



1961 GRADUATES

Back row: Judith Cornell, Kaye Selfe, Kathryn Litchfield, Ann Flemming & Bev Watters. Seated: Jan Hubbard, Jan Turner & Kay Eccleston.

President's Report

Once again we assemble to meet and greet our fellow graduates and catch up with old friends, some may be a little slower than last year but are thankful that they are able to attend this year! The committee hopes that this annual event reminds you of the good friends you made, the good times (and sometimes a few bad) that occurred during your training days! The reunion format has not changed as the committee feel that those who have been attending are happy with the way it is organised. If that is not the case or you feel that some change is warranted please talk to one of the committee.

It has proved popular to have a 'lucky dip' for the beautiful table decorations so kindly donated by Susan Leahy and once again we are able to repeat that. I was asked last year who chooses the lucky door prize winners and I am happy to report that the reunion secretary asks a Leagues Club staff member to choose three numbers from the registration numbers, she then matches the numbers to the names.

This year will again see a donation made to one of the organisations associated with cancer given that as nurses we have all been exposed to the disease either as a nurse or in a more personal sense.

I would like to record my thanks to the Leagues Club staff for their continued support and I trust that you have all enjoyed the menu selection. I would also like to add my personal thanks to the hard working committee who despite the loss of loved ones and surgery continue to provide us all with support and great organisation.

"A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future, and accepts you just the way you are." (Source: Think exist.com)

Enjoy the reunion, Barbara Dickin (Walters 1963)

Committee Members 2010/2011

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Electronic Newsletter

To register for an electronic version of the newsletter email: jcornell@netspace.net.au

NEWSLETTER 2011

Design by John Thrift Design
www.jtp.net.au

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Graduate Nurses Association

Reunion Secretarie's Report

The 2010 reunion was a huge success and a total of 85 attendees which included several 'first timers' and the same number of apologies. The Grange restaurant at the St George Leagues Club continues to be a popular venue and the menu choices were obviously enjoyed by most. The red and white table decorations were once again enhanced by the beautiful boxes of white rose buds generously donated by Susan Leahy. Each table conducted their own mini raffle with the winner taking home the flowers and the money raised was added to the Joanne McKay Foundation donation.

The diminishing numbers attending the reunion is beginning to make table allocation very difficult so for this year's reunion, in an effort to keep folk together, we have decided to set one long table for the pre 1960 graduates. Any group celebrating a special milestone (eg the 1961 grads celebrate 50 years since graduation in 2011) will have a marked table and all other tables will be free seating. The committee will review the results of the change following the reunion and make any necessary changes for next year.

The lucky door prizes (Myer Vouchers) were won by Eileen Callander, Jan Garrett and Kathryn Litchfield.

The request to establish an electronic mail out has been successful with some 30 people opting to join the list as well as those opting for an electronic copy of the newsletter has allowed sufficient savings to be made to continue to produce the newsletter in full colour.

Judith Cornell (Roberts 1961)



REUNION 2010 L-R: Conducting the AGM are Margaret Binder (Treasurer) and Barbara Dicken (President) & Jan Robson (Secretary).



REUNION 2009 L-R: Shirley Osborne, Jean Frame, Shiela Larkin, Pam Mattocks & Clarice Glendenning.



REUNION 2010 L-R: Barbara Dicken & Margaret Binder.

Apologies, News & Greetings

Vicki Odman (Royce 1970) writes... Chris and I have become Grandparents, our son Daniel and wife Bonita are parents of twins born 23 May 2011, Olive Grace and Thomas Anderson.

Pat Sargent (Byrne 1963) sends her apologies and writes... Good luck with the AGM and Luncheon.

Carol Soper (Grey 1966) sends her apologies and best wishes to all. She adds that she is still working fulltime at St George!

Phyllis Greentree (Brown 1950) has resigned her membership due to ill health and sends her greetings to all for a happy day.

Elizabeth Williams (Salway 1955) sends her apologies as they are flying to Hong Kong to visit family and wishes everybody a very happy day.

Marie Johnstone (McIntyre 1942) sends warm greetings to all.

Cecily Dobson (Heslewood 1960) sends her apologies and regards to all. She will be in Ireland at the time of the reunion.

Norma Reid (Andrews 1964) writes that after 35 years of living in Queensland they have relocated to NSW and are living at Bomaderry.

Fay Loom (Walker 1964) writes that she was able to have a number of St George Grads share her "Big O" birthday party recently. Included were Rosemary Snodgrass, Paola Kistner, Dorothy Wooldridge & Bron Gray and a good time was had by all.

Gloria Phillips (James 1957) is unable to attend as they will be away on holidays and she sends her 'best wishes to my old friends'.

June Newton (Lane 1955) sends greetings to all and asks if anybody knows the whereabouts of Judith Gray (Adams) 1955. June would like to re-establish contact with Judith so if you are able to assist please advise Judith Cornell.

Mary Telford (Billing 1954) sends her apologies and good wishes to all.

Joy Day (Haslam 1944) regrets that she is not well enough to attend but sends her best wishes to all for a very happy day.

Noelene Wilkinson (Toohey 1958) sends her best wishes to all for a very happy day.

Clare Roach (Nixon 1967) sends her apologies but sends her greetings and best wishes for a happy reunion.

Margaret Stevens-Shooter (1969) writes that... she is sorry not to be attending and hopes that all enjoy the reunion. I work part time and really enjoy the "outing".

Diane Blain (Shooter 1961) writes... I am living with my daughter and family in the U.S.A. My daughter married an American serviceman who is currently serving in Afghanistan. I am well and enjoying retirement. Have a great day.

Janice Myatt (Bakker) 1978 sends her apologies and regards to all and writes... I have just returned from the inaugural NIMAC (Nurses in Management Aged Care) study tour to Holland and Singapore in the first two weeks in September. There were twenty one participants including three males, this was a great opportunity to discover how other countries care for the aged and the differences between the models of care. The Dutch model was person centred and care was mostly provided in a village atmosphere with the residents living in small group homes within a larger complex. Six to eight residents residing in a home like area with a central lounge/dining room with bedrooms to the sides, some residents had their own rooms and other shared with one other person, all sharing three bathrooms. The staff assisted with all care needs for the group including personal care, medication management, food preparation, personal laundry and activities. The registered nurse was responsible for several groups sometimes up to sixty or seventy residents, ensuring care plans were up to date and non-packed medications given. The facilities had their own shops including a supermarket, hairdresser, with some having restaurants, bars, cinema, and extra services such as child care available for staff and the community.

Singapore was quite a contrast and the residents we observed were all in shared accommodation with between

five and fifteen other residents. The use of restraints surprised us as did the number of naso gastric tubes feeds we witnessed. The manager was campaigning against the use of restraints and trying to educate the staff on other ways of managing potential falls. Singaporeans like other Asians prefer to care for their elders at home, but changing economies is preventing some to be able to do that when both children are now working, the care for many is now in residential care. Singapore has a hot humid climate and the facilities we visited chose not to air condition resident rooms, but did air condition common areas.

We were all amazed at the welcome we all received at each facility and the amount of information provided. We all left highly motivated and ready to review our own facility processes and décor.

Beryl Judd (Mackenzie) 1967 writes... Greetings and best wishes to all for this reunion meeting. Enjoy the friendships – memories and the day together. I would love to be there but we have recently celebrated the birth of our grandson.

Kaye Molenkamp (Morgan 1961) writes... just a short note to let you know that we are currently touring the red centre and will therefore be unable to attend this year's AGM and reunion. Please accept my apology and best wishes for a successful day.

Colleen Lunney (Moore 1962) writes... I send best wishes to all my fellow graduates of October 1962. Where have all the years gone? I am just out of hospital after having my second total knee replacement so hope to become more agile and pain free.

Margaret Shooter (Stevens 1969) writes that she recently bumped into another St George Grad **Val Rumsey** (Pretty) 1968 who is also living in the Widgee (Qld) area. Val is being cared for by her daughter Lyn and would love to hear from any of her contemporaries. Please write to Val C/- Upper Thornside Road, Widgee 4570.

Gwen Stockeld (1961) sends her very best wishes to all for a happy day together.

Reminiscing

Loretta Lancaster (Craig 1967) writes...

St George Visiting Nurses was established in 1986 and is committed to providing the highest quality care within a sustainable environment to its service users, carers, their families and employees. Sometimes it is a good feeling to take time out to reflect over a long career in nursing. I feel the background training that started 43 years ago at St George Hospital has given me the knowledge to grow and learn and continue through many ups and downs.

Following graduation I worked in many wards, but the one that stands out most in my memories was Children's ward with Sister Joyce Murray. The experience I gained regarding children's diseases, treatments and just caring for all ages has remained with me throughout my career. I am thankful to her for the firm guidelines that she set in all areas of the medical field.

I married in 1969 and worked between having 3 children over the next 5 years. In 1979 I went to America to live in South Carolina for 5 years. On returning I went back to St George Hospital for a short time before entering into community nursing.

In 1986 I decided to start my own Private Community Nursing Service, named St George Visiting Nurses and remain as the Director of Nursing to the present day. St George Visiting Nurses gives professional nursing assistance to service users in their own home. A team of RNs, EENs, ENs and AINs that are highly qualified attend to all their needs.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of many St George Graduates working for my service. The service covers St George, Sutherland Shire and East Hills and can implement service within 24 hours. We have a support network of Allied Health Professionals, including Social Workers, Physiotherapists, OTs, Nutritionists, Podiatrists and a Palliative Care Team who work with the service.

In 2010 St George Visiting Nurses obtained Accreditation and many thanks go to Jan Robson as without her knowledge and assistance I could not have achieved this milestone. Education has always been offered to my staff so as to have continuing professional quality care.

During my career I have had the opportunity to experience the Fiji medical system and cultures. Spending a lot of time training and helping fund raise with the Fijian people to improve their health programs. This had involved living in remote villages, and identifying areas of concern. I have bought a local Doctor and the Director of Nursing from Sigatoka Hospital to Australia for experience in my community service and they also had time at St George Hospital.

I encourage the younger generation of nurses to gain, improve and widen their knowledge throughout their career and your personal satisfaction and fulfilment will be your end reward.

Have a GREAT REUNION DAY everyone, Loretta Lancaster

Obituaries

Our sincere condolences to all those who have lost loved ones during the year.

Dorothy Coker (Phillips/Davis 1954) lost both her son Donald and her husband Ted (March 2011) over the past twelve months.

Dr Patricia Brennan AM (nee Wilkinson). Many St Georgians will remember Patricia as a medical missionary, a TV broadcaster, a Forensic Physician and the Founding President of the Movement for the Ordination of Women. Patricia was one of the three daughters of Eileen Wilkinson nee Nugent and sister to Elizabeth Morris 1969.

Dr George Wilson AM Senior Physician and Teacher at St George 1951–1993.

Shirley Maloney (Payne 1954) invitation was returned with the envelope marked deceased.

Dawn Reilly (Allen 1946) advises that her husband Des passed away 13 March 2011.

Joan Staples' niece Linda Richard (PTS Feb 1981) died in December 2010 after a battle with breast cancer. Linda was diagnosed in 2004 with an aggressive cancer which had already spread to all parts of her body. Linda continued to work as she fought the disease, determined as she was to see her daughters grow up. Linda became active in the Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) and as Lyn Swinburne AM, the CEO of BCNA said in her obituary... 'we were immediately impressed by her approach to her disease – she was definitely living with her cancer as opposed to dying from it'. Linda became an active advocate and undertook community liaison training to help her spread the word and promote the BCNA services to women. She was a gifted speaker who spoke passionately about the challenges faced by so many women, she wrote articles, organised fundraisers all at the same time working as a CNC for the Hunter Integrated Pain Service as she worked to improve the lives of those with complex or chronic pain. In concluding her obituary Lyn Swinburne closed with "We salute the life of Linda. We will miss her but are so grateful that she came into our lives".

Jean Langley, who passed away on 29 July 2011, completed her general training in the late 1940s followed by midwifery training. She then spent some time in missionary work in New Guinea before returning to Australia; Jean is remembered as an efficient nurse who always went about her duties in a quiet and unassuming manner. Her Christian faith was demonstrated in her caring attitude to patients, and in the many ways she acted as a mentor to the junior nurses. On retirement Jean took up residence in Aminya Retirement Village at Baulkham Hills, where she spent many happy years. Jean died at Aminya after a long illness. (Joan Walker)

Clara Jane Schumack St George Nurse

Judith Cornell writes...

Whilst researching another matter recently I came across an Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB) entry for a former St George Nurse, Clara Jane Schumack (1899–1974) who trained at St George and the Coast Hospitals and was registered in 1926. Following her training she returned to St George and following that gained additional experience at Canterbury Hospital and in a Doctor's surgery. Following a working holiday in Europe 1935–1937 she returned to St George and worked in Theatre until 1940 when she was appointed Matron in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) Schumack had a most distinguished career in the AANS and was awarded a Royal Red Cross in June 1945. She served as Matron 113th AGH at Concord until 1946 and then transferred to the Reserve Officers list until 1947. Her final nursing position was as Matron of the Lucy Gullett Convalescent Home at Bexley.

Further details about this remarkable nurse's career may be found at:

Australian Dictionary Biography, Vol 16, Melbourne University Press, 2002, p.239 or in the ADB Online edition.

Book for Sale

NEXT REUNION
Saturday
27 October 2012

MAIL RETURNED
Can you help?

Maureen Lambert last
known Kamar NSW

Jill McKellar last known
Eden NSW



The Healing Saint

From time to time the committee receives requests for copies of the History of St George and since we do not have copies, the official order form is reproduced for your convenience.

The Healing Saint: A 100 Year History of the St George Hospital

The 1890s found the civic fathers of the three local councils of the time, seriously concerned about the hygiene, health and medical aspects of their constituents. The situation came to a head when two railway workers critically injured at Rockdale had to be transported by horse and buggy to the closest hospital, Royal Prince Alfred. One victim died on the trip and the other survived for a few short hours only. An appeal went out to St George residents to raise funds to establish a local infirmary of sufficient capacity so as to provide some semblance of a chance to hang on to life.

And so this wonderful history proceeds from Chapter One: The Beginning 1892 to November 1894 to Chapter Twelve: The "The" that makes the St George Great until the conclusion – 1994: Looking to the Future.

Copies are available for purchase from St George Hospital – for further information please phone Community Relations on 9350 2686 or complete the order form below.

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_____ Hardcover copies @ \$39.95 (plus \$3 postage) of The Healing Saint

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