



# The Royal Brisbane Hospitals Nurses' Association Inc. Newsletter



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## December 2022

### Christmas Lunch/ Reunion gathering

First and foremost sincere thank you to all who attended the very enjoyable and successful Christmas Lunch\ Reunion. We had 95 acceptances to this annual event which resulted in laughter, sharing of experiences and memories. Incredible service from Kedron Wavell RSL with a delicious meal.

An event such as this cannot happen without the support of all our members and we hope in 2023 our membership numbers continue to grow to support this association that has brought friendship, kindness, understanding, knowledge and support to nurses of Royal Brisbane, Royal Women's and Royal Children's Hospitals for over 70 years.



Lorraine Birtwell invited each table to give their memories of their training and years working at the Royal Brisbane, Royal Women's and Royal Children's, so many fabulous memories were shared including antics of living in the Nurses Quarters.

Jeanette Wiley our events co-ordinator added 'To watch a large group of women happily chatting non-stop, great food and a jovial environment was wonderful. It was lovely to overhear many planning to spread the word and make next year's party even bigger and better.'



### **Grant Application**



Dr Cathy See (Association Member and Managing Director, Gravitas Consulting Group), Lorraine Birtwell (Vice President) and Joy Wilson (Honorary Curator of the Museum of Nursing History), put forward a successful application for a Grant to the Gambling Fund to support our flood recovery. We are so grateful for their time, knowledge and skills. This grant will certainly make a huge impact to our RBWH Nurses' Association going forward.

What a fabulous way to finish an incredible year.

### **Welcome New Members**

Florence Jansen, Rhonda Mead, Debra Nizette, Mary Harvey, Helen Phillips, Maree Green, Terri Walter, Erica Gardner, Lynette Edwards and Marie Low

### **Annual Memberships now due.**

Reminders have been emailed or posted for those due membership renewal. Thank you all for your ongoing support in making this Association continue to provide friendships, laughter, memories and of course our wonderful Museum of Nursing History.

We are hoping to increase our membership further and look forward to new ideas, more social activities, volunteers support and motivation to participate in our committee.

### **Museum closure**

The Museum will be closed during December-January, re-opening early February depending on completion of the removal of cladding from the Clinical Sciences building impacting on the Museum. Thanks for your support through the year. We'll be looking for volunteers to help in the Museum next year. Joy Wilson, Honorary Curator.

### **Vale**

Margaret Anne Ryan (nee O'Brien) passed away at the Wesley Hospital on 6th June 2022 at the grand age of 90 after a long battle with cancer. Her husband, Timothy passed away shortly after. They had been married 69 years and are survived by their 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Her daughter Catherine who resides in Houston, Texas, also trained at RBH graduating in 1980. Mrs Ryan trained at RBH from 1949-1953 and also worked at the old Diamantina hospital at a time when they were severely understaffed with incredible responsibilities at such young ages. She was one of a few nurses who became proficient at working with patients who were connected to what was termed "the iron lung". Mrs Ryan worked as the Charge Nurse on D Floor (Women's ward) in Lawson House for over 6 years and spoke fondly of her time there. She was also a Nursing Supervisor (Blockie) from the early 70's to 1981, being the first married "Block Sister". RIP. Our sympathies are extended to the family.

### **Save the Dates**

AGM will be held 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Fashion Parade 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Christmas\Reunion Lunch 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

And more to come based on the survey responses

### **Season's greetings**

Wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year period.