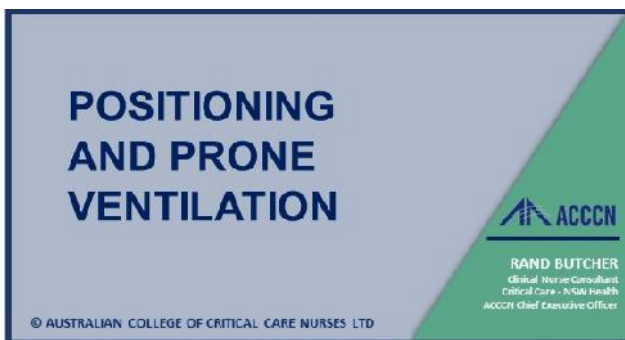
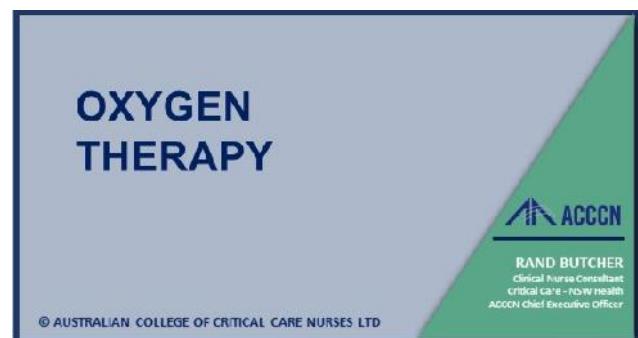
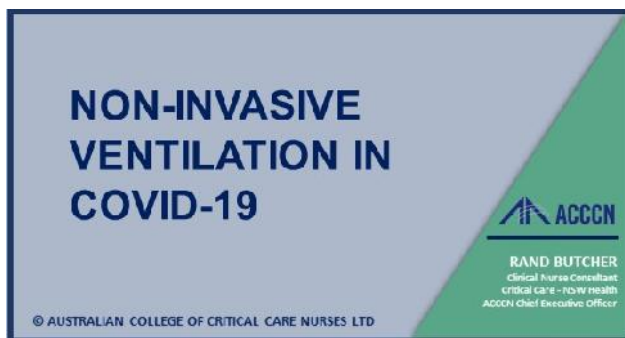
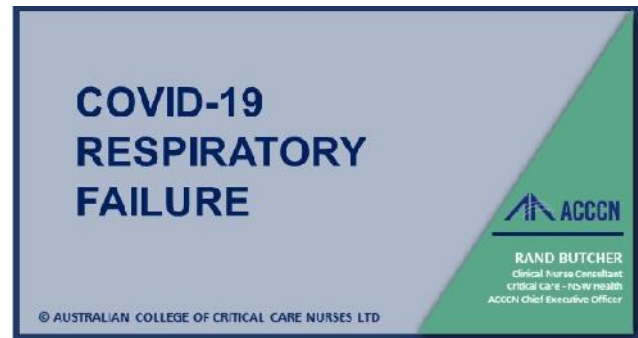
ACCCN COVID-19 Acute Care Nursing Lecture Series

In 2020 there was an urgent need to provide education for registered nursing staff with little or no recent intensive care experience to enable them to assist in the management of a surge in patients with COVID-19. The Australian College of Critical Care Nurses developed several online resources to provide education for intensive care units in their preparations for the COVID-19 surge. These online resources have been well received and are still available through the following link:

<https://www.continulus.com/courses/core-critical-care-nursing/>

In 2021 the Australian healthcare system has been placed under increasing strain with rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in many regions of the country. To meet this challenge there is an urgent need to produce timely education resources to assist acute care nurses in managing COVID-19 patients. Responding to this challenge, ACCCN has produced a number of online lectures relating to the pathophysiology and management of COVID-19 patients in the acute inpatient environment.

To meet the needs of frontline nurses, in Australia and overseas, these resources have been made freely available on the ACCCN website.



ACCCN End-of-Life Advisory Panel

Earlier this month, a webinar was conducted by A/Prof Melissa Bloomer and Dr Kristen Ranse about the ACCCN Position Statement on Adult End-of-Life Care in Critical Care. The end-of-life position statement came about because there were no practice recommendations to assist clinicians to provide end-of-life care in this setting in Australia. Acknowledging the importance of a clinically relevant and meaningful, evidence-based position statement, a small working party of critical care academics initially developed 28 practice recommendations derived primarily from Australian research. Clinical experts were then consulted to ensure the practice recommendations were realistic, feasible and meaningful for Australian critical care nursing practice. The position statement was endorsed by ACCCN national board and is available on the [ACCCN website](#) and has also been published in [Australian Critical Care](#).

The webinar recording is now available for ACCCN members through '[MY ACCCN](#)'

Rachel Longhurst – Leading the way without a party trick!



Canberra, our nation's capital, and home to the Ngunnawal people for more than 21,000 years, is famous for many things. The name 'Canberra' was derived from the language of the traditional custodians of the land meaning 'meeting place' (and apparently 'women's breasts' with reference to the view of Mt. Ainslie and Black Mountain). With Sydney and Melbourne unable to agree (shock horror) on who should be declared the capital of Australia, Canberra was born in 1913. The city was originally planned for only 25,000 people yet is now home to nearly 400,000.

One of those locals is our very own Rachel Longhurst, an ACCCN member since 2014 who loves Italian food, reading (her favourite book is *The Bronze Horseman*) and going camping (somewhere remote without reception). Originally hailing from Young, Rachel finished high school and decided that she wanted to be closer to water. With a 'big' move southeast, she travelled 150kms and landed on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. I reckon the truth is that Rachel got stuck on that big roundabout (cue Clark Griswold in the scene from *National Lampoon's European Vacation*) and,

unable to navigate an exit, has now called Canberra home for nearly 19 years. Asked what she thinks about Canberra, Rachel replied "I love Canberra – it's big enough but small enough. You have great access to resources but don't have to drive far to feel like you're in the middle of nowhere".

Originally wanting to become a forensic scientist, Rachel decided that nursing was her path due to her love of biology and the challenges of chemistry (in her own words she was "woeful"). As a child, Rachel tried her hand at forensics by dissecting the family's deceased goldfish to determine its cause of death. A quick Google search identifies 3 main causes – lack of proper water conditioner, temperature shock and a drastic change in pH. I wonder what Rachel's findings were. The loss of two close relatives in her final years of high school also piqued her interest in nursing "it is still vivid to me my recollections of visiting them in hospitals – the smell, the sounds, the sights".

Rachel graduated in 2006 from the University of Canberra where she also later completed her Masters in Critical Care. With an obvious passion for critical care and education, Rachel has worked in ICU, HDU, CCU and ED and, other than being clinical, has covered many roles. These include a Level 2 RN (akin to CNS), Clinical Development Nurse, Clinical Nurse Educator, Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant and Acting Assistant Director of Critical Care. Rachel has worked sessionally as well for universities and the VET sector. Unsurprisingly, Rachel is currently furthering her own education undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education through the University of Notre Dame.

Rachel has held many roles within ACCCN, after originally starting out as a liaison nurse for the NSW/ACT Branch. Rachel contributed to the Position Statement for Critical Care Education in 2017 and was a member of the Institute for Continuing Education (ICE) Committee in 2018. ICE was rebranded this year and is now known as the Annual Education Meeting (AEM). Rachel joined the NSW/ACT Branch Committee in 2019 and has, thankfully, just renominated again. Rachel's love of Canberra drove her to support bringing an event to the ACT. Rachel is on the National Events Committee (NEC) and was Co-Convenor with Kate Yendall for this year's AEM titled 'Ready to ACT – Critical Care in times of change' held at the QT Hotel, Canberra, from 13 – 14 May. The conference was a roaring success and a much-needed social, mental and professional distraction from all that is going on. Rachel presented on two very interesting topics – 'Amanita Mushroom Poisoning' and 'Post Resuscitation Care' with the latter focussing on the importance of debriefing following a resuscitation. This important process is often forgotten or, due to time constraints, omitted.

What else does Rachel think of Canberra? "It's a fabulous place to raise a family". Rachel married her husband Jeremy almost 11 years ago and has two beautiful children who are six and seven. And for pets? Just fish that she hasn't dissected yet. So, what drives Rachel to succeed? She believes that she lives by her

Dad's motto of "if you are going to do something, you do it right". I asked Rachel if she has a party trick (for those who attended the AEM we know she doesn't have a magic trick). Rachel believes that she's too introverted to have a party trick. Having interviewed Rachel I believe that her party trick is leadership, hard work and determination. Rachel is an asset to the ACCCN and to our profession. Who needs a party trick when you are as awesome as Rachel!

Written by Nicky Paterson, NSW/ACT Committee

VIC Hot Topic Webinar - 'Global pandemic nursing: the lived experience'

This was an incredible evening from four unique nursing perspectives from the UK, Canada and Sweden reflecting upon how the pandemic has been. We were privileged to hear from Julie Levine (UK), who discussed surge capacity management, and utilizing resources to great effect for patients and workforce. Erin Sloane (Canada) provided us with an insight to organ donation through a pandemic and the community support she felt as a nurse. Sophie Lawson (UK) gave us a beautifully raw account of life as a frontline ICU nurse. And Jennie Farrell (Sweden) delivered a very interesting account of life in a regional Swedish hospital during the pandemic, including a code blue!

From this evening resounding pieces of advice were; to be kind, have patience, take time to look after yourself and know there is a global community of nurses supporting each other. We raised \$680 for the RCN foundation to help UK nurses struggling right now. Thank you to all those who attended.

Written by Sarah Jelly-Butterworth, VIC Committee

ACCCN Grants & Funding

ACCCN offers a wide range of National and State funding opportunities to eligible members. Several grants are currently open for applications on the ACCCN website.

National Education Grant

The ACCCN National Education Grant supports local and international travel for educational conferences and seminar attendance.

With the current challenges of hosting face-to-face conferences/seminars and meetings, the ACCCN Board have amended the guidelines for the 2021 National Education Grant to include short course fees (excluding university course fees).

Closing date – Sunday 10th October 2021

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Research Seeding Grants

ACCCN is pleased to annually offer 2 Research Seeding Grants to the value of \$5,000

Closing date – Sunday 10th October 2021

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Rhonda Sanders Professional Development Grant

The Rhonda Sanders Professional Development Grant provides members of ACCCN with an opportunity to enhance their professional development through attendance at educational development activities or visits to relevant institutions.

Closing date – Sunday 10th October 2021

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

SA/NT Members' Professional Development Grant

Are you an ACCCN member in SA or NT? Are you interested in funding assistance to attend the SA/NT Critical Care Seminar in July or perhaps another educational activity relevant to critical care?

Closing date – Friday 15th October 2021

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

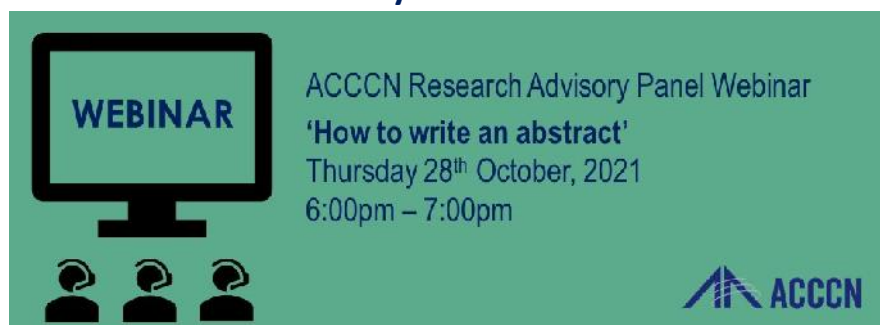
Upcoming Events

QLD Critical Care Seminar – 'Management of Complex Respiratory Failure in ICU'



The Queensland Branch of the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses in collaboration with the Princess Alexandra Hospital are holding the rescheduled Queensland Critical Care Seminar day at Griffith University on the 14th October 2021. Managing complex respiratory failure is the theme of the seminar day with presentations exploring topics such as prone positioning and the use of nitric oxide for patients with complex respiratory disorders. The organisers are looking forward to finally being able to host this COVID-19 Safe event next month. The seminar day is currently fully booked however please contact qld@acccn.com.au if you wish to be placed on the waiting list.

ACCCN Research Advisory Panel Webinar – 'How to write an abstract'



Would you like to present or submit a project at ANZICS/ACCCN ASM next year or perhaps at another conference/ seminar/ or within your department/ university but you're not sure how/where to start? Or maybe you have written an abstract before but would like to improve or get some extra tips.

The ACCCN Research Advisory invite you to join Frances Bass and Dr Kaye Rolls for the evening and together they will walk you through how to write an abstract for both qualitative and quantitative research, what to include, what reviewers are looking for, how to keep your abstract succinct, who to include as Authors on the abstract and how to keep to time lines.

From this webinar you will receive tips and tricks to set you up, get started, motivated and start writing your abstract.

SA/NT Spring Symposium – ‘Advanced Ventilation’



The ACCCN SA/NT Committee are excited to announce their Spring Symposium on *Advanced Ventilation*. The Symposium will be held at Rydges Hotel, Adelaide from 8am to 12noon and will have a combination of medical and nursing presenters.

WA Deteriorating Cardiac Patient Study Day – ‘A Change of Heart’



The day examines acquired and congenital cardiac disease in both the paediatric and adult cardiac patient, which can sometimes lead to the need for 'A Change of Heart', especially for the acutely unwell and deteriorating cardiac patient.

Participants will be introduced to the latest research around caring for 'dead' hearts, and the recognised need to maintain viability of the heart in readiness for transplant. They will also hear a very personal recounting of a heart transplant recipient's experience, as well as be presented with incredible case studies from both the adult and paediatric streams. The heart-warming story of being a parent of a child with a cardiac condition will be presented in the paediatric stream.

Participants will be able to move between the two streams according to their preference, as both the adult and the paediatric streams will be running concurrently throughout the day.

Early bird registration available until 8th October!

The WA Branch will host an AGM after the study day and an invitation is extended to all financial members to come along, participate and embrace the opportunity to become actively involved in ACCCN. Come down for a sundowner drink and meet the committee from 5pm at The Hyatt Regency.

VIC Critical Care Seminar – ‘In Case U missed it: Innovations and Inspiration’



ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM 2022



We are pleased to confirm that the next ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM will be held from **27-29 April 2022** at the **International Convention Centre, Sydney**.

The Annual Scientific Meeting will be the preeminent critical care conference in Australasia for the calendar year and will be an important platform that will allow doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners to meaningfully connect and discuss new developments and research in the field of intensive and critical care

The theme of the meeting is “**Harbouring Excellence in Intensive Care and Beyond**” and will focus upon the excellence and innovation achieved in the intensive care sector throughout Australia, New Zealand and the world.

For further information please visit the [ASM website](#).

Call for Expressions of Interest - Nursing Convener AEM 2022 Sea World Resort Gold Coast, October 20-21

The AEM is a unique educational event for all critical care nurses working in Australia and New Zealand intensive care, emergency, cardiology and rural sectors to enhance their professional career with knowledge, information and networking opportunities. Our delegates are a diverse mix of bedside clinicians, educators, managers and leaders in their field of practice.

Expressions of interest are currently being sought from members of the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN) for the role of AEM 2022 Nursing Convener. The conference convener will be a content expert in the field of adult critical care nursing. The AEM Convener will guide the organisation, preparation and delivery of the 2022 Annual Education Meeting in Australia. The successful applicant will work with the ACCCN Events Coordinator and ACCCN National Events Committee (NEC) to provide leadership in all activities associated with creating a high quality and dynamic conference program for AEM 2022.

Closing date - Friday 14th October 2021

[Click here for more information](#)

Industry Event

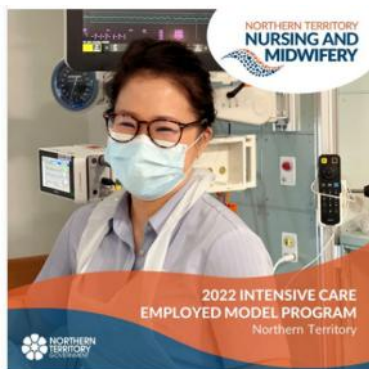
The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) and the Australian and New Zealand Nursing-Midwifery Clinical Trials Network (ANZNMCTN) are pleased to present the inaugural Nursing and Midwifery Life as a Clinician-Scientist webinar on **Wednesday 6 October from 2pm to 4.30pm**. The online event aims to encourage and inspire nurses and midwives to consider a career as a clinician-scientist.

Please find the [promotional flyer here](#).

Registration is \$15 and can be purchased [online here](#).



Employment Opportunities



Applications for the 2022 Intensive Care Employed Model Program are now open!

Royal Darwin Palmerston Hospital is offering a unique opportunity for Registered Nurses and Midwives to undertake Post Graduate Studies in Critical Care through a one or two-year paid employment program (Graduate Certificate).

Successful applicants must be eligible for employment with Top End Regional Health Service as a Registered Nurse and meet Flinders University or Queensland University of Technology enrolment criteria.

Applications close 7/10/2021

For further information, please contact Andrea Kraler on 08 8922 7605 or andrea.kraler@nt.gov.au

Apply Online: [Jobs - Registered Nurse/Midwife \(nt.gov.au\)](https://jobs-registered-nurse-midwife.nt.gov.au)



Critical Care Registered Nurse - Intensive Care

Opportunities at Monash Medical Centre and Casey Hospital

Be part of the frontline management of patient care in our critical care environments

We currently have a permanent full time and part-time opportunities for a Critical Care Registered Nurses with postgraduate qualifications.

At Monash Health, our Intensive Care Units at Monash Medical Centre and Casey hospitals are looking to grow the dedicated & knowledgeable teams to support the growth within the service and we are wanting you to bring your demonstrated skills and experience within Critical Care, to look after our patients.

Flexibility to work a minimum of 24 hours per week across a 24/7 rotating roster

Apply NOW to be part of our ICU expansion and growth!

[For more details about the role plus how to apply, please click here!](#)



Opportunities exist for registered nurses to work in the Intensive Care Unit at Royal Darwin Hospital.

The Intensive Care Unit is a highly dynamic environment consisting of 18 beds, caring for critically ill adults and children.

Join our team of passionate clinicians, delivering exceptional patient outcomes and experiences and motivating one another to continually learn, improve and promote best practice.

Come North to experience the enviable laid-back lifestyle embraced by Territorians.

Through growing your career in the Territory, you will be offered a competitive salary, salary packaging, 6 weeks annual leave and excellent career progression opportunities.

Relocation and quarantine assistance is available.

Application close 18/10/2021

For further information, please contact Andrea Kraler on 08 8922 7605 or andrea.kraler@nt.gov.au

Apply Online: [Jobs - Registered Nurse - Critical Care Services \(nt.gov.au\)](https://jobs-registered-nurse-critical-care-services.nt.gov.au)



Short-term Nursing Contracts with Incentives

Be part of the team fighting COVID - we need you in Western NSW Local Health District

If you are an experienced ED or ICU nurse with a sense of adventure, a commitment to those in need and keen to make a difference to the lives of the people of rural & remote Australia – we have a great opportunity for you!

We are after ED/ICU nurses who can assist our COVID teams in hospital and in the home, to look after our community and get the breaks and rest that they need. We are well equipped, have an unrivalled safety record and very much value our short-term staff, working together in a welcoming and inclusive way that sincerely expresses our appreciation.

This will be a well-regarded position on your resume, demonstrating your commitment, capability and adaptability of skills in a once in a lifetime global pandemic. Please join us

Learn more and submit your expression of interest here: <https://bit.ly/3tsgnsh>



Registered Nurses – Adult and/or Paediatrics – Emergency Department

We're Excited!

At Monash Medical Centre (MMC), our Emergency Department (ED) nursing team is excited and proud; the first phase of our expansion is complete and we have hired amazing experienced nursing talent to support our growth.

Our new ED is equipped with improved facilities enabling us to deliver enhanced services in a sustainable design filled with colour, natural light, space and state of the art technology. Now offering dedicated Adult and Paediatrics areas, our ED nursing team maintains its unwavering commitment to deliver patient centred emergency care across the whole life cycle.

We invite passionate emergency care Registered Nurses to join us as we continue our expansion journey to support the growing health care needs of our local community.

Flexibility to work a minimum of 24 hours per week across a 24/7 rotating roster

Apply NOW to be part of our ED expansion and growth!

[For more details about the role plus how to apply, please click here](#)