



Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 25th May 2024 10am held at the Kedron-Wavell RSL Club

The meeting was opened by President Cluny Seager at 10.00am

Welcome to Country – Catherine See

Apologies: Muriel Mackenzie, Val Bell, Judy Eddy, Sandra Voll, Nada Matinek, Lee Dingle, Bev Phillips, Yvonne Thomas, Fay Corish, Marian Linnane, Alana Geary, Bernadette Smith, Jeanette Wiley, Margo Hutchison, Ivory Shields, Lenore Saville, Sylvia Henderson, Helen Duggan, Katrina Mears, Lorraine Walker and Lynne Betts.

Attendance: Cluny Seager, Joy Wilson, Cathy See, Kerry Biggs, Elaine Pirie, Cara Whittred, Norma Webster, Marie Low, Alma Weller, Lorraine Birtwell, Judith Wrembeck, Margaret Tamerius, Aileen Hinsch, Ismay Selby, Roslyn Campbell, Wendy Haynes, Dell Lovett, Bernice Kennedy, Margaret Welsh, Gail Porter, Crystal Neilsen, Natasha Keir (Guest Speaker)

Minutes of the previous AGM held 27th May 2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Accepted: Bernice Kennedy. **Seconded:** Cara Whittred

President's Report Cluny Seager

Some of the highlights of the last year include the reprinting of "The Bearers of the Tradition" which was first published in 1991. Unfortunately, the last copies were destroyed in the flood and the important historical book would have been gone forever. A printer was sourced who could reprint using only a remaining copy and the book is again available. The book has attracted many buyers already and copies are available at the Museum and can be posted.

On 13th February a display honouring Joyce Tweddell was opened. The Cancer Care Building (B39) at RBWH has been named after Ms Tweddell. The Committee worked with staff from the Cancer Care Service to create a wonderful display in honour of Ms Tweddell and her contribution to Radiology and Nursing. The display was opened by the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young Governor of Queensland.

The Museum has recovered from flooding, vandalism and, through the hard work of Joy Wilson and other members is up and running again. Memberships are a little down this year. We have 146 members, 10 new members and unfortunately 29 who did not renew. The Association had 4 members pass away this year.

Cluny informed that she will not be running for office on the new Committee and thanked the Committee members for their friendship and support over recent years.

Museum Report – Joy Wilson Curator

This report covers the period from the time from the last AGM on May 11th 2023 to May 24, 2024

Museum Building (Building 19 RBWH) During the last 12 months there have been several security measures completed, these include security screens on the front veranda and a security screen across the main entrance to the veranda securing this area to the main door entrance. Extra lighting has been installed on the building. These measures have been put in place to deter vagrants from sleeping on the verandas. One of the big problems is that of rubbish left by these people and fire as evidence of smoking has been found. The building was built in 1875 and is Heritage listed and the risk of damage from fire is of great concern.. New locks have been fitted and there is a key register for those who have keys to sign again keeping security in mind.. The Air conditioning system is checked regularly and new filters have been installed recently. All electrical goods including the display cabinets have been checked and tagged. For personal safety, due to the isolation of the building there are two duress alarms available for the volunteers. New step treads were installed and painted according to WHS specifications. Fire and Safety officers will be conducting fire safety practices in July.

Trees were removed from around the building after being checked for heritage listing. The trees were continually dropping leaves into the gutters and rotting them. There still needs to be more work done on the roof and gutters. All maintenance is done by BEMS and is much appreciated by the committee. There is an agreement with Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Royal Brisbane Hospitals Nurses Association Inc. in the form of a Licence Agreement (Short Form) for a three year period commenced February 2021 for three years and this has been renewed March of this year.

Flood retrieval collection The flood retrieved and conserved collection stored in Everton Hills was returned to the Museum in October 2023.

The move was completed by Aussie Removals and the cost covered by the Grant money. This collection is stored on the veranda (Area J) of the 2 museum. To make room for this collection several pieces of furniture were sold and some of the Medical machinery was donated to the Medical Museum. All lists have been kept and deaccessioning will be recorded. There is a need for a revision of the inventory for this retrieved collection hence the request for working bees. All of this collection has been photographed so that the actual processing of the collection will be fairly straight forward. As reported in the February 24 Museum Report the Grant Acquittal was approved by the Gambling Fund thanks to the hard work of Cathy,

Lorraine and Joy. General cleaning of the museum continues and particular attention has been made for the cleaning of the interior of the display cabinets.

Visitors

Visitors over the year have included Professor Linda Shields and a group from the College of Nursing, in September 2023. There was a visit to the museum of Nursing Students from Hong Kong in February; a large number of thirty. Groups of ten were shown the museum by Jeanette and Margaret. The groups were also taken to the Ned Hanlon building to be shown the display cases there by Joy and Sam. We are expecting two more visits from overseas students in July and August, these students are from Taiwan. These visits are arranged through QUT. They are delightful groups and submit very positive responses signed in the Museum Visitors Book....Our own students, who visit mainly after they have completed their clinical objectives, will be visiting at completion of the university semester midyear and at the end of the year... It is always a pleasure to see them.

A visit from a past trainee who now lives in Canada and her friends visited last month with Jeanette attended to their visit, again very positive comments

The people from Corporate Crew included the museum in their annual corporate race and readily recommend a visit the museum to other sections of Administration departments...3

There have been 23 visitors and 148 student visits so far from early this year.

As Cluny has spoken about the Joyce Tweddell display I may add that it was pleasure to work with Jemma and Kathy, Radiation Oncology Technicians who actually were trained by Joyce and remember her with great affection.. Cluny and Jeanette arranged the history section of the display relating to Joyce's wonderful life.

Collection Management

There has been only two subcommittee meeting over this period of time and it is hoped that these can be recommenced in the later this year Digitalising the collection has commenced, starting with scanning of the many photographs. The new printer scanner and lap top are a boost for the museum collection these were obtained from the Grant.

Every effort is made in conservation of the nursing collection. It is essential that an effort is made for Best Museum Practice to protect and conserve the archives, nursing books, framed and non framed photos, photograph albums, textiles and objects used for nursing procedures in the past.

It is of interest that nursing training finished in hospitals in 1993 that is thirty one years ago! The history of nurse training began in 1885 with the first graduated completing in 1888 that is 139 years ago. The book Bearers of the Tradition by Helen Gregory and Cecilia Brazil was published in 1993 and Helen Gregory's book, A Tradition of Care in 1988.

The collection represents the Historical and Cultural inheritance of Nursing at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital. Our History and Culture It is our time our history lets protect the legacy.

Book Donations

Prof John Pearn has donated a presentation paper about Rosemary Opala nee Fielding from the Coochiemudlo Heritage Assn. Rosemary completed her training in 1945. Her sister Margaret Jean also completed for her training in 1946. Rosemary was a great artist and naturalist - her many drawing are in the Fryer Library, University of Queensland.

Miss Janet Henry Child Health History (Qld) Inc. Committee has donated "A Time to Remember" a descriptive account of the Infant Welfare/Child Health Service in Qld 1918 – 1991.

The museum continues to receive collections from past nurses. These are recorded and signed over to the collection.

A PhD student has been working in the museum as part of her PhD thesis. The thesis is titled 'Female Troubles: Reproductive Dysfunction in the Mid-Century Australia'. She now is completing writing her thesis to be submitted after June.

The Museum Of Nursing History is well recognised in the Museum Network through Museum and Galleries Queensland and Brisbane Living Heritage.

I wish to thank all the committee for their assistance with the collection and particularly Margaret and Jeanette for their devotion and historical knowledge imparted to our museum visitors. Volunteer hours 809 hours.

Joy confirmed that the lease agreement for the Museum has been signed for the next 3 years.

The Museum has attracted many visits from Nursing students and other interested parties including visits from students from as far afield as Taiwan. There are 2 tours booked for July and in August more overseas students.

The Museum has new security installed to prevent any further vandalism and to protect the collection. The Museum is open on a regular roster and the conservation work is ongoing.

Treasurers Report – Kerry Biggs

Kerry informed that the auditor has not yet completed the yearly report but it will be distributed once completed. Currently the Association has a balance of \$14,456.80 in the Commonwealth Bank and \$11,535.14 in The Great Southern Bank which will be moved to the Commonwealth Bank shortly.

Last year grant monies of \$23,660 were acquitted.

Election of Committee

Cluny, as Returning Officer, declared all Committee Positions Vacant

The following nominations for 2024 Committee Membership were received...

Role:	Nominee	Nominated By:	Seconded By:
President	Catherine See	Lorraine Birtwell	Cluny Seager
Vice-President	VACANT		
Treasurer	Kerry Biggs	Lorraine Joy Wilson	Lorraine Birtwell
Secretary	Bernadette Smith	Catherine See	Lorraine Birtwell
Membership Secretary	Lorraine Birtwell	Catherine See	Cluny Seager
Committee Member	Joy Wilson	Jeanette Wiley	Catherine See
Committee Member	Marian Linnane	Lorraine Birtwell	Catherine See
Committee Member	Aileen Hinsch	Lorraine Birtwell	Catherine See
Committee Member	VACANT		

No further nominations were received, and Cluny opened nominations to the floor. No further nominations were received, and all nominations were accepted.

New President Cathy See

Cathy thanked Cluny Seager and Jeanette Wiley for their years of service to the Association. Cathy also thanked Crystal Nielsen for her honorary role of secretary over the last 2 years.

The Association has been in discussions with the Association Patron Alanna Geary who is planning a Nursing Event in September 2024 and the Association has been invited to participate. Given this event is likely to be in September, the Committee has agreed to cancel the planned Fashion Parade in 2024 so that members will not have two competing events in the same month. More information will be distributed as it comes to hand. Cathy invited all members to consider how the Association can best meet the needs of its members.

Meeting closed at 10.50am

Cluny welcomed our Guest Speaker Natasha Keir, Nurse Practitioner Breast Oncology. Natasha is the 1st Queensland Breast Care Nurse Practitioner and shared a range of stories and interesting insights of her role across Queensland.