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ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITALS NURSES' ASSOCIATION INC.

P.O. Box 63  
Royal Brisbane Hospital  
Brisbane 4029

## Newsletter July 2024

### President's Note



Welcome to our July Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Annual General Meeting. It was a lovely day and our guest speaker - Ms Natasha Keir – was a great addition to the event. We must once again extend our gratitude to Cluny Seager, Jeanette Wiley and Crystal Neilsen. They have served the association so well for many years on the committee. All incoming committees benefit from the dedication of those who have come before, so we are lucky to have had such great people willing to contribute time and energy over the years.

Our New Committee was elected at the AGM in May. The details are in the AGM minutes attached to this newsletter. As a committee, we are now planning great things for the coming year – watch this space for details on a special event later in the year. Sincere thanks to our incoming committee members who have accepted roles enthusiastically. We do still have two positions vacant on our committee if anyone is interested.

**Cathy**

<b>Your new Committee, elected at the May AGM is....</b>	
President	Catherine See
Vice-President	Vacant
Treasurer	Kerry Biggs
Secretary	Bernadette Smith
Membership Secretary	Lorraine Birtwell
Honorary Museum Curator	Joy Wilson
Committee Members	Marian Linnane Aileen Hinsch

### Patron



Our Patron, Alanna Geary, attended our committee planning meeting earlier this month and gave some insights to work of The RBWH Foundation and The RBWH Alumni groups. These Committees work together to promote the ongoing excellence in care across our hospitals through provision of funding for Research and ongoing opportunities for social connection of staff past and present.

The Foundation is celebrating its 40year anniversary in 2025 with several events being planned. There is talk of holding a High Tea at Victoria Park early in 2025 and there may also be a Ball held later in the year. The RBH Nurses' Association will be active participants in these events and will keep you all informed as we have more information about what is going ahead. Alanna encouraged us to consider the changing demographic of nurses at the RBWH and highlighted the very different experiences we have all contributed to nursing over the years.

## Museum Report



Digitalising the collection has commenced, starting with scanning of the many photographs in our collection. The new printer scanner and laptop are a boost for the museum. These were obtained from the Community Gambling Benefits Grant received after the floods of 2022. 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. Let's protect the legacy together!

We always welcome volunteers to the museum. Please consider how you might be able to help.

**Joy 0488 418111**

## Membership Update

Members (financial)	146
Honorary Members	9
New members 2023 / 2024	1

***Please consider suggesting membership to any of your friends or colleagues who trained or worked at the Royal Brisbane Hospital!***

**Lorraine**

## Lady Norman Building

We have received a request for information in relation to the history of the Lady Norman Wing here at RBH. As you might recall this building is directly opposite the Edith Cavell Building.



***The Lady Norman building was erected in 1895 as part of the expansion of the Brisbane Hospital for Sick Children. It comprised four main wards and is the only building surviving from the former Royal Children's Hospital complex. The building was designed by JJ Clark, one of Australia's leading architects in the 19th century. It was, at the time, the state of the art in hospital design based on the pavilion plan principles of providing plenty of light and ventilation. Despite recent internal changes to the building, the original planning as a pavilion plan ward block survives.***

*One of the more unusual and striking features of the building is a room on the first floor - the former operating theatre. This room is distinguished by a set of large windows and also a lantern or skylight to maximize natural light. The room has changed little since 1895 and demonstrates what operating theatres were like in the 19th century. They were simple spaces unlike contemporary theatres with sophisticated equipment and facilities. This theatre in the Lady Norman wing is the oldest surviving theatre in Queensland.*

*The Lady Norman wing is an important part of the story of health care services for children in Queensland and is entered on the Queensland Heritage Register.*

<https://medicine.uq.edu.au/blog/2018/12/lady-norman-wing-oldest-operating-theatre-queensland>

Samantha Negoita from 'Converge' has been engaged to work on the heritage interpretation project for the Lady Norman wing. She is keen to understand if anyone has any historical photos or plans related to this building. You can send any stories or photos to us and we will send them on.

## **A TIME TO REMEMBER**

Janet Henry, author of the book, "A Time to Remember." has requested that we share a book sales flyer for this book that captures the first comprehensive account of the history of the Infant Welfare/Child Health Service in Queensland. It traces the development of the service from 1918 to 1991. It tells the story of a service born out of a world-wide concern about high infant and maternal mortality.

To purchase a book, you will need to scan the QR Code on the flyer and visit the ACCYPN order and payment page.

Once a book is purchased, it will be sent out by post. See details on the flyer attached to this email.

## **Return to the Nurses' Quarters**



We are currently in early stages of planning a High Tea event at the Nurses' Quarters. IT is likely to be held on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 11.00am – 2.30pm**. As we mentioned at the AGM, this will be in place of our usual fashion parade and morning tea.

Why not celebrate your 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th, 50th, or 60th Graduation Anniversary with your group?

***We will come back to you as soon as possible with details of how to book a table / buy tickets for this special event.***

## Save the Date:



*Our Annual Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Kedron Wavell Services Club.*

**More details to follow!**

## Portofino Fashion

Roz Fridenberg from Portofino Fashion has been a great friend to the Association for a long time.

Given we will not be holding a fashion parade this year, Roz is inviting all members of the Association to visit the Portofino warehouse in Highgate Hill to access her great range of fashion and accessories.

Please support this amazing business.

PORTOFINO est. 1981  
FASHION

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