



· ACORN – May 2018

Sally Sutherland-Fraser was chosen to deliver the Judith Cornell Oration at ACORN, which was announced at the Sydney OTA Annual Conference in March, 2018.

The full oration was made available on-line from the ACORN website after the May conference.

Here are some snippets which will give you an idea of what Sally delivered on the day; of course, it goes without saying it could not possibly do justice to Sal's personal delivery style.

Those of you who have had the opportunity to work with Sal, or were involved with one of the many projects will know exactly what I mean! Sal was always able to get the key messages across with depth, while also touching on the lighter side, and the human element every time!

Her oration took the form of the popular TV series "who do you think you are?" with a twist "I'm a nurse" is the identity Sal announced when she was on site responding to a cardiac arrest in a public situation.

Sal looks back at how she got to this point. She recollects her childhood experiences of interacting with nurses at Mona Vale hospital during her mother's A&E admittance. The impression of the nurse who recognised the young school girl's terror and fear of her mother's situation, and who through her competence was able to calm and comfort her, shaped Sal's ideas about nurses.

Sal went on to study nursing and worked at Mona Vale Hospital. She found her niche in operating theatres after two student placements, discussing how fortunate she was working with people with who made very positive impressions. She touched on the important experiences of working with people who took the time to explain the clinical situation, from NUM's, nurses, EN's, educators, anaesthetist, and facilitators, who encouraged her to express her ideas as she progressed along her nursing journey.

Her experiences cover a wide area of nursing, from paediatric anaesthetic and recovery nursing, to adult perioperative nursing roles. Sal took on the role of Educator at St. George Hospital, then the area CNC for SESAHS, and is known to many nurses from her role at the different hospital sites. She is a strong advocate for good role models, continuing education, and encourages nurses to broaden their knowledge and experience by becoming involved in projects whenever the opportunities arise.

Her oration closes with her experience of her time at the Kid's hospital where a baby was undergoing cardiac surgery. Sal reflects on her excitement in preparing for the role of scrub nurse, and the realisation that it was not what she did that was the most important thing, it was what it meant to the baby's family, which put her needs into the stark perspective....it was a moment to reframe her thinking....to be a better nurse.....

To download Sally's full oration, please click on the URL listed below:

<https://www.acorn.org.au/acorn/awards/judith-cornell-oration/>

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