



Vale Jackie Dalzell

1935 – 2016

Jackie was a former president of ACORN and a well-respected operating room nurse, leader and administrator.

Jackie was a graduate of The Royal Melbourne Hospital and became Senior Nursing Officer, Operating Suite at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne. She served on the VPNG Committee from 1977 to 1987. Jackie was involved in the review of the original resolutions, taken at the inaugural ACORN Conference in 1977 that led to the ACORN Standards. She took part in the development of the resolution that a national standard be set for pack and gauze count and this became the standard 'Management of accountable items'.

During her term on VPNG, she held positions of chair and senior vice-chair and in 1988 Jackie was awarded life membership of VPNG.

Jackie was an ACORN councillor from 1980 to 1986. Between 1983 and 1986 she was president of ACORN, the first Victorian to hold this position. The 1986 ACORN Conference, 'Caveat Emptor – let the buyer beware', was held in Melbourne at the Southern Cross Hotel under Jackie's leadership. The other major achievements under Jackie's tenure as president were:

- the decision to produce a national journal replacing the *ACORN News* that was published in Davis and Geck's newsletter *Gown and Gloves*
- the development of a standard for staffing operating suites
- the establishment of an education committee.

Jackie was also a long-serving secretary of The Royal Melbourne Hospital Graduate Nurses' Association where she was a role model and mentor for many.

Jackie's own words about her operating room nursing career were captured in *Unmasked*, the history of VPNG.

"What I remember most [of my time with VPNG] was a lot of hard work, much of which was weekends and evenings, with no one minding and everyone having a lot of fun and happy times even when we may have disagreed. Firm friendships, which have lasted over many years, were developed amongst OR nurses and especially from the committee. The best thing I did in my nursing career was work in the operating suite and be involved with VPNG and ACORN."

Carolyn William FACORN

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