



ST GEORGE HOSPITAL GRADUATE NURSES ASSOCIATION  
www.stgeorgegrads.com

## President's Report

It is with sadness that we meet today without Judith, she will be remembered for her dedication to nursing. She carried the Australian characteristics of courage and determination.

Please be generous today with your donations, on the tables are leaflets/ envelopes to donate to the Chris O'Brien Foundation in honour of Judith.

Thanks to Jan and the committee for taking on the reins of the reunion organisation so we can be here today. Please thank Sue Leahy again for donating the flowers. Join in the raffle at each table to win these flowers.

Due to a few health problems, I am resigning as President, but will stay on the committee if needed. It has been a pleasure to be president, to work with and know Judith was educational and inspirational.

Enjoy the reunion. Live your life to the full.  
Barbara Dickin (Walters 1963)

Barbara is not with us today as she has had orthopaedic surgery in the past week. We wish her a speedy recovery, Jan Robson.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014/2015

Barbara Dickin (Walters)  
President, phone: 02 9682 1864

Dorothy Coker (Phillips)  
Vice-President

Jan Robson (Overall)  
Hon. Secretary  
PO Box 70 Penshurst 2222

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:  
jmrobson@tpg.com.au

### 2015 REUNION

Next year's reunion will be held on  
Saturday 24 October 2015.

### NEWSLETTER 2013

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www.jtp.net.au

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Graduate Nurses Association



**JUDITH ANNE CORNELL**

AM FACN FACORN

15 May 1940 – 14 April 2014

Judith worked tirelessly through the years for the St George Hospital Graduate Nurses Association.



# Reunion 2013

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY JUDITH

Again a successful day was had by all who attended with some positive feedback.

Torwood Lounge was comfortable and the food excellent, special diets were managed extremely well. The steps caused some difficulty for the aged and infirm, rails are in place and there is a lift. Staff were helpful and pleasant and no request was a problem. There were no complaints received about the food.

Several comments were made about lack of parking. These people were

reminded of available parking behind Torwood Lounge. (Details on reverse side of the invitation) Again the flowers and list of attendees on each table were much appreciated.

The lucky Door Prizes were won by: Marcia Monk (First), Dorothy Aldridge (Second) and Ruth Dyball (Third).

A total of 240 Invitations were distributed and there were 82 apologies and 82 attendees.

Again In an effort to contain costs, the mailing lists has been updated

and those who do not answer for two years will continue to be moved to the inactive list.

**Website: [www.stgeorgegrads.com](http://www.stgeorgegrads.com)**

The website has been used with the invitation online. Please check out the site and continue to provide us with feedback about the information it contains. There is a link to the Facebook page for those interested.

My thanks to John Thrift for his assistance with this newsletter because without it, there would have been no newsletter. Jan Robson

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## News from St George

On Monday 17 November 2014 the Hospital Executive will be hosting a celebratory morning tea at 0930 in the main hospital foyer.

We will be featuring a historic slide show and the cutting of a commemorative cake with a number of local and State dignitaries.

As the nursing profession has so significantly been a part of the foundation of the St George Hospital I would like to invite any members of the St George Hospital Graduate Nurses Association to attend and join with us in remembering and acknowledging our past.

Should you like to attend the morning tea please call Linda on 02 9113 2118 for location details.

Vicki Manning

## Do you know anyone in this photograph?



# Apologies, news and greetings

## **Anne Lightfoot (Glover 1965)**

Dear fellow graduates, I wish you all a wonderful reunion and am looking forward to the day. Next year 2015 will see my January 1961 PTS with 29 new trainees, but so few graduates, 11 I think celebrating 50 years – WOW! Let us endeavour to encourage all 1965 graduates to attend and make it an extra special reunion. Best wishes to all.

## **Gwen Stokeld (1961)**

Gwen sends her best wishes to the Graduates for an enjoyable time sharing together.

## **Carol Soper (Gray 1966)**

Carol sends regards to all and is sorry she cannot attend. She is touring in Russia and Italy. Carol continues to work at St George on 3 West.

## **Sheila Carter (Thomson 1957)**

Sorry I am unable to attend this year, our son is being married on that day, guess I had better attend! Have a lovely day and God willing I will see you next year.

## **Margaret Binder (Nable 1967)**

Margaret and Kevin are the proud grandparents of Shelby Kate, 4 December 2013, daughter to Stuart Binder and Wendy Dennis and Cailyn Clare, 21 August 2014, daughter to Kate Binder and Douglas Taylor.

## **Beryl Judd (MacKenzie 1967)**

Beryl writes... I regret I am unable to attend the Reunion but send my greetings and trust that your day together will be successful and enjoyable. During the last 12 months we have been in Mullumbimby, our world was turned upside down when Peter had unexpected medical problems and major surgery. All seems to be well now. We continue to be involved in the Byron

Hinterland Seed Savers Group. We are also involved in establishing new Community Gardens in our area, with a "Food Corridor" in the public reserve over our back fence.

## **Nita Sagar (Gulliver 1962)**

Nita writes... I send my best wishes to everyone. Sorry I can't join you but have a wonderful day. During September this year Margaret Hester (Ainsworth 1961), and her husband Lance, visited Sydney. Bob and I had a "Big Day Out" with them. Great Fun! They stayed with their son and family at Gynea. Margaret sends a special greeting to everyone. They still live on their farm at Bayup Brook in Western Australia.

## **Jan Hubbard (Knight 1961)**

Unfortunately I am unable to attend this years reunion as I will be in Sarasota Florida for the Dragons Abreast Regatta. I wish you all a happy reunion.

## **Patricia Sargent (Byrne)**

Patricia sends her greetings. She does not come to Sydney very often these days.

## **Anne Ottosen (Newham 1971)**

Anne writes she has recently relocated to Woy Woy on the Central Coast from Rosebud on the Mornington Peninsular.

## **Elizabeth Williams (Salway 1955)**

Elizabeth wishes everyone a very enjoyable get together.

## **Janice Myatt (Baker 1978)**

This year I am looking forward to attending the annual reunion. I continue to work in Aged Care and recently travelled to Ireland and England on a study tour. This is the third study trip I have completed with the Nurses in Management

Aged. The tours aim to review aged care facilities and their practice and determine comparisons with Australia. It was an educational and informative trip and the staff in the facilities made us most welcome. It is interesting to review practice and compare the Australian model and draw some conclusions. In both Ireland and England accreditation processes are quite similar and we all need to have policy and procedures in place to provide evidence to support our claims.

In England it was quite surprising to find that if a resident has dementia and no other medical issues they are considered to require social support and are not financially supported by the government – the resident and family are responsible for their accommodation charges and care costs. If they are unable to financially support themselves the account is sent to the family and in many instances they die with a debt to their estate. We were there when there was considerable media coverage and discussion in relation to dementia not being considered an illness, the lack of support provided and the high cost of care – in particular those with younger age onset of dementia.

## **Debra Bath (Mann 1974)**

Sends her best wishes for the reunion and looks forward to catching up.

## **Chris Mackey (Law 1972)**

Chris is booked to go to Norfolk Island with her sister (Susan Law 1979). They are patch working!

## **Joan English (Marsh 1952)**

I regret I am unable to attend the Reunion this year – health problems make it difficult to travel.

In September 2011, I had my pacemaker repositioned and despite reporting a deterioration in health, the visiting cardiologist did not investigate. Following serious developments in November 2013, I was admitted to hospital with an infected pacemaker. The next four months were spent in hospital treating numerous infections and removing the affected pacemaker. Because of this extended hospitalisation and my observations, I regretfully say that the standard of nursing care and medicine in general needs a radical overhaul. My thanks to my many nursing friends for their messages of concern and also a message from our Association.

Reunions are a time when we look back on those training days living in the Nurses' Home and trying to juggle long hours on duty and attending in our off duty time. Can we forget Tuesday morning Room Inspections – a time when it was legitimate for night duty nurses to not be in our beds! Thinking about our training days recently I was reminded of an Adelaide nurse, Val Brown (Kirkpatrick), I worked with while doing Midwifery in Perth. She sang a song to the tune of a well known Nat King Cole hit!

*They tried to tell us we're too young*

*Too young to really be a nurse.*

*They say that swot's a word*

*A word we've only heard and yet we are too young  
to know the meaning of.*

*And yet we're not too young to know*

*The ATNA we must sit and pass,*

*And then one day they may recall.*

*That we were not too young at all.*

Apologies to Nat King Cole.

My sincere thanks to the committee members for getting on with the job of organising the reunion.

Judith would not have wanted to see any changes while ever we can get a reasonable number of attendees.

Best wishes to all and have a great reunion. Joan English

IN MEMORY OF JUDITH

**Pam Clarke (Shepherd 1962)**

Pam writes... What a wonderful senior nurse Judith was in my day and a great example of the profession as a whole.

**Gwen Stokeld (1961)**

Gwen writes... I was shocked to read of the death of our friend and colleague Judith who did so much for Nursing in her long career. The Archivist at the St George Hospital and the College of Nursing. We will miss her presence and smiling face.



Night staff Moving around to Ocean Street on Pig Cart (circa 1936).



The same morning – moving to Ocean Street.



Night staff awaiting Room Inspection (circa 1940).

**Marie Townsend (Hayworth 1966)** passed away in June 2014. Pam Clarke writes... Marie was a wonderful human being and practitioner of complementary medicine. She was a top Kinisiologist in her later years. She is missed by so many and a great loss to all who passed through her care both in Sydney and the Byron Bay area. Marie started her training in 1962.

**Christine Sawyer (Last 1971)** Christne's daughter Tracy informed me that her mother passed away this year.

**Sandra Wojcinski (Gouldstone 1983)** Joan Walker writes... Sandra commenced training at St George in 1980 and graduated in 1983. In 1981 she married Ted Wojcinski, having obtained Matron's permission, which was a requirement at that time.

Following graduation Sandra worked for a short time at Kogarah Private Hospital. She then went to the cardiothoracic surgical ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital where she remained for almost 20 years, working part time while raising a family of four beautiful children: Glen, born in 1984, followed by Adam in 1987, Luke in 1989 and Heidi in 1993. Heidi is continuing the family nursing tradition following in the footsteps of her mother and her great aunt, Edna Gouldstone, who worked at St George in the 1950s. In 2005 Sandra began working with Hammond Care as an EACH (Extended Aged Care Home) Manager, and in 2011 moved to Campbelltown Hospital as a Discharge Planner.

In late December 2011, Sandra was diagnosed with breast cancer and in typical Sandra fashion she continued to work, rarely taking sick leave and going to work each day and fitting her many chemo and radiotherapy treatments in at the end of her shift. She had several hospital admissions, the last being to the Palliative Care Unit at Camden Hospital, where she died peacefully on 20 January 2014 surrounded by her family. Sandra was an asset to the nursing profession, and a beautiful person who was loved by many. This was made evident by the large number

who attended Ingleburn Baptist Church to celebrate her life and her faith in God.

**Kaye Selfe (1961)** Bev Watters writes... my friendship with Kaye goes back to our early childhood in Hurstville. As Kaye was only a month older than me, we started school together at South Hurstville Public School, progressed through High School and even started Nursing together on the same day at St George Hospital. It was through Kaye that I decided to take up nursing. It was one of the best decisions we both made in our lifetime. Thank you Kaye for happy days, for great laughs and a long friendship.

Kaye's Nursing Career: St George Hospital, General Training 1957-1961; Wollongong Hospital, Obstetrics; Nursing Indigenous People, New Guinea Islands; Brazilian Training, Sydney; Aboriginal Community Nursing, Kempsey; Charge Nurse for Children, Casino Hospital; Early Childhood and School Screening, Goulburn Community Health Centre; Illawarra Early Childhood Centre, covering Dapto to Lake Illawarra, Baby Health Centre; Kaye retired from Nursing in 1991. Well done Kaye (Bev Waters).

**Betty Jukes (Pulsford 1960)** Joan Staples writes... Betty Jukes died on 12 September 2014. Betty completed her General Training in 1960 and Midwifery

in 1961. She remained on the staff for some time. Betty ran a remedial massage practice in Penshurst for many successful years. Later she was a teacher of Calligraphy for U3A (University of the 3rd Age). This was a well attended course for many years). Betty and her husband Vic (who predeceased her) had four children. She was a member of Legacy and the War Widows Guild of NSW and was active in the functions of the Hurstville and Penshurst Guilds. Betty is remembered as a quiet and reserved person who practised her strong Christian faith.

**Albertha (Bertha) Williamson** (circa 1960s)

**Christine Sawyer (Last)** passed away 2014.

Tom Wilkinson, husband of **Noelene (Toohey 1958)** Noeleen writes to tell us that after seven and half years of illness her beloved Tom passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on 10 September 2014. They had been married for 50 years and nine months and Noelene has lots of lovely memories.

Arie Sher, husband of **Denise (Weingott 1969)** Denise writes to tell us that her husband Arie passed away on 7 January following a long battle multiple myeloma. They had been married for 41 years.



This photo was taken in 1979 when a Garden Party was held to celebrate 70 years of Nursing Training at the St George Hospital. Betty Jukes is second from the left in front row. I think it was a group of Graduates from the 1950s. I am fourth from the right with Joan Staples, Joan English and Cath McGavin.

## 60 Years



Shadwell, O'Connor, Brown, Hayes, Matthei, Matheson, Davis, Flegg, Brown, Gilbert, Meers, Anderson, Dash, Cush, Wallace and Dunn.

Cath Wolf writes... Best Wishes to all the "girls" who sat the Nurses Registration Board Examinations in the Great Hall at the Sydney University on 27 and 28 October 1953 and also May 1954. The graduation ceremony was held in the Nurses Lounge on 28 May 1954. The photograph (left) was taken in the hospital grounds before leaving for the examinations in 1953. Happy Reunion.

My husband Ron and I celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary in March with our family on a Captain Cook Lunch Cruise on Sydney Harbour and then holidayed in April at Port Macquarie. We enjoyed spending time while there with our bridesmaid Joyce (Johnson) and also Joan English (Marsh) and Marilyn Sellers (Williams).

## 50 Years



July 1964 Graduation Ceremony. Back Row: E. Johnston, J. Garrett, S. Hobson, P. Trim, Y. Cayford. Front Row: A. Saggs, E. Macready, M. Langham, L. Werner, S. Vaughan, N. Andrews.

## 40 Years

Sylvania Bennett (Smith 1974)... January 1971 PTS meet today to celebrate 40 years since graduation and we send greetings to all those unable to attend.

We acknowledge the sound training we received at St George and most are still working in chosen specialities including, Paediatrics, Midwifery, Community Nursing, Oncology and Aged Care.

We remember with fondness three deceased colleagues, Jan Salisbury, Laurel Hillier and Siew Lee Chuah.