

**E**very nurse who qualifies, can identify many things that have influenced their practice and career development. For some they are personal, family and friends who have supported decisions on future direction and some of the challenges that a career in nursing can bring. For others, it is a team or organisation that in some way reflects the very essence of caring and professionalism that many of us sort on entering the nursing profession.

Working with team from BARNa over the last 5 years, has been a hugely rewarding experience for me. It has been a time of tremendous and exciting change for both the organisation and the peri-anaesthetic nursing. The organisation has undergone some fundamental changes both in terms of executive structure to services offered to members of the association. The Association has influenced the agenda for peri-anaesthetic nursing on a national and local level, that has also given a rise to the profile of anaesthetic and recovery nurses. This has been achieved with a great deal of hard work from voluntary members of the committee, who manage every aspect of the organisation from membership to conference planning (Plus day jobs in Theatre and recovery units across the country.). Every member of the committee is committed to bring the Association the recognition that it deserves, and it has been a privileged to work within that committee. It is this commitment that made my years as Chair very enjoyable, and an ethos that I know will continue to make the Association a success.

Back in April of this year, saw the safe arrival of my daughter Eleanor. This life changing event has seen some major evaluation of priorities, with my partner and I. Before Ellie was born, it was clear to me that the early years of her life were precious would rocket by (and they certainly have !!), and that I would like to spend as much time with her as possible. I explained to the committee prior to conference, and to the members at conference that I would be stepping down as Chair at this years conference.

One very important part of my work with the association, was the journal. I was asked back in 1997 to examine the journal in its current format – Anaesthetic & Recovery Nurse – and see what could be done so that the journal could reflect more the association and the general arena of the peri-anaesthetic nursing. Many of the changes we made examined the content of the journal, looking to add many types of information relating to anaesthetic and recovery nursing. During this same period we were very fortunate to bring on board, Jan Nelson, a desktop and graphic designer who transformed some of my ideas from scrappy bits of paper and photocopies to a very professional journal. The whole journal had changed so radically, that the name change became the next step in 1999 to the British Journal of Anaesthetic & Recovery Nursing. I have been very proud of those who have contributed and worked on the journal over the many years since it first started, their hard work and commitment was recognised this year when subscription requests came from the British Library and



British Nursing Index. This elevated the journal to a level where it is now included in reference indexes such as CINHAl and the RCN.

It has also come time to hand over the journal to a new team, that are able to take the development of the journal to a new stage. An injection of new ideas and enhancement of existing ones, with a 'fresh pair of eyes' is an important step in the evolution of any journal to remain responsive to the needs of the members and the wider readership. This handover has required some time to co-ordinate, considering the amount of information required producing one journal. The association has appointed a new editor for the journal, Melanie Oakley, a Senior Lecturer from Kingston University & St George's Hospital Medical School, who has been a member of the Association for many years and will make a great success of the journal.

I know Melanie has some great ideas that will start filtering through in the next journals, and wish her and the team of BJARN every success.

The very best of wishes

Mark Radford