

Reviewed by Stephen Fisher

Stephen Fisher teaches community development at Chisholm TAFE and is passionate about training for gender equality.

Mosby's Essential Sciences for Therapeutic Massage 3E

Author: Sandy Fritz

Publisher: Elsevier Publishing

Published: May 2008

WHEN I think of massage I bring to mind the smell of aromatic, soothing oil, subdued lighting and Enya playing warmly in the background. I also am aware of the confident presence of a pair of hands that are skillfully kneading away the weeks of tension that inevitably builds from a life in TAFE. But I never even consider the likelihood that my masseur has undertaken years of rigorous training requiring the support of impressive resources such as this excellent book.

I am confident in declaring *Mosby's Essential Sciences for Therapeutic Massage* by Sandy Fritz and M. James Groesenbach (2008) an example of a new millennium UBER-TEXT! Who said print was dead? This text has a far friendlier layout than even the most popular of websites. There is hardly a page that doesn't boast an eye-catching high quality colour graphic reinforcing key concepts.

Each chapter starts with a set of key learning objectives clarifying and focusing the student's learning. Rather than locate key terms at the inconvenient rear, there is a clear glossary on the opening page of each chapter.

Clearly designed for practice, this text offers 'practical applications', break-out boxes throughout that are designed to capture interest and reinforce relevance. Very helpful also are the learning activities sprinkled throughout each chapter that provide immediate feedback on student progress. Of particular interest to teachers will be the extensive 'workbook sections' at the end of each chapter. A lot of thought has gone into preparing a range of self-check mechanisms, ranging from simple 'fill in the blanks' short answer questions, to the more complex assessment tasks. Highly recommended. ❖



Reviewed by Anne Walsh

Anne Walsh is part of the Organisational Improvement team in North Coast Institute (TAFE NSW). She has nearly two decades of experienced delivering and assessing in the vocational and tertiary sectors across a range of qualifications from Electrical

Trades through Business Studies, Communication and initial teacher education.

Budgeting 3rd edition

Authors: Alan Banks and John Giliberti

Publisher: MacGraw Hill

Published: 2008

ONE has only to look at my bank statements to know that I'm not an expert in budgeting. That probably makes me an ideal person to review this 3rd edition of *Budgeting* by Banks and Giliberti.

The first thing that strikes you about this text is that it is *thorough*. Every possible aspect of budgeting is covered comprehensively with simple explanations and examples to consolidate learning. There are self-tests, checklists, practice questions, extra case studies as well as a series of projects that can be used for assessment.

As was the case in the previous editions, this version is logically structured. The good news is that it now covers all the elements in both the Certificate IV unit *Prepare Operational Budgets* and the Diploma unit *Manage Budgets and Forecasts*. The contents of the book have been cross-referenced to the elements in these two units so teachers and trainers can easily identify links.

An indication of the overall quality of this reference is that my few criticisms are minor. For example, within each chapter there is the occasional note to indicate, "you should now be able to do question 1.2". There are so many self-tests, end of chapter questions and so on that it took me a while to work out which ones these notations referred to. I also found it irritating to have the answers provided for the self-tests but not for the questions at the end of each chapter.

Although this reference could be used as an independent study guide I'm more inclined to recommend it for use as a text with teacher support. The layout and instructional design are great although the depth and comprehensiveness of information could daunt inexperienced learners. Overall I would add this to my list of recommended texts. ❖



Reviewed by Gail LeBreton

Gail LeBreton has been a working in tertiary institutions for 30 years, teaching English language, literature, philosophy and business. She started her career at Curtin University and went from there to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Melbourne

University. Gail has also worked in Communications and as the Director of Studies of the ELICOS Centre at Central TAFE, WA.

The Clinical Placement – An Essential Guide for Nursing Students

Author: Tracey Levett Jones and Sharon Bourgeois

Publisher: Elsevier Australia

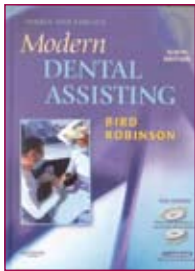
Published: 2007

TRACY Levett Jones and Sharon Bourgeois have produced a fine example of excellence in nursing and teaching practice. It is evident that a great deal of grassroots experience and thought have been applied to the organisation and content. This text, aimed at student nurses going into their first clinical placement, has a wider application. As a lay reader I found the text accessible, interesting and thought provoking, revealing a depth of complexity in nursing far beyond physical care. The tone is direct and engaging and engenders a sense of reliability and reassurance in areas of interaction that a student might otherwise be reluctant to ask about in the workplace. If followed to the letter, it would provide a comprehensive study and discussion package for any teacher. It could also be used as a self study reference to much drier texts for motivated or distance learning students.

There are a number of attractive features to the layout; the quotes at the front of each chapter which place the student in a continuum of people dedicated to service; the precise definitions which occur through the text and in the glossary; the point form which aids comprehension and note taking; the reflective activities which are very '21st century' and the accessibility of references which are placed at the end of each chapter.

The inclusion of insights from clinical experts, with photo, is appreciated in a textbook. They offer a human face, experience and inspiration in specialist areas for students on the brink of their career. Once again, the inclusion of resources, reference details and location of specialist areas of study make this text very user friendly.

The text impressed me with its recognition of the multicultural nature of our society and also the emphasis on respect for aging patients. Many texts are distressingly ethnocentric in their view. ❖



Reviewed by Vicki Fearnley

Vicki Fearnley has been working in Vocational Education TAFE NSW Sydney Institute of Technology and teaching in the field of Dental Studies at Sydney Dental Hospital for the previous 22 years.



Reviewed by Kirsten Bacon

Kristen Bacon is a lecturer in the area of food studies at the Drysdale Institute in Tasmania. She has worked in education in Tasmania, Queensland and Indonesia.



Reviewed by Cecilia Blackwell

Cecilia Blackwell is a mental health teacher, currently researching psychosocial approaches to working with those with mental health problems.

Torres and Ehrlich Modern Dental Assisting 9E

Author: Bird Robinson

Publisher: Elsevier Publishing
Published: April 2008

THIS planned text has been carefully designed for the dental assistant to enhance the knowledge and skills they require to work efficiently and successfully in their profession of dental assisting. Importantly, the authors have taken the time to explore the most suitable state-of-the-art resources, including references and optional supplements for the learner and the teacher or instructor who has elected to use this wonderful text.

The attention-grabbing graphics capture meaning, and have been appropriately linked to the content of each independent chapter.

The text is American based. Parts one, four, five **only** of the text have been written for the American Dental Assisting Profession, and the material is not always appropriate to the requirements of the Australian Dental Profession. The teacher or facilitator will accordingly be required to research and deliver appropriate information and history to the Australian standards required by the Dental Assistants Association, the Australian Dental Association, the Infection Control Policy and Procedure and the Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Procedures of New South Wales.

The text impressed me with its up-to-date information on the most recent regulatory changes, research findings and state-of-the-art technology. The presentation of information is clear and concise throughout, and suitable for both beginning and experienced dental assistants. Throughout each chapter recall questions based on the previous pages of text are provided for the learner, which enhance their cognitive learning and critical thinking skills. Life-long learning never stops.

The only shortcomings I could see for this text would be some changes in dental materials in use.

I have recommended this text for our new trainee dental assistants, teachers and facilitators. ❖

The Australian Bar Attendant's Handbook

Author: George Ellis

Publisher: Pearsons
Published: May 2008

ONCE again the *Australian Bar Attendants Handbook* has continued to keep up to date with current trends and practices in the ever changing world of the bar attendant. With the role of the bar attendant no longer limited to just hotels but to cafes, cocktail bars and more select functions and events, it is timely that the new edition provides an excellent resource for all areas.

There is excellent array of new photographs which make identification of products easier for students and employers alike. Information regarding new legislation relating to smoking, drink spiking and the responsible serving of alcohol is included. It provides some laminated cocktail and drink recipes which can be kept by the bar as a useful reference. It also includes a very informative section on styles and variations of coffee making, something that has become part and parcel of the new bar attendant's role.

The section on the law and the industry is particularly useful, with a list of dos and don'ts for professional refusal of service. How do you ask someone to leave or advise them that maybe they have had too much? Some solutions are in this list and will be of great use to bar operators.

The book is clear and concise and provides some useful lists of questions that can be used as a teaching resource or simply as a learning tool. This is an excellent handbook for employers and employees, teachers and students in the hospitality industry and should be kept behind every bar. ❖

Introducing Mental Health Nursing

Authors: Brenda Happell, Leanne Cowin, Cath Roper, Kim Foster and Rose McMaster

Publisher: Allen and Unwin
Published: June 2008

THIS compact text presents an overview of mental health practice that is holistic and client centred. This approach reflects a major shift in focus, from the medical tradition of dealing with symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, to a more comprehensive assessment of the many variables that impact on cognition and behaviour. It covers diagnostic categories, client rights, care from the institutional to the community based, relevant skills and the underpinning knowledge required to work effectively in this challenging field.

More importantly, it also explores the concept of psychosocial approaches as an adjunct, if not an alternative, to other treatments. This reflects the concerns of both those with mental illnesses and those who care for and provide support to them. This last point is very important, and has been a serious deficiency in the texts that I have seen, which overwhelmingly have focussed on the medical model of both diagnosis and care.

In exploring the dilemmas that working with mental health clients inevitably presents, the authors have shown a comprehensive understanding of the importance of recognising and supporting client choices. In order to convey this to the reader they refer to the concept of non-maleficance and look at how best to respond when clients have distorted cognition as a result of their various mental health conditions.

As a long term worker in the mental health field, it is a relief to finally have a resource that addresses the many non-medical concerns in this area. The presentation of information is clear and concise throughout the text, with a minimal use of jargon, making it eminently suitable for those embarking on careers in this field, from TAFE Certificate IV to University. ❖