



ACMHN
2023

47TH INTERNATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
NURSING CONFERENCE

Twenty-Ninth Annual Oration and Investiture Ceremony

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

MELBOURNE | SOFITEL MELBOURNE ON COLLINS

#ACMHN2023 | www.acmhn2023.com





**AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE
OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSES**

Twenty–Ninth Annual Oration and Investiture Ceremony

PROGRAM

Program commences at 3:30 pm

Acting President, Mr Matthew Ireland to take the podium and welcome invited guests, Life Members, Fellows, and Members.

INVESTITURE OF MEMBERS

Acting President presents the candidates for Investiture as members of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses Inc. New members are invited to stand as they are formally invested and welcomed into the College.

INVESTITURE OF FELLOWS

Acting President introduces members who have met the criteria for Fellowship and invests the new Fellows into the College. Acting President confers the award of Fellowship on the candidates. Fellows are invited to the stage to receive their Fellowship Certificate.

2023 FELLOWS

Dr Catherine Daniel
 Dr Debra Klages
 Mr Ryan Zeppa-Cohen

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Michael Blair

BOARD DIRECTORS 2023

Acting President – Mr Matthew Ireland
 Acting Vice President –
 Professor Rhonda Wilson

BOARD DIRECTORS

Professor Michael Hazelton
 – Outgoing President
 Professor John Hurley –
 Outgoing Vice President
 Ms Kristy Arrol
 Mr Francis Acquah
 Mr Michael Blair
 Dr Patricia Bradley
 Dr Richard Lakeman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr Adrian Armitage

CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE

Ms Catherine Hangan (Chair)
 Mrs Bosede Adetifa
 Mr Robert Batterbee
 Ms Elaine Ford
 Mr Paul Odoemena
 Ms Jillian Reid
 Mr Robert Silburn
 Mrs Joanne Wild

EDUCATION & ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Mrs Amanda Cole (Chair)
 Mr Darren Byrne
 Ms Alison Hansen

Miss Kate Currey
 Mrs Jessica McEvoy
 Mr Cameron Marshman
 Mr Joseph Niroskumar
 Miss Julie Porter

Acknowledgement to past contributors over the last 12 months:

Ms Julie Bradshaw
 Mrs Nicole Graham
 Ms Jillian Reid

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Mr Adrian Armitage – CEO
 Ms Irene Dummett –
 Operations Manager
 Mr Francis Acquah
 Dr Richard Lakeman

ACMHN CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Dr Catherine Daniel (Chair)
 Professor Michael Hazelton
 – Outgoing President
 Mr Adrian Armitage – CEO
 Mr Michael Blair
 Dr Brent Hayward
 Ms Joanne Suggett
 Ms Ellen Fraser – Event Manager

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

Professor Kim Usher (Editor-in-Chief)
 Professor Kim Foster
 (Associate Editor)
 Dr Tanya Park (Associate Editor)
 Associate Professor Sebastian
 Gabrielsson (Associate Editor)
 Dr Brett Scholz (Associate Editor)
 Professor Rhonda Wilson
 (Social Media Editor)
 Dr Denis Visentin (Statistical
 Consultant)

COUNCIL OF BRANCHES

Mr Matthew Ireland (Chair)

BRANCH CHAIRS:

Mr Matthew Ireland (Greater Sydney)
 Mr Ciaran Carolan (Northern NSW)
 Mr Thomas Ryan (Northern Qld)
 Ms Vicki Green (Southern Qld)
 Mr Martin Musco (Northern Territory)
 Mr James Houghton (Victoria)
 Dr Marie Boulianne
 (Western Australia)

STATE MEMBERS:

Ms Cecily Pollard (Tasmania)
Acknowledgement to past contributors over the last 12 months:
 Mr Michael Blair (Victoria)
 – Outgoing Chair
 Ms Donna Hodgson (ACT)
 Mr Neil Spencer (Northern Territory)
 Mrs Monica Taylor (Western Australia)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS:

Mr John Forster (Consultation Liaison)
 Ms Julie Sharrock (Clinical
 Supervision)
 Ms Alison Hansen (Forensic
 Mental Health)
 Ms Claire Hudson-McAuley
 (Psychotherapy)
 Miss Julie Porter (Education)
 Ms Sonia Miller (Nurse
 Practitioners Mental Health)
 Dr Susan Sumskis
 (Contemplative Practices)

ACMHN CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Mr Adrian Armitage – CEO
 Ms Irene Dummett –
 Operations Manager
 Ms Ellen Fraser – Event
 Manager (Chair)
 Ms Sophie Howard – Media Officer
 Mr Angus Jolly – Marketing Officer
 Ms Bethany Longden –
 Membership Officer
 Ms Lauren Tait – Senior
 Administration Officer



LIFE MEMBER 2023

Mr Michael Blair



Michael Blair has been confirmed by the Board as a Life Member of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

Mick (as most people know him) has dedicated his career to Specialist Mental Health Nursing, his knowledge and commitment to mental health nursing has been life-long. Throughout this long career he was a mental health nurse that developed increasing curiosity for all areas of our profession, a Credentialed Mental Health Nurse, and advocate for consumers and nurses.

For the College, he has been a long-standing active member, working in branch and national roles, as either in Branch Executive, Conference Convenor or serving numerous terms as National Board Director and past Treasurer. He was co-author of our current constitution, co-author of standing orders for Board and Branch meetings, the first Treasurer to provide an 'unqualified Audit of Accounts' to Annual General Meeting. He has been known for his contribution at the Annual General Meeting of the College and has advocated for a return to branches being more autonomous with funds allocated to continue the volunteer work for the College and a need for the College to focus all attentions on developing new pathways that lead directly to the profession.

Mick is a proven nursing leader, holding past positions such as acting Nursing Director, Nurse Manager, Senior Project Officer for Capital Works and Strategic Health Planning, Nursing Research Operations and Projects Officer, Nurse Manager Informatics, Mental Health Project Officer for MHPOD online education development, Clinician in the community and crisis teams (Regional, Rural and Metro), advancing and challenging the discipline of mental health nursing to maintain its standards and be strident advocates for consumers and families.

Mick as a Board Director is known for his unwavering support and belief in the vision for the College. He greatly contributed to the development and running of the ACMHN Tropical Symposium, which ran for twelve years in Far North Queensland. Since then, he has been a stalwart member of the International Conference Committee and has been able to provide continuity across many conferences, assisting the College staff in ensuring we hold a successful conference each year.

He is a role model for mental health nurses everywhere – he is accessible, curious about knowledge and advancing practice, supportive, and empowering.

He has presented to numerous National and State commissions, enquiries, and reviews of legislation on behalf of the College and represented the Board in his retirement to champion the cause for Specialist Mental Health Nursing in the political arena.

Mick will be the first to admit that the path along this journey has sometimes come at a cost, I am sure there would be many who could recall "feathers being ruffled" by his forthright and sometimes belligerent manner; but it was always with good intention. His final message is we need to show passion and belief in all of our negotiations about the future of the profession.

The future of specialist mental health nursing and our College is dependent on people like Mick standing up for what they truly believe in.



29TH ANNUAL ORATION






Orator: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane

Emeritus Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane (BSc Hons, RN, Grad Dip Adult End, MNS, PhD, PhD, Credentialed MHN, FACMHN) is the past Chair of Nursing (Mental Health) at Flinders University in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, past President and Board member of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

Eimear has been researching in the area of mental health and mental illness, in acute psychiatric inpatients, Emergency Departments and community settings specifically around conflict and containment: seclusion, absconding, aggression and violence and physical restraint for over twenty-five years. Her work aimed to improve the experiences of care in Emergency Departments and acute inpatient units of consumers and to improve clinical practice to offer least restrictive care practices.



Australian College of Mental Health Nurses

-  Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
-  @ACMHN
-  Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
-  @theacmhn
-  THEACMHN

Australian College of
Mental Health Nurses
PO Box 154
Deakin West ACT 2600

Tel: 02 6285 1078
Email: enquiries@acmhn.org

