



# hunter branch



Established 1979

Newsletter Spring 2009

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Bryan Dunn

**Mental Health**

Joan Gillis

**Member Services**

Kathy Soper

**Student Representative**

Judith Rodgers

**Administration Officer**

Ruth Cathcart

## 30th Anniversary of the Hunter Branch

The Hunter Branch celebrated it's 30th Anniversary in style at Noah's on the Beach last month. Around sixty-five members from past and present attended. The night was filled with fine food, wonderful music, and a great mix of social workers from the past 30 years. A big thank you to all the guests who attended, we hope you had an enjoyable and memorable night.

Special thanks to our guest speakers, Naomi Spencer, Bryan Dunn, Albert Haig, Brian English and Bob Lonne for making their contributions to our 30th anniversary celebrations.

### Grace Parbery Award 2009

The Branch Management Committee was very pleased to present the Grace Parbery Award to Bryan Dunn at our 30th anniversary dinner.



From left: Naomi Spencer, Henritte Norath, Dao Norath & Ruth Cathcart.



From left: National President Bob Lonne, Grace Parbery recipient Bryan Dunn, & Hunter Branch President David McNamara.

## Newcastle University 4th Year Student Conference

### 'Social Work and Social Inclusion'

The 4th year student conference will be run over two days at the end of October and the theme is social work and social inclusion.

Students will be presenting papers focused on this theme and link this to their studies and placement experiences.

Social workers from the field are encouraged to come along to the conference to support the final year students and is an exciting opportunity learn more about contemporary research in different practice fields.

There is a website where you can check what topics will be presented.

[www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/events/social-work-conference.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/events/social-work-conference.html)

**Date:** Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th October

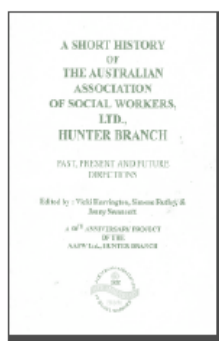
**Time:** 9:00am-4:00pm

**Venue:** University of Newcastle, Shortland Building.

For further enquires, please contact Lou Johnston:

Lou.Johnston@newcastle.edu.au.

Check out the  
new AASW  
website  
[aasw.asn.au](http://aasw.asn.au)  
and search for  
Hunter  
Branch



A brief history of the Hunter Branch was published in 1996.

### Branch Management Committee Meetings

The Committee meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 6PM-8PM.

We are currently meeting at the Royal Newcastle Centre, New Lambton.

AASW Hunter Branch members are welcome to join committee meetings each month.

### AGM 2009

The Hunter Branch held its AGM in September this year. An exciting year has passed, with the Branch's 30th Anniversary celebrated in August. Proceedings at the AGM discussed the year's events so far, including the Social Work Trauma conference held in April, 'Engaging Men' workshop held in June, and the recent 'Growing Luxuriously' workshop held in August.

The committee also looked to the year ahead, with the upcoming 4th year student conference and the proposed ethics conference to be held early in 2010. Planning for future CPE events in 2010 are now underway.

Nominations for Hunter Branch committee members were collected and new committee members were announced. Some members were farewelled and new members were welcomed. Many thanks and appreciation to our outgoing committee members; Henriette Norath, Kerry Morrissey, Kylie Fisher, and Sue John. A warm welcome to our new committee members; Mal Fletcher, Max Morrissey, Janis Mendoza, and Jude Rodgers (student representative).

### "Growing Luxuriously" Workshop

12 months ago the social workers with the Greater Newcastle Cluster of the Hunter New England Area Health Service stopped to consider how, as a team, they had engaged with one another over the years to develop sustaining work practices that valued self care, compassion, personal values, social justice, and human rights. This is where the idea of a workshop was born and Growing Luxuriously was created. The team wanted to provide an opportunity for social workers to come together and reconnect with what had brought them to social work in the first place. 120 social workers from across the Hunter gathered at East Maitland Bowling Club to begin the journey. The theme of the day was to have fun, relax, and reconnect. The morning was facilitated by Steve Armstrong which saw the Community Health Social Work team take part in a reflective talk about their practice and social work values. The afternoon consisted of a panel of social workers from varying experiences and expertise engage in a panel discussion of what keeps them connected to their social work practice. Feedback indicated social workers felt nourished, inspired, lightened and re-motivated about their work.

The success of the day was contributed to by the Hunter Street TAFE multi-media and digital arts class and four social work students on field placement who helped out with the organisation and delivery.

-The Community Health Social Work Team.



### For Your Diary... email us for more information

#### Student Conference

This will be held at Newcastle University and is an open event for social workers in the field.

**Theme:** Social Work and Social Inclusion.  
**Date:** 28th & 29th October  
**Time:** 9:00am-4:00pm  
**Venue:** University of Newcastle, Shortland Building.

#### CPE Events 2010

CPE planning for 2010 is underway. For your say in what type of event you would like to be involved in please email your ideas to Mal Fletcher:

Mal.Fletcher2@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Stayed tuned for upcoming CPE events in 2010.

#### Christmas Dinner

The Hunter Branch comes together at the end of each year for a final meeting and a celebration of the festive season. Members and guests are invited to join the committee at the beginning of December. Plans are not yet finalised, but information will be sent out to members closer to the event.