



## President's Report

Welcome graduates and it is time again to greet fellow nurses from training times at The St George Hospital. We continue to meet in a very casual atmosphere so the talk can be both pleasant and reminiscent. Formalities are kept to a minimum to allow the maximum time for 'catching up'. Unfortunately we have had to make a small increase to this year's costs to accommodate the increased catering charges. We are grateful to the staff of the Leagues Club for their cordial and helpful service. The committee has again chosen what we hope will be an enjoyable menu, however please feel free to make comments/suggestions or criticisms to any one of the committee.

Many thanks again to Susan Leahy for her generous donation of the table flowers and good luck with the 'lucky dip' to see who gets to take the arrangement home.

At a recent committee meeting Kathryn Litchfield spoke about the work of the group who are establishing the Southern Highland's Hospice (see page 6 for the story) and the committee resolved to recommend that this year's charity donation go to supporting this work.

The committee resolved that the five pre 1950 graduates be retained on the mailing list free of charge and if they are able to attend the Association will cover the cost of their lunch. They are Joyce Day (Haslam 1944), Joyce Hayman (Snodgrass 1946), Dawn Reilly (Allen 1946), Betty Tierney 1947 and Marie Johnstone (McIntyre 1942)

My thanks go to my fellow committee members for their organisation of the reunion and their efforts throughout the year. Please enjoy your time at the reunion.

Barbara Dickin (Walters)

"Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver the other gold" (Sue Lynch)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2011/2012

Barbara Dickin (Walter)  
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Margaret Binder (Nable)  
Hon. Treasurer

**Committee Members**  
Estelle Green (Farrell)  
Kathryn Litchfield (West)  
Susan Leahy  
Joan Wagstaff (Davidson)

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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

### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Outside the Nurses Home setting off to the final examinations in 1942.  
L-R: Ruth Bewglass, Nancy McCarthy, Elaine McGuire, Marie McIntyre, Gwen Newbury, Eileen Skinner, Betty Napier, Jean Parr

### NEWSLETTER 2012

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Graduate Nurses Association



## News from the hospital

Patients are set to benefit from new state-of-the-art facilities at St George Hospital with the commencement of building works at the Belgrave Street entrance to the Hospital.

Due to these building works, pedestrian access from Belgrave Street to the Hospital is restricted until mid 2013 however during this time alternate access will be via the Prince William Wing (off Belgrave Street) and the main Hospital entrance (off Gray Street).

The essential early works component (due for completion by the end of 2012) of the new \$35.5 million Emergency Department includes construction of a new Services Centre which houses essential services such as Linen Services, Engineering and Waste Management. The relocation of the Services Centre from its previous location to the Belgrave Street entrance will make way for the Hospital's new Emergency Department which will be a significant boost for St George Hospital, one of the busiest emergency departments in NSW. The Emergency Department currently treats more than 62,900 patients and admits around 22,000 patients each year. It will provide increased capacity, a greater range of services and improved facilities for patients.

In addition, demolition is now in progress ready for the construction of a new \$8 million specialist Mental Health Unit for Older People. This facility will provide a 16-bed Unit for assessment and recovery based treatment for people aged 65 years and older requiring sub-acute mental health care. Completion of the Mental Health Unit for Older People is due late 2013.

## Reunion Secretary's Report

It was good to see the numbers a little increased on last year with 95 attendees. The feedback from the day was positive regarding the food and the table allocations the committee decided to continue with tables for the pre 1960 grads, any group celebrating a special reunion and leave the remainder as free seating.

I was requested to provide a copy of those attending the luncheon so this year I will provide a listing for each table.

At the reunion I was given memorabilia from the estate of the late Betty Pettit (Miller) and it has been listed and transferred to the museum. Some of you may remember that some years ago the Association collected a series of oral histories from some of the older graduates, many of whom are no longer alive. These tapes provide a wonderful social history of the life of the individuals and the hospitals so they have now been transferred from reel to reel tapes onto CD's and whilst the quality is not marvellous they can be listened to. It is our intention to edit the material and reproduce what would essentially become 'sound bites' thus editing out the personal information and keeping the nursing stories! It is hoped that at the reunion next year there will be a master tape available.

The electronic mailing list appears to have worked well this year and I would recommend that we continue to pursue expanding it wherever we can as the saving on postage and printing is considerable.

For those of you online and wanting to share photographs and catch up with people, we have started a face book group [St George Hospital Graduate Nurses Association] for financial members. You need to have a face book account, then search for the group name and request to join. Photos will be most welcome. If you do not know how to add photographs, you can email them to Wendy Kuzela, [kelt@aapt.net.au](mailto:kelt@aapt.net.au) with the PTS month

and year, and she will upload them to the appropriate photo album.

Last year's lucky door prizes were won by Gayle Finn (679), Pam Mattocks (19) and Barbara Kendrick (43) who donated hers back and the value was added to the charity donation.

I thank the many individuals who provide me with newsletter items, it does make the job easier!

I also thank the many folk who add a personal note to their responses, it does make the processing of the mail more interesting and I am always interested to hear from folk.

Judith Cornell (Roberts 1961)



1965 Graduation Ball, Trocadero Ballroom, Sydney. Back Row L-R: Julie Hillyer, Helen Thorgood, Kaye Morgan, Jan Willard (Deceased), Jan Overall. Front Row L-R: Jenny Rumsay (Deceased), Nola Holmwes, Carole Steele, Nan Curry



REUNION 2011 Celebrating 50 years since graduation



REUNION 2011 Back L-R: Heather Bryant, Ruth Lawrence, Pat O'Neill (Stromberg), Lorraine Brearwell  
Front L-R: Jan Garrett, Rhonda Hall, Nita Sagar



REUNION 2010 Back L-R: Dot Wooldridge, Loretta Lancaster, Joan Short  
Front L-R: Fay Loom, Eva Gay, Ann Low, Sylvia Bennet

## Apologies, News & Greetings

**Rhonda Hall (Stephenson 1962)** sends her best wishes to all especially the 1962 Grads who are celebrating 50 years and lots of memories.

**Kaye Molenkamp (Morgan 1961)** sends her apologies and best wishes for a successful meeting and reunion.

**Moirra Forrest (Hughes 1982)** sends her apologies as she will be overseas.

**Pat Sargent (Byrne)** sends her apologies and greetings to all.

**Marie Johnstone (McIntyre 1942)** sends greetings to all for a happy reunion full of wonderful memories.

**Joyce Day (Haslam 1944)** has recently had a fall and been hospitalised but sends her greetings to all for a very happy day.

**Fay Loom (Walker 1964)** sends her greetings to all, she advises that she had a stroke earlier in the year which has left her with a speech impairment but is looking forward to attending this year's reunion.

**Margo McLeod (McKenzie 1964)** sends her best wishes, she is in the UK visiting their daughter.

**Dorothy Coker (Phillips/Davis 1954)** has a new great granddaughter, Katherine born in June 2012.

**Cecily Dobson (Heselwood 1960)** advises Betty Blackford (Schofield 1960) has not been too well of late and is still being treated.

**Dorothy Engel (Hall 1953)** is not well and is being cared for at Woolaware Shores Nursing Home.

**Gwen Stockeld (1961)** has had a long stint in hospital earlier this year, however she is home again but is now housebound. She sends her greetings to all for an enjoyable reunion.

**Narelle Standen (Russell 1963)** writes Greetings to all and thank goodness for computers makes it easier for

me to get a "newsy" item off for this year. Last April I reached to age of 70 cannot believe; like so many others, it is 49 years coming up 50 next year since I graduated. Life over the past few years has had its up and downs, my husband died April 2009 and the following year in April 2010 my elderly Aunt how had dementia and had lived with us for four years. It took me a while to get used to having some "my" time after having taken care of them both. I am pleased to say I became a grandmother for the first time in May this year, a beautiful boy for my younger son and his wife, Carter Graeme Standen. I am finding it hard to get used to Carter as a first name but nowadays anything goes it seem. A lot of what I call Surnames are used as first names now. I have spent a lot of time knitting for him over the winter so now will put the needles away until next year, as I have a few projects in mind for then. I have kept my ties up with the Navy, now too old to do any reserve work but I am a member of The Sub Section of the Naval Association here in Tweed Heads.

Aside from our monthly meeting we have Coach trips to various places three times a year. We are involved with the Sea Cadets attending their Ceremonial Parades and present a trophy and book prize to the Top Graduating Cadet each year. This past week we spent time helping the local RSL pack parcels to sent to Afghanistan to the servicemen and also the Dogs that are serving over there. We sent them over some Australian treats like Vegemite, violet crumble bars, bags of lollies and tins of tuna and dog treats. This was done in the local shopping centre and we attracted quite a lot of onlookers wondering what we were doing. Wishing everyone a happy and successful reunion, I still hope to get down to Sydney one day to attend a reunion.

**Elizabeth Lenehan (Hatton 1961)** sends her apologies and wishes all a very happy day.

**Jan Ousby (Reeves 1971)** writes that she and Cheryl Fibbons (Meade 1971) both send their apologies as they are holidaying in WA for a month. Cheryl retired from

Community Nursing in August 2012 and has moved to the South Coast. Jan still works in Lismore as a Women's Health and Practice Nurse in a General Practice in Ballina.

**Beryl Judd (Mackenzie 1967)** writes ... I am unable to attend the reunion so I send greetings and best wishes to all for a wonderful day together. Life in Dorrigo continues to be busy. We are still Trackelment Producers (a quaint old English dialect word for 'condiments' etc) We have a stall at Bellingen and Dorrigo markets and other special events. This November we are hoping for a good crop of walnuts. Pickled walnuts are a real treat – a lot of work to process but worth it! We are still very much involved with the Bellingen Seed Savers group but that is another interesting story!

**Joan English (Marsh 1952)** sends her greetings to all and is sorry that a dose of Shingles prevents her attending.

**Noelene Wilkinson (Toohey 1958)** writes that she is delighted to be able to attend this year's reunion after missing the last two or three. Unfortunately her husband Tom has had to be placed in the Killarney Aged Care facility and Noeline writes that she is delighted with his care delivered under the leadership of the Director of Nursing, Deanna Lomas (nee Starr) a St George Graduate.

**Joan Staples (Potter 1954)** sends her apologies and greetings to all. Joan had a fall some time ago dislocating her shoulder and fracturing the head of the humerus. She was making steady progress with her rehabilitation however she now faces more surgery as the 'plating' has been unsuccessful.

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Finishing nursing training leads to different and varied experiences for many and it is interesting to hear the various directions that have been taken since graduation. Following the positive feedback after last year's piece on Loretta Lancaster and the St George Visiting Nurses under the heading Reminiscing, we decided to actively pursue some stories from other graduates. If you have a story or you know somebody who does please consider contacting the newsletter editor!!

### LUV-BUB

Moira Forrest (Hughes 1982) has been running her own business for over 20 years. Following completion of her general training at St George, Moira went on to become a qualified midwife, a specialist in neonatal care and obtained qualifications in child and family health and lactation. In addition she is a certified Infant Massage Instructor.

In establishing Luv-Bub she has been able to pursue her passion which aims to foster and promote positive parenting practices. She teaches infant massage and parenting skills and educates both families and health professionals on the benefits of positive touch and communication. Moira believes that no two families are the same and she uses a professional and intuitive approach so that each family is given personalised support, guidance and education aimed at enhancing the bonding process and ensuring that parenting is an enriching and enjoyable experience.

### CAN YOU HELP?

I am looking for handwritten nursing notes that were generated PRIOR to 1950, copies of old examination papers and any St George Hospital Annual reports, in particular any between 1934 – 1946. I am more than happy to copy the material and return it. I am attempting to record the history of nursing at St George from 1898 – 1950. Please contact Judith Cornell phone 02 9502 2946 or on email [jcornell@netspace.net.au](mailto:jcornell@netspace.net.au) if you can help.

### MAIL RETURNED

#### Can you help – do you know their whereabouts?

Doris Watson (Dawes 1960), Gymea NSW

Catherine McDonald (Grey 1975), Grays Point NSW

Ms Metcalf, Cronulla NSW

Di Mannion, Allawah NSW

Cathie Ritchie 1980

# 2012 Fundraising

The Presidents report advised that this year's donation and fundraising would support the SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HOSPICE and Kathryn Litchfield (West 1961) provided the following information.

In 2010 a group was founded to establish a Community hospice in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. After a public meeting demonstrated overwhelming community support, fund raising commenced and the project was officially launched during the Inaugural Hospice Week, during which events were held to raise awareness and funds for the Hospice and the sum of \$50,000 was raised at this time.

The nearest Hospice facility to this highly populated area is about an hour away in Camden, Berry, Canberra or Sydney. The community has access to some palliative care nurses, however Specialist medical services are limited and there is no local designated facility to accommodate patients who require specialist palliative care or those needing respite care during a terminal illness.

Hospice care has been evolving since the 11th century, and the word "hospice" means "place of rest for weary travellers". Dame Cicily Saunders pioneered the founding principles of modern Hospice services which provides care of the incurable ill and dying.

The Hospice in the Southern Highlands will be modelled on the many successful community based hospices operating in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. We are fortunate to have established a direct relationship with Katherine House Hospice, a longstanding and successful community based hospice in Oxfordshire, the board of which has provided us with invaluable advice on establishing, managing and fundraising for a community hospice. Katherine House Hospice is community based and offers palliative services to a population of over 145,000 people in the North Oxfordshire area. It was instigated in 1991 by Neil and Heather Gadsby and their friends after the tragic death from cancer of their 20 year-old daughter

Katherine. Katherine House offers physical, emotional, social and spiritual care to people who have been diagnosed with an incurable illness. The aim of the care is to help patients and their families achieve a better quality of life. Care is provided by doctors and nurses both in the hospice and in patients' homes, tailored to the needs of the individual. No charge is made to any patient or their family for any of the hospice services. With this as a model, the Southern Highlands Community Hospice would like to locate the Community Hospice on one or two hectares of land near one of the Southern Highland communities. A building with its own distinct address and entrance and relaxed, landscaped grounds are important requirements. It would be beneficial if this was near an established medical facility for laundry, pharmacy and the like. Fundraising is the key to any community venture of this kind. A group of enthusiastic volunteers have been working at different events during the year. Our first Hospice shop opened on the 1st May in Bowral. It sells good quality preloved and new clothes, jewellery and accessories and in September a second shop was opened with quality furniture, artworks and bric-a-brac. To the end of August we have raised \$100,000. It is estimated that the Hospice building will cost approximately \$3 million to build and annual running costs of \$500,000. Much of this will have to come from the local community by way of donations, bequests, fund-raising, etc. We plan to open a number of Hospice shops in the future in the nearby villages. Volunteers are a vital part of Palliative care and the committee is looking for 200–300 volunteers to assist with fundraising, running the Hospice shops, support for patients and families, respite assistance, hospitality, administration support, transport, gardening, professional services, etc. The Hospice Shops are located in the High Street Arcade, Bong Bong Street, Bowral and the trading hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm and Weekends from 10am to 2pm. The Southern Highlands community Hospice Inc. (ABN 41 659 288 3530) is a registered charity and further information may be sought from the website [www.shcommunityhospice.org](http://www.shcommunityhospice.org) or from PO Box 1448, Bowral NSW 2576.

# Obituaries

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

Enid Whyte (Cambage 1950) advises of the death of **Marie O'Brien (Gett 1950)**.

Pam Mattocks advises of the death of **Eunice McKee (Poche 1953)**.

**Julie Anne Willmette (1963)**. Ten years ago Julie was diagnosed with cancer and she finally left this world on 10 May 2010 just 10 days before her 68th birthday. Julie completed her General Nursing at St George and undertook her Midwifery Certificate in Wollongong. She then undertook some church based training and served for 10 years with the CMS as a Missionary Nurse in Nepal where as well as being a Hospital based Tutor to trainee Nepali Nurses she also ran Village Clinics.

After returning from Nepal, Julie joined the staff of Gosford Hospital working in Operating Theatres during which time she undertook a Diploma Health Administration at Newcastle University. Following

completion of the program she was admitted as a Member of the then (NSW) College of Nursing. Attending an Oncology Conference she was inspired to seek further education in Palliative Care Nursing.

The disastrous flooding in Bangladesh inspired Julie to work with the WHO in midwifery services as the country slowly rebuilt its infrastructure. Her return to Australia saw her serve as the DON of Long Jetty and Wyong Hospitals and then working with the Baptist Community Services as a Senior Staff member progressing to become the Executive DON supervising all of the Baptist Nursing Homes throughout NSW.

In the late 1990s Julie again attended Church-based training in the UK for 6 months and on her return to Australia she took up an Executive position with the St Vincent De Paul Society. It was during that time that Julie's long battle with Cancer began. Following the removal of a kidney, Julie resolved that she would LIVE with the cancer, as opposed to dying from

it and went on several more overseas tours. She resigned from St Vincent De Paul and accepted a position closer to home as the DON of a Presbyterian Retirement Facility. By this time her family were referring to her as "ecumenical Julie"!

Julie conducted the official Opening of Willmette Cottage at the Baptist Community Services Carlingford Aged Care Centre named in her honour in November 2007. This Cottage provides Respite for Dementia or Frail Aged clients.

Until the very last, Julie continued to be active in her Church, and receive visits from her many friends, surrounded by her family and was cared for until the last by her friend Marilyn with whom she had worked beside in Nepal. She is much missed by all but we are grateful to God for having known such an amazing woman. In typical Julie fashion, her funeral service was quiet and family only but was followed a week later by a wonderful party to celebrate her life.

Kae Crawford & Margaret Binder

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## The oldest living St George Hospital Graduate

Noelene Wilkinson (Toohey) recently interviewed a lady believed to be the oldest living St George Hospital Graduate. Emily Frances Guddice nee Daer was born on Christmas Day 1911 and commenced her nursing training in her twenties under Miss Pritchard around the early 1930s. After completing her training she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service and was posted to Darwin. She was discharged from the Army at the end of the War and subsequently married, however she did not work in nursing again. Emily is well, living in retirement on the Central Coast and recently cruised with P&O on the 'Pacific Jewel', the oldest ever (100 year old) passenger to cruise with them.

A full transcript of the interview is being prepared and will be available in due course.

2013  
REUNION  
Saturday  
26 October 2013