



Notes from... the Nurse Educator **Linda Graham** - Contact: (03) 6224 3077 or Mobile: 0407 822 787

Hopefully everyone will have received this issue via e-mail—if there are any facilities or persons you know who have not received this can you please send us their e-mail address.

Please note the training offered below - please use the application form included in this newsletter. (Training sessions are free)

September 2008 - “Understanding & Managing Symptoms of Dementia” - 0900-1600hrs

South - 9th - Venue - Alzheimer’s Aust. Tas. Training Rooms - 119 Macquarie St. Hobart (RSVP 26th Aug ‘08)

North West - 16th - Venue - Beachway - 1 Heathcote St. Ulverstone (RSVP 2nd Sept ‘08)

North - 17th - Venue - The Grange - Campbell Town (RSVP 3rd Sept ‘08)

November 2008 - “Relationships & Dementia” & “What’s New!” - 0900-1600hrs

South - 5th - Venue - Alzheimer’s Australia Tas, 119 Macquarie St. Hobart (RSVP 22nd Oct ‘08)

North West - 12th - Venue - Beachway - 1 Heathcote St. Ulverstone (RSVP 29th Oct ‘08)

North - 13th - Venue - The Grange - Campbell Town (RSVP 30th Oct ‘08)

March 2009 - “Will Your Documentation Stand up in Court?” & Restraint/Falls Prevention” - 0900-1600hrs

South - 19th - Venue - Alzheimer’s Australia Tas, 119 Macquarie St. Hobart (RSVP 5th Mar ‘09)

North West - 25th - Venue - Beachway - 1 Heathcote St. Ulverstone (RSVP 11th Mar ‘09)

North - 26th - Venue - The Grange - Campbell Town (RSVP 12th Mar ‘09)

May 2009 - “Environmental Considerations for those People Living With Dementia” & “Communication Strategies” - 0900-1600hrs

South - 14th - Venue - Alzheimer’s Australia Tas, 119 Macquarie St. Hobart (RSVP 30th Apr ‘09)

North West - 19th - Venue - Beachway - 1 Heathcote St. Ulverstone (RSVP 5th May ‘09)

North - 20th - Venue - The Grange - Campbell Town (RSVP 6th May ‘09)

June 2009 - “Understanding & Managing Symptoms of Dementia” - 0900-1600hrs

South - 18th - Venue - Alzheimer’s Australia Tas, 119 Macquarie St. Hobart (RSVP 4th Jun ‘09)

North West - 24th - Venue - Beachway - 1 Heathcote St. Ulverstone (RSVP 10th Jun ‘09)

North - 25th - Venue - The Grange - Campbell Town (RSVP 11th Jun ‘09)

Confirmation of registration will be sent one week prior to commencement of course.

Initially there will be 4 places offered to each facility per course, though a wait list will be kept and Supervisors / Managers will be notified if places become available.

Morning, afternoon tea and a light lunch will be provided for whole day workshops.

If you wish to register staff for any training, please use the registration form included & fax to **Linda Graham, Fax: (03) 6224 1244**



An Australian Government Initiative



Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (DBMAS) Newsletter

Words from... **Jackie Morling** State-wide Coordinator for Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services (DBMAS) Contact: (03) 6230 7541 or Mobile: 0419 395 170

Hello and welcome to the third edition (May/June 2008) of the Tasmanian DBMAS newsletter. The last couple of months have flown by at the DBMAS with a constant flow of referrals and promotional activities.

The Psychogeriatric Liaison Officer positions in the three regions have been re-advertised and interviews conducted for the positions.

Interviews were held at the beginning of June for the Southern position and the position has been filled by Kathryn Gregory, a very experienced practitioner in the field of dementia care. Kathryn commences on the 15th July 2008 and will be working three days per week.

North and North/West interviews were conducted in the last week of June and hopefully the selection process will be completed by the end of July. Stakeholders will be informed when the positions are filled and the DBMAS will then be operating as a fully functional Statewide Service.

Matthew Aston who has been acting in the Southern Psychogeriatric Liaison Officer position will return to his role with the Community Case Management Team—Older Persons Mental Health Services South (OPMHS South). Matthew has been a valuable member of the DBMAS team and I would like to thank him for his efforts and his dedication to the DBMAS over the last two years. The DBMAS wish Matthew all the best for the future.

Don't forget the DBMAS 24 hour assistance number, **1800 699 799**, the number operates 7 days per week including public holidays.

During Business hours (9am – 5pm) Monday to Friday the Tasmanian DBMAS will answer all calls and at other times the number will divert to the South Australian DBMAS.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact DBMAS on: Phone: **62 307 541** Email: dbmas@dhhs.tas.gov.au



Jottings from... **Julia Zantuck & Danielle Cranage**

Admin Support Officers P/T.- Contact: (03) 6230 7541

Thanks to all Aged Care Facilities that are now using the correct DBMAS ‘Referral Form’, unfortunately the occasional old form is still being faxed through and we are unable to act on these. Please phone if you require a copy of our new ‘DBMAS Referral Form’ and we will be happy to fax or email one to you.

Inserts to be found with this issue are—

DBMAS Loan Arrangement Changes

DBMAS Training Registration form

Dementia Awareness Month Luncheon Seminar flyer



Musings from... Matthew Aston A/Liaison Officer—Contact: (03) 6230 7541 or Mobile: 0419 556 486.



Recently I was looking at the website for dementia care Australia www.dementiacareaustralia.com There was a group of “testimonials” and one of them interested me in particular. I’ll quote it in full.

“We wore our regular name badges for two weeks and kept score as to how many times residents initiated interaction by calling the staff members by name. The outcome was 0 times. Then we wore our new name badges that were written in Times New Roman, black on white, size 60 font, bold and expanded and upper and lower case letters, for two weeks. The outcome was that the residents called staff members by name 122 times. Not only did our residents with dementia love the new name badges but our alert and oriented residents voiced appreciation also.” Ruth Hovland, Wisconsin, USA.

This caused me to think along these lines: Of the many occasions, say while writing notes in a nurses station alone, that I have been approached by bewildered residents and asked questions like “what will I do now?” My usual response is to explain that I don’t work here and that I’m a visitor and then I escort them to a staff member. The staff member will usually be dressed in clothing that has some resemblance to a uniform, for me. Very often the person will not be wearing any name tag, but if they were, the writing will be so small that a visually impaired resident with dementia will be unable to read it. Without a name tag, the staff member may seem to be just another stranger or even another resident. It is a very common occurrence for confused residents to approach or intrude on other residents looking for direction or reassurance, increasing the risk of aggression or agitation from either party. Understandably, we will not be returning to the days when “nurses” wore white dresses and were very easily identified. The testimonial quoted above provides an idea about how we might put in place easily achieved strategies to help confused residents to more easily differentiate staff from other people. All people working with residents who have dementia need to be identifiable in this way, including cleaning, kitchen, maintenance staff and volunteers.



Here is Matt modeling his new badge.

We would love to hear from staff that are using this method already and from those who will give it a trial—we will publish the feedback in the next newsletter.



From the Fact sheet - Exelon® (rivastigmine transdermal patch)

Exelon® (rivastigmine transdermal patch) is a once-daily transdermal patch applied to the skin that provides a smooth and continuous delivery of rivastigmine into the bloodstream over 24 hours.¹

Exelon Patch is the first and only skin patch approved for the treatment of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

Exelon Patch will be subsidised on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 1 July 2008.²

Exelon Patch can reduce side effects compared to the oral formulation and provide easier access to optimal therapeutic doses, with potential improvements in efficacy.¹ In addition, based on clinical findings of the pivotal study, the Exelon Patch is preferred by carers because it helps manage patient care and gives visual reassurance that the medication has been administered.³

Consumer Medicines Information for Exelon Patch is available on the Novartis website: www.novartis.com.au



We now have the self-directed learning package on a disc as well as hard copies. Please contact us if you are interested in using this tool for your staff, especially the ECA’s. The package is titled “Communication and the Person Living with Dementia” which I believe is the stepping stone to delivering high quality care to those PLWD.

If there is a topic you would like to see as a self-directed learning

Just a Reminder—If you are Professional Staff (RN, Social Worker etc.) don’t forget the following training which is available to you, on-line or paper based and FREE!

The Victorian and Tasmanian Dementia Training Study Centre is an initiative of the Australian Government in line with its recognition of dementia as a national health priority.

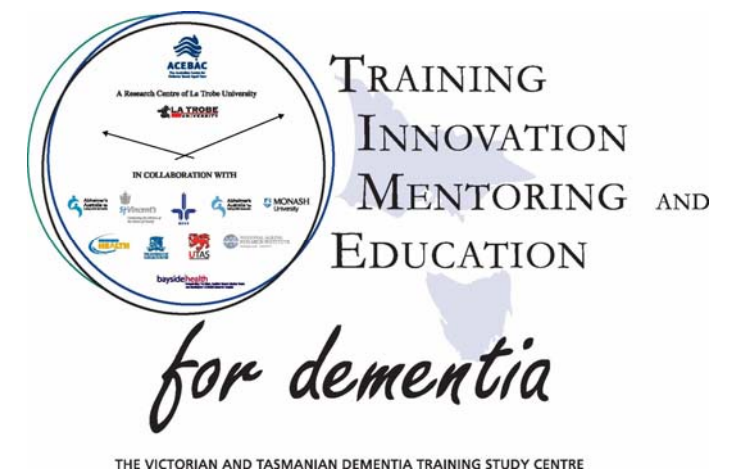
TIME for dementia is coordinated by the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC); a research centre of La Trobe University, Bundoora.

TIME for dementia will offer on-line and paper based training packages to health care professionals from all disciplines.

TIME for dementia will provide registered participants with access to experts in the field of dementia care through the mentorship program.

TIME for dementia will promote dementia related research through provision of PhD scholarships.

TIME for dementia will provide education packages to undergraduate health care students.



Further information regarding scholarships and registration to access the education package can be found on the TIME for dementia website at: www.timefordementia.org or by contacting on (03) 9495-3141

Linda Graham is one of the Tasmanian mentors for nurses undertaking the course and can be contacted on 6224 3077 or 0407 822 787.