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ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITALS NURSES' ASSOCIATION INC.

P.O. Box 63  
Royal Brisbane Hospital  
Brisbane 4029

## Newsletter June 2022

### **Annual General Meeting, held at Kedron Wavell RSL May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM. We had 32 attend. Thank you to the outgoing Committee Members for your work and efforts during a time of COVID-19 and the most recent floods.

Some of us were impacted personally and it meant isolation, disruption, and lots of challenging work. Joy Wilson dealt with major concerns during this time with potential financial loss and unfortunately, confronted with the loss of precious historical material to clean, sort and move.

A big thankyou to our Honorary Curator Joy Wilson for her presentation regarding the extraordinary marathon to preserve items damaged by the flood and Gigi Lacey Principal Consultant – Instinct Organisational Development who generously gave her time to discuss the importance of succession planning to preserve association process and information. We also thank Kedron Wavell RSL, especially the Functions Team for their ongoing support to ensure our events are enjoyable.

A huge welcome to the incoming Committee.

President – Cluny Seager  
Vice President – Lorraine Birtwell  
Treasurer – Kerry Biggs  
Honorary Secretary – Crystal Nielsen  
Nursing Museum Honorary Curator – Joy Wilson  
Activities and Social Coordinator, - Jeanette Wiley  
Membership Secretary - Bernadette Smith  
Committee Member - Margaret Welsh

### **Communications**



A web page is currently being developed by our committee, with support of Alanna Geary and the Communications and Engagement staff at the RBWH. A link to the membership forms will be included, for easy access for nurses interested in joining our association.

There is an opportunity to book a tour of the newly renovated Unilodge Herston and Apartments. Book a tour via [unilodge.com.au](http://unilodge.com.au)

The Museum of Nursing History Website was launched by Alanna Geary in October 2021.

This website has had a lot of interest and we look forward to welcoming many visitors as our volunteer cohort continues to grow. [The Museum of Nursing History - Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.](#)

The Committee have developed a Facebook page "THE ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITALS NURSES ASSOCIATION INC. We also can add events to the Facebook page 'Nurses who studied at Royal Brisbane Hospital.'

### **Events**

Many of our members participated in The Heritage Signage Project (Lady Lamington + Edith Cavell Buildings) with Holly Maclean (URBIS) and Michelle Anderson (Manager, Communications, Herston Quarter Project, Metro North). [Heritage Buildings.](#)

A series of "Panels" have been installed on walls in the Lady Lamington + Edith Cavell Buildings featuring quotes/stories from the nurses who lived in the buildings. The project includes curated public art and participating artists.

## Date Claimers

**Fashion Parade Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Kitty Hawke Room 930am to 330pm \$45pp – Lunch and Tea/Coffee included.**

**Christmas Party Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November – V.C Suite 10am – 3pm. \$45pp – Lunch and Tea/Coffee included**

Our Fashion Parade hostess is Roz from Portofino Fashions, provides a wonderful selection of very reasonably priced fashion and very generously donates a portion of her profits to the association.

As you all know were unable to host our annual Christmas function in 2021, where we celebrate anniversaries of our graduations. It is 50 years for 1972 graduates, so how about trying to contact anyone you know who fits into this category, get a party together and enjoy the "remember when" that go on for hours. Having said that, any other groups who want to arrange a reunion will be very welcome so please contact your friends and make a day of it.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support. *Jeanette Wiley.*

**The RBWH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** (albeit an off-shoot of Team Royal and supported by the RBWH).

This Committee is open to anyone who is a past or present staff member of RBWH. Alanna welcomes any of our members to attend these meetings. They just need to be advised of numbers to ensure that they have an appropriately sized room for the meeting-[RBWH Foundation - Royal Alumni](#)

## Members Reflections

***Margaret Welsh recounts her reflections/memories of the origin of The Royal Brisbane Hospitals Nursing Association.***

At the insistence of Dorothy Burrows (nee Frail), myself and others joined a group that met at Centaur House in Adelaide Street. These meetings had been ongoing for a number of years prior to this. Miss Harkness was the leader, known as Auntie Agnes, because she had been the home matron.

Our first impression was how old these ladies were. Hats and gloves were a must, after all we were in the city!! This was about 1956/57! This group folded up because Centaur House wanted the room back.

There was another group soon after that. They also met at Centaur House, this group was organized by past nurses Marie Hooper and Ada Harper. This group also folded due to lack of attendance and being unable to use Centaur House.

From Memory both groups were 'bring a plate' and the dishes had to be washed and put away before everyone left. Even though there wasn't anything officially organized there were still other smaller groups meeting in each other's houses.

Over a period of time, larger reunions were advertised and held at different venues such as restaurants. Word of mouth was used to spread the message about each function, even though we were expected to have contacted the organizer. Hence the numbers attending at these were more than expected! This was in the 70's.

There were also arts and crafts stalls in the Rec room in the Nurses Quarters in the south tower. Paintings were sold by committee members to raise funds. Unsure of the purpose of this but the funds could have been used to purchase items for the nurses' home.

During the 70's/80's Cecilia Brazil formed another group which became active in sponsoring things such as port and pudding evenings and Saturday morning teas on the veranda outside the museum.

The Annual meetings of the past nurses were held in the Rec Room and very well attended by country members. (This could have been during Ekka time.)

Other reunions were organized. One I can remember was held in the Rec Room, alcohol was surprisingly served, and we were waited on by Senior staff and working nurses. The Junior nurses also put on a display of their current work practices.