

VPNG COUNTRY
CONFERENCE 2026

CÖDE COMMUNICATION

Building Stronger Perioperative Teams
for Safer Outcomes


VPNG
victorian perioperative
nurses group



DELEGATE REGISTRATION



SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST 2026
9AM - 5PM



MERCURE CONVENTION
CENTRE, **BALLARAT**

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PRESIDENT WELCOME

Dear Delegates

I am pleased to invite you to attend the Victorian Perioperative Nurses Group (VPNG) Country Conference to be held on Saturday 8th August 2026 at the Mercure Convention Centre in Ballarat.

On behalf of VPNG, you are invited to join the Committee and Trade Partners for a day of high-quality professional education, connection and collaboration. The 2026 Country Conference will feature engaging presentations from the broader perioperative and healthcare community, with a strong focus on communication, patient safety and interdisciplinary practice.

The program will include evidence-based presentations showcasing contemporary research and quality improvement initiatives aimed at enhancing perioperative patient outcomes across the entire perioperative continuum. This exchange of knowledge provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen practice across metropolitan, rural and regional settings. Importantly, the conference will also provide a platform for innovative rural and regional projects to be shared with the wider perioperative community, recognising the essential contribution of country clinicians.

The VPNG Country Conference also offers valuable networking opportunities for perioperative nurses and trade partners to connect, and for clinicians to build professional relationships, share experiences and strengthen collaboration across diverse practice settings. These connections support ongoing innovation, education and excellence in perioperative care.

We would be delighted for you to join us for this important professional event and look forward to welcoming you to Ballarat in 2026.



Michelle Hibberson
VPNG President

ALL CONFERENCE ENQUIRIES

Office Contact Details:

Raechel Richards, Administration Manager

Email: enquiries@vpng.org.au

Telephone: 1300 721 169 (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only)

Post: PO Box 106, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

CONFERENCE PROGRAM DETAILS, SATURDAY 8 AUGUST AM

0800 – 0855 **REGISTRATION, WELCOME TEA & COFFEE & OPENING OF TRADE EXHIBITION**

JUNE ALLEN PLENARY SESSION

0900 – 0915 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country, MICHELLE HIBBERSON, President | VPNG

0915 – 1015 **KEYNOTE - A Safer Nurse Has Safer Patients: True or False?** DR MICHAEL SINNOTT, Co-Founder & DR CHAMINDIKA KONARA, Contributor | StaffandPatientSafety.org

1015 – 1045 **MORNING TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	Judith Bridges Concurrent Session 1	Bernadette Brennan Concurrent Session 2
1045 – 1115	Bridging the Gap: Turning Critical Moments into Coordinated Action for Safer Outcomes DANA LEATHAN, Midwifery Unit Manager & KAREN WYNNE, Perioperative Nurse Unit Manager Bayside Health - Leongatha campus	TRADE WORKSHOP Zign light Testing Device-Importance of testing light leads and scopes  HEATON INSTRUMEDICS GOLD SPONSOR
1115 – 1145	Factors influencing nurses' confidence or competence in their preceptorship role in the critical care context: A scoping review AMY LONCARIC, ANUM & Master of Advanced Nursing Student St Vincent's Private & Monash University	Front of Neck Access (FONA) airway at a rural healthcare service KYM DISTON, Clinical Support Nurse & MADELEINE KELLY, Registered Nurse West Gippsland Healthcare Group
1145 – 1215	Empowering Perioperative Nurses: Healthscope's 12 Week Specialty Transition Program CATHERINE MCKELLAR, Head of Learning & VANESSA BRENNAN, Head of Learning Healthscope	ERAS Pathway MATTHEW HALL, ERAS Coordinator Short Stay Arthroplasty Program & YVETTE CONSOLE, ERAS Coordinator Colorectal and Hepatobiliary Program Barwon Health

1215 – 1315 **LUNCH & TRADE EXHIBITION**

continued...

Please note that topics and times are subject to change.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM DETAILS, SATURDAY 8 AUGUST PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	Helen Barallon Concurrent Session 1	Sr Mary Felix Concurrent Session 2
1315 – 1345	Emergence Delirium JING CUI, Registered Nurse Monash Health	Student or Seniors Card? Adventures of the World's Oldest Perioperative Novice! DON GARLICK, Perioperative Registered Nurse Grampians Health - Ballarat
1345 – 1445	Relocating Withdrawal of Cardio-Respiratory Support (WCRS) to the Theatre Complex: Improving Organ Viability and Perioperative Collaboration in DCDD Pathways CIARA MCGUIGAN, Senior Education Coordinator DonateLife Victoria	Culture and Diversity in Nursing: Enhancing Care and Building Inclusive Practice INDRA DORESAMY & PANEL VPNG

1445 – 1515

AFTERNOON TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

MARY BARRY PLENARY SESSION

1515 – 1545

AGM & Scholarship Awards, MICHELLE HIBBERSON, President | VPNG

1545 – 1645

KEYNOTE - From Data to Duty of Care: AI and Perioperative Team Safety DR SHREYA SINGH, Program Officer & DR MICHAEL SINNOTT, Co-Founder | StaffandPatientSafety.org

1645 – 1700

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

Please note that topics and times
are subject to change.

REGISTRATIONS

Online registration can be completed at <https://thq.fyi/se/tBO3fHU>
Or, use the QR code on the right.



REGISTRATION FEES	MEMBERS		NON MEMBERS	
	EARLY BIRD (until midnight Sun 31 May 2026)	From Mon 1 June 2026	EARLY BIRD (until midnight Sun 31 May 2026)	From 1 June 2026
	\$175 (incl. GST)	\$210 (incl. GST)	\$310 (incl. GST) Join VPNG and pay member rate*	\$340 (incl. GST) Join VPNG and pay member rates*

*Become a member via vpng.org.au/about/membership
and then only pay the member registration rate

Cancellation Policy

All registrants who cancel their registration must do via email to enquiries@vpng.org.au. Registration fees will be refunded as follows:

- Prior to Friday 17/07/2026, 100% of fees less \$50.00 administration costs.
- Refunds for cancellations from Saturday 18/07/2026 are possible only under exceptional circumstances and will be at the discretion of the VPNG Committee.

Privacy Act Statement

Your name has been collected for registration purposes. A registration list will be made available at the conference for sponsors and exhibitors. The list will include your name and hospital only.

If you DO NOT wish your name to appear on this list, please contact the office on enquiries@vpng.org.au

Photo supplied by Travel Victoria

MERCURE CONVENTION CENTRE BALLARAT



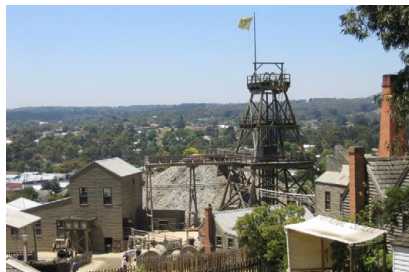
Special accommodation offer for Mercure Ballarat

To book accommodation contact the Reservations team at Mercure Ballarat:

Phone 03 5327 1200, and quote "VPNG Event August 2026" to reserve your room at special discounted event rate.

Payment at time of booking will be required.

BALLARAT TOURISM & ACCOMMODATION



Photos supplied by Travel Victoria

Creativity flows from every corner in Ballarat. Bit by bit, this UNESCO Creative City has transformed from historic gold town into a modern whirlwind of art, culture, food, and wine. Step back in time, retracing remarkable gold rush history in immersive living museums and along heritage walking trails.

Spark your imagination at the oldest – and one of the best – regional art galleries in Australia. Then celebrate the present in modern restaurants, wine bars and breweries. This is the indulgent bit, the come together and feast bit. Every bit of it golden.

FURTHER INFORMATION

visitballarat.com.au

visitballarat.com.au/places-to-stay



VPNG promotion for NEW MEMBERS

**Not a member yet, or membership
expired more than 3 months ago?
Become a member of VPNG!**

If you join from 1st January to 30th June
2026, you will be eligible* to enter into the
monthly draw to win:

COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION
at the

VPNG Country Conference Ballarat
Saturday 8th August 2026

- ◆ VPNG Membership also includes ACORN membership and access to the Standards on your mobile
- ◆ FREE Professional Indemnity Insurance through ACORN
- ◆ FREE Quarterly Snippets digital newsletter
- ◆ FREE VPNG & ACORN Webinars
- ◆ Access to Scholarships & Grants
- ◆ Discounts to Conferences
- ◆ CPD Points
- ◆ Networking opportunities

.....And it's ALL tax deductible!

* Don't forget to list your VPNG Rep as your referral when you join.

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