

The St George
Hospital Graduate
Nurses' Association
REUNION 2016



Reunion 2015

ST GEORGE HOSPITAL GRADUATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
www.stgeorgegrads.com

Another successful reunion was held at the very lovely "Gardens on Forest" with 85 Graduates attending. As our numbers are dwindling it was great to see so many attending. A reminder that if we do not hear from you within two years your name is taken off the mailing list.

Jan Robson, Hon. Secretary



(L-R): Dorothy Cocker, Heather Johnston, Cath Wolf and Joan English.



(L-R): Yvonne Williamson (nee Spurling) and Pam Mattocks (nee Reynolds).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015/2016

Joan Wagstaff OAM (Davidson)
President
Phone 02 9771 2508

Dorothy Coker (Phillips)
Vice-President

Jan Robson (Overall)
Hon. Secretary and Reunion Secretary

Margaret Binder (Nable)
Hon. Treasurer

Committee Members

Estelle Green (Farrell)
Kathryn Litchfield (West)
Susan Leahy
Yvonne Troy (Cayford)
Loretta Lancaster (Craig)

BANNER PHOTO

Michele Knowles (1973) from Perth came to the 2015 Reunion dressed for the occasion.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

To borrow the CDs or access the audio online, contact Joan Wagstaff OAM, President on 02 9771 2508 or email: joanlwagstaff@gmail.com

2016 REUNION

Next year's reunion will be held on Saturday 21 October 2017.

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Graduate Nurses Association
PO Box 110, Padstow NSW 2211

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

2015 Reunion



1957 group at the 2015 Reunion.



1961 group at the 2015 Reunion.



1965 group at the 2015 Reunion.

FOR INTEREST SAKE

Taken from the Australian Christian Nurses Magazine "Caps and Cuffs" circa 1950.

POSITIONS VACANT

Young women, over 18 years. Must be physically perfect with strong flexible muscles, used to lifting heavy weights. Must be able to spend twelve hours per day on their feet, and remain patient and smiling even when the blisters have broken. Must have cast-iron digestion, used to coping with anything at all, as duty demands.

Applicants must have sunny tempers, remain calm when others are snarling and shouting and be prepared at all times to have their most cherished arrangements cancelled at a moments notice – without showing disappointment. Must be enthusiastic about early rising, summer and winter. Applicants would also be well to possess an elementary knowledge of cooking, plumbing, laundering, chemistry, mechanics, child psychology, furniture moving, floral art, and code deciphering.

Would anyone possessing the above qualifications please apply Immediately to begin training as nurses. Contributed by Cath Wolf (nee Matthei).

THANK YOU

A very special thank you to John Thrift of John Thrift Design who over many years has given outstanding help and assistance to the St George Hospital Graduate Nurses Association, designing our newsletters, helping us with the publication and printing of Judith Cornell's book, setting up the website and the information therein. Visit: www.stgeorgegrads.com

President's Report

Welcome to the 2016 Reunion and it is hoped that everyone has an enjoyable time at this lovely venue, reminiscing about the "old days". There is no doubt that once we all get together with our colleagues the "years simply roll away".

Because of the very positive feedback that the committee received re the venue "Gardens on Forest" it was decided to return this year. Unfortunately we have had to have an early start due to the preparations for a wedding, and this has proved to be difficult for some people.

Following last year's Reunion Margaret Binder, Treasurer, Jan Robson Secretary, and myself attended the Joanne Mackay Foundation Luncheon to present a cheque on behalf of the St George Hospital Graduate Nurses Association which was warmly received.

The Joanne Mackay Breast Cancer Foundation was formed in 2002 to raise money for those coping with the dreadful effects of the disease and treatment but also with the worries of the family's domestic and financial responsibilities. It is proposed, with the approval of the members, that we once again support the Foundation with a donation from the St George Graduates.

Queen Elizabeth celebrated her 90th Birthday this year and it brought back memories of her first visit as monarch to Australia in 1954 with staff and patients lining the Princes Highway to catch a glimpse of her and Prince Phillip in their open car. To those of us who



2014/2015 Committee members at the 2015 Reunion.



"Nurses of the St George Hospital wheeled Joan Preece (13) and Valma Soady (12) to the front of the crowd as the Queen drove through Kogarah today on her way to the South Coast."

were present it was a very exciting time. Pictured is Val Nichols (Rankin) and Margaret Moffat first year Nurses from Lower Children's Ward.

I would sincerely like to thank all the members for their ongoing support of the St George Hospital Graduates Nurses Association. With our numbers gradually dwindling it remains to be seen how long the Association will continue. New members to the committee are very welcome.

Again a big thank you to Susan Leahy for the beautiful table decorations which she has donated each year.

A special thanks go to all the members of the committee for their ongoing support. In particular Kathryn Litchfield (West) who drives up from Bowral for the meetings.

Again happy reunion to everyone.

Joan Wagstaff OAM (Davidson 1957)

Apologies, News and Greetings

Ann Fleming (Carpenter 1958)

Hope you all have a good day.

Hellen Cassidy (Thurgood 1965)

Sorry I can't make the Reunion. Best wishes to all. Will be on a Cruise during October/November.

Anne Lightfoot (Glover 1965)

Though unable to meet with you today, I am sending best wishes to everyone. Daryl and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in May, joining our family for lunch at Toronto overlooking the beautiful Lake Macquarie. Daryl continues his Presbyterian archival part-time career. Hopefully looking forward to retirement in the near future. Sylvia Bennett (Smith 1974), Joan Short (McMahon 1964) and I recently visited Fay Loom (Walker 1964) in her health care facility. We had a pleasant time and though Faye is very frail it was good to see her sparkling eyes and lovely smile.

Narelle Standen (Russell 1963)

Wish all a very successful Reunion.

Newsy item for this year was my trip to Antarctica "In the Wake of Mawson" It was a 26 day voyage on a Russian Ice Proctect ship which had a total of 48 passengers. Departed from Hobart 8th January and headed into the southern ocean which hit us with all its fury Visited Macquarie Island and at Sandy Bay a large rookery of inquisitive Royal penguins.

We headed to Commonwealth Bay and encountered our first icebergs. At Commonwealth Bay we planned to visit Mawson's Hut but alas not to be as a 14 km ice flow prevented us getting there with safety. We had

to leave the area in a hurry as the ice flow in the night had started to surround the ship. From there we then visited The French Antarctic Base, headed north stopping and exploring New Zealand sub Antarctic Islands. The whole trip was an experience out of this world and I made new friendships from all over Australia and New Zealand.

Alice Ottosin (Newham 1970)

On behalf of all the graduates nurses from the April 1966 intake, I would like to thank Vicki Odman (Royce) for the great effort she has put into making this reunion a memorable occasion-being 50 years since we started our training. Best wishes to other graduates who commenced training during 1966 Look forward to seeing you all.

Cath Wolf (Matthai 1954)

Hullo to all the Graduates who were at St George in the 1950s who are unable to attend the Reunion. Especially Enid Macdonald (Meers) in Tasmania with health problems and Ruth Young (Mitchell) who lost her son Lionel in a motorbike accident. Ron and I now have three Great grand children (all at Coffs Harbour) and we look forward to another in December to our Grand daughter who is on the Maternity staff at Sutherland Hospital. We keep well (for our age!) and enjoy living in our home at Lugarno.

Beryl Judd (Mackenzie 1967)

Best wishes to all for a wonderful reunion. Our Nurse's training and friends will always be treasured. Life for us in the Byron Shire continues to be interesting and

busy. Plenty of Festivals to choose from too. Health wise all is well. Seed saving/gardening occupies most of our time these days. Byron Hinterland Seed Savers Group contines to grow and we all share our skills and knowledge.

Nola Richardson (Holmes)

Sorry I can't be with you at this year's reunion. Hope it is as successful as last year.

Estelle Green (Farrell 1962)

Looking forward to the reunion. Finally back in Sydney having been away most of the year. visiting NSW South Coast, Victoria ,South Australia, Plus the Gold Coast to look after my sister, and the far north coast. Also Canada and Alaska. Arrived back 18 September.



GOLD MEDALLIST

In reference to the request to fill in the "gaps" of unknown Gold Medallists" in Judith Cornell's book "Without Nurses a Hospital is Just Bricks and Mortar" Nita Sager (Gulliver) has supplied the following information: A Gold Medal was awarded in October 1961 and the recipient was Margaret Ainsworth (now Hester).

Anniversaries

70th ANNIVERSARY

The St George Hospital Graduate Nurses' Association will celebrate their 70th Anniversary in 2017.

To make this a special occasion we would like as many Graduates as possible to attend. So tell your St George friends and make a date.

The date for our 70th Anniversary Reunion is 21 October 2017.



50th YEAR CELEBRATION

CONGRATULATIONS to the 1966 Graduates and the 1966 PTS group celebrating 50 years. Thank you to Annette Barrand for helping to gather some of the 1966 PTS group.

Greetings from Janice Myatt (Bakker 1978)

This year I am looking forward to attending the annual luncheon.

I have just returned from Sweden and Denmark on yet another Aged Care study tour with Nurses in Management Aged Care. Again the purpose was to make comparisons with the Australian model and identify the benefits of both systems. Both Sweden and Denmark are highly taxed and we certainly noticed this when we purchased items with varying taxes, for example, when we had a meal we paid 12% tax plus an import tax on the meat served. An extra 25% tax is imposed on items such as clothing and accessories. This doesn't bother the locals as they know that they live in a welfare state and the state will support them as required. Of course, the aged see the benefit

from the welfare state as they age and require care. Like most countries both try to keep the elderly in their own home as long as possible and attempt to maintain independence by providing equipment and services at home without charge. When the care needs increase and the aged person requires a nursing home bed they are assessed by a social worker employed by the municipality and placed in a home decided upon by the system, the resident doesn't have a choice of homes. If for some reason they wish to go to a home in another municipality, for example, to be closer to their family the municipality from where they lived pre admission pays for the care. The resident leases the apartment from the municipality (public housing) and pay rent plus a fee for meals. They can apply to the government for rent assistance. The municipality also funds the home for each resident,

they fund by resident not care needs like we do. The apartment, has a kitchenette (mostly disconnected due to resident ability and diagnosis) small living area, bedroom and bathroom, it is still part of a facility with communal dining, lounge and activity areas. The nursing home could be on two or three floors within a block of units owned by the municipality.

By our standards the facilities we visited had had more care staff per shift then we have but the care staff did all care, hygiene, medications, preparing and serving meals, cleaning the resident's rooms and assisting with activities. There seemed to be a shortage of RN's and they worked Monday to Friday 0700-1600 and completed care plans, managed complex care and the municipality supplied on call RN's outside of these hours.

Vale



I thought I saw her
face today
In the sparkle of the
morning sun
And then I heard
an Angel say
"Her work on earth is done"

Gwendoline Lydia Stockeld
(1961)
16 March 1931 to 21 July 2016



Shirley June Lloyd
Age 89 years
19 May 2016



Elizabeth Mary Hadfield
(Thomas 1952)
24 February 1930
to 22 September 2016



Sue Hinn



Janet Hinson



Lorraine Elder
(Bell 1958)

St George Hospital Update

A Local community Advisory Board has been established at the St George Hospital to ensure the community has a "voice" in relation to public health matters.

Additionally a Mental Health Consumer Advisory group meets monthly to discuss consumers experiences in the Mental Health Service and where improvements can be made.

The Consumer Advisory Group's objectives are to obtain advice from the community, to raise issues and provide advice on:

- Community perspective in determining needs and priorities on health policy, service provision, service delivery, training and education. patient information and accessibility.
- Mechanisms for local community members, consumers and carers to raise health issues.
- Consumer issues within the St George Hospital service that need addressing and to collaborate with

management to seek resolution of these issues.

- Ensuring that health concerns of the community are represented.

Persons interested in becoming a member of the St George Consumer Advisory Group call 02 9113 2901.

The website address is: http://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/SGH/consumer_advisory_group.asp



DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT
30th June 1952

Front entrance of St George Hospital in Kensington Street, circa 1950.



Same view from Kensington Street, as above, in September 2016.