

NEWSLETTER 2006

THE ST GEORGE HOSPITAL GRADUATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION

President's Report

Welcome to the 60th Reunion of the Graduate Nurses Association. It has been a very busy year for our committee for a number of reasons.

The Committee decided that we should do something a little different to commemorate 60 years of reunions. We undertook tasks such as finding our oldest living graduate. That honour goes to Eileen Wilkinson (Nugent) who trained in 1927 under Matron Pritchard.

We also had Dorothy Coker read through all the attendance books from the 60 years of reunions to find out who has attended the most. That honour goes to Elaine Maguire. Congratulations to those ladies.

We have also spent time adding to the hospital museum memorabilia by adding photos of our graduates to the already extensive collection. A little bit of our history preserved.

We also spent a large portion of our time working on the Trust Fund. That sadly has been our greatest

nightmare. We sent letters to all our Graduates asking for a pledge amount. With over a 100 people on our mailing list, it was very disappointing to receive replies from only 13 people. To continue or not continue with this will be the main issue at this Annual General Meeting. It sadly has been a major headache for all the hard working committee members.

It is becoming more obvious with the passing of each year that our numbers are declining. I ask each and every one of you to try and make contact with at least one colleague from training days and pass their details on to the committee. With a bit of luck, our next reunion might see our numbers swell.

Have a lovely reunion and I hope you all enjoy your memories – good and not so good – and pass it on to those who were not able to make it here today.

Di Mannion (Ryan)

In this 60th issue...

President's Report.....	1
Treasurer's Report	1
Reunion Secretary's Report	2
News and Greetings.....	2

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NEWSLETTER 2006 Designed by John Thrift
Publishing, phone 02 9560 5076.

Treasurer's Report

Do you remember when I told you that I had learned a great deal about computers once I became the treasurer? Well, my skills have increased further since then but unfortunately so has my procrastinating abilities.

Due to my tardiness, the annual auditor's report will not be available for this letter. Rest assured that the money IS in the bank. I have included a copy of the bank statement in lieu of the auditor's report. The current balance is \$7,927.94 as at 02 October 2006. This sum includes monies donated specifically for the proposed trust fund and also the AGM luncheon.

It has been suggested that some of our funds be placed in an investment account in order to attract better interest. I have obtained some information on the subject and the committee will consider the matter at the next executive meeting.



Reunion Secretary's Report

The purpose of today's meeting is for old friends and colleagues to spend time together and enjoy the experience. To that end, my report at the AGM will be very brief and I will ask everyone to read the newsletter for the detail. That may give us all a few more minutes to eat and talk together.

This 60th annual meeting has attracted a number of people to join the association for the first time ! Welcome back. We have even managed to find a member of my own PTS who has been lost to us for close to 20 years. Hi, Cheryl Moss. I look forward to catching up.

Amongst the subscriptions this year was a long letter from Eileen Dawkins nee Rice. It was a fascinating personal and professional history of nursing beginning with the war years. Eileen's experiences were so different to my 3 years of training in the 70s.

I enjoyed reading the letter but did not know what to do with it. It was too long for the newsletter but I did not want to see it wasted. Then I had a brainwave. We are collecting photographs for archives, why not stories too?

Here is challenge to all members of the association. I would like to begin collecting stories – be they sad or funny, important or trivial, long or short. Write and tell the world about your time at The St. George Hospital. We will collate the stories, preserve them in the hospital library archives and so guarantee that the hospital trained nurses and their experiences will not be forgotten. Could I encourage all you gifted writers and storytellers to have a go? Hundreds of memories are just waiting to be written down. There may even be an encouragement award for an original tale.

Bev Carruthers

News and Greetings

BREAKWELL Beth Beth is now a resident Canberra. L9 Mirinjani Nursin Home, 15 Conder Street, Weston ACT 2611.

DENNIS-BROWN Merrilyn PTS May 1976 This group had their FIRST ever reunion in May this year, 30 years to the week since that scary arrival in the A C Thomas Lecture Theatre that changed our lives forever. Most of us had not seen each other for the 30 years and it was a fascinating opportunity to observe how people change and how they really don't... The passage of 30 years seemed like a puff of wind as we sat chatting. It was interesting to realise the ways our memories were stored. I must be a visual person because I was able to remind them of details about their shoes and pick up mannerisms that had not changed, yet their voices seemed strange to me at first, as if my memories were like silent movies and someone had just added sound. Others could remember details of things that people used to say, and I saw how much I have changed within. There was a new adult woman sitting there

as we talked, along with the 18 year old who hasn't changed a bit, That was encouraging. I haven't been standing still for 30 years.

BURGIN Eileen 1953 I spent a week with Ruth Young (Mitchell) in early May and we had a very pleasant time bush walking and playing scrabble.

COKER Davis Phillips Dorothy Recently Ted and I had a wonderful holiday overseas. We travelled to Vancouver where we stayed a few days then to Victoria Island where we visited the beautiful Butchard Gardens with all the Spring flowers – they were a wonderful picture. We stayed with friends by a lake on the island.

Then on to Alaska where we visited Denali National Park and to our delight we saw plenty of native wildlife. Our next stop was a trip down the inside passage which was an experience not to be missed.

Back to Vancouver and on to the Rocky Mountains – still snow covered. A tour of Banff, a coach trip to Calgary then on to friends in South Dakota where we were treated

like royalty. Then on to Reno where we spent time with Mary Telford again we were given a wonderful 10 days with her and her family. We were surprised by the weather which was very hot all our trip. It was a great shock to step off the plane in Sydney to a freezing cold morning.

CONDON (nee Best) Judith PTS January 1964 Best regards for the reunion. I hope to make it next year. I am retiring from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Flinders University at the end of this year.

DAW (nee Jones) Sybil Faith 1945 My sister Heather Paterson Sutherland and I are unable to attend the Reunion owing to ill health. We wish everyone a happy day.

DAY (nee Haslam) Joyce 1944 Hope everyone has a happy day. Regards to all, especially the Class of '44.

DICKIN (nee Walters) Barbara 1963 I am now retired after 48 years of nursing – I finished at Auburn Hospital in July this year. I have joined an agency to be an extra on commercials or TV shows. I am

travelling to Western Australia on the Indian Pacific in September.

DOBSON (nee Heselwood) Cecily 1960 At last I have a grandchild – Charlotte Emily now almost a year old and of course beautiful. John and I continue to travel – Sydney in January, Hong Kong and Guangzhou in May and we will return from Scotland and UK in early October – just in time for the reunion.

HODGSON (nee MacDonald) Jan 1962 Jan is unable to attend this year. I have been very busy since retiring from nursing in 2000. As my husband was in the army for over 40 years and retired as a Colonel I joined the RSL Women's Auxiliary as a volunteer and became District Councillor Of State Councillors. I look after 22 Auxiliaries in the Newcastle, Central Coast and Lower Hunter area, which keeps me fairly busy. I also help my husband on various Army or ex Army committees that he belongs to. Currently I am secretary for the very big Military Expo that is to be held in Newcastle on 14th October, 2006. Between us Jim and I have 6 children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren, the latest a lovely baby boy born in June, 2006.

I often wonder as many retirees do, how I had the time to go to work. I wish all my ex-colleagues a happy day and a healthy, happy and safe year.

JOHNSTONE (nee McIntyre) Marie 1942 Best wish to you all for a wonderful reunion and extra special greetings to folk who were at St George between 1938 to 1942. Marie has lived in Cairns for many years and would be pleased to hear from fellow nurses who may visit her part of the world. Phone her on 07 4054 2738.

JOYCE (nee Derwent) Elizabeth 1967 I continue to work permanent part time in the Rehabilitation Ward of Shoalhaven District Hospital, Nowra. Things have changed a little over the last 40 years that I have been in the profession, but the challenge is still there!

JUDD (nee Mackenzie) Beryl 1967 Have a wonderful day. Rural life in Dorrigo NSW continues to be interesting and enjoyable! My address is 292 Snows Road Dorrigo 2453.

KENDRICK Barbara 1953 Once again the Granny Smith Festival occurs on the same day as AGM and Barbara is in charge of a stall.

LE BROQUE (nee Howes) Valerie 1951 Valerie is unable to attend the AGM as she attending a family wedding. She hopes to attend next year.

LIGHTFOOT (nee Glover) Anne PTS 1961 I wish you a happy and successful reunion. I shall not be able to attend this year but I shall be thinking of you all. Daryl is still enjoying his Uniting Church archiving work in Sydney and I can thoroughly recommend retirement. As I write this letter we are awaiting the birth of Jeanette (daughter) and Sean's second child – due 20/9 a sibling for Flynn (3 yr and 9mth) Jeanette has just finished her MA at Newcastle and graduates in October – baby permitting.

Peter (son) and Cherie produced their second child in June, a brother for Olivia aged 1 on 15 March. so they are all very busy. They will all be here in September for a month's holiday and we are looking forward to this.

LOOM (nee Walker) Fay 1964 In the last 12 months I have had over a dozen contacts with St George graduates which has been pleasant. Although we have retired, we were asked to do 3 months supply ministry work part time at Port Macquarie which we enjoyed. A trip to Cairns was refreshing. We continue to support our daughter-in-law and 2 little grandchildren in Canberra following our son's death last year, by going to Canberra about every 6–8 weeks.

MALONE Gweneth 1954 Wishing you all a very happy day. I do not travel anymore – traffic for a country girl is too difficult.

Vale

DICKSON (nee Windsor) Helene 1967 passed away 5 September 2006 after a long illness. A memorial service has been arranged here by her family. It is to be held at Olsens at Sutherland 4 November at 2.30pm.

CREALEY (nee Torrens) Mary passed away 8 November 2005.

GIBSON (nee Grant) Marjorie 1950 passed away 13 July 2006.

PRICE (nee English) Joan passed away 9 October 2005.

McKENZIE (nee Harris) Jocelyn Ruth Dyball would like Jocelyn's friends to know of her sister's passing. On Easter Sunday, at the age of 72, Jocelyn died after a long battle with cancer.

OSBORNE (nee Valentin) Shirley 1951 Sorry I have to be absent again but I will be in Alice Springs visiting my daughter and her family. Best wishes for a wonderful day.

PEPPER (nee Randall) Eunice 1943 and **Noeline Wilkinson (nee Toohey) 1958** send their best wishes from the Central Coast.

SHORT (nee Gordon) Jenny The Leader published an article which celebrated Jenny's long career that spanned 50 years at St George.

STOKELD Gwen 1961 Enjoy the special day with the grads. Only wish I could be there.

TELFORD (nee Billing) Mary 1954 Best wishes for our 60th celebration and special greetings to the 1954 graduates. Have a pleasant day.

WILLIAMS (nee Salway) Elizabeth 1956 Wishing all graduates a GREAT day.