



## Newsletter December 2024

### President's Note



We had yet another amazing event in November to celebrate the end of the year. Thank you to Aileen Hinsch for leading us all in the preparation and planning for this event and to all of the committee members for contributing to what was a fabulous day. Many people commented on the energy in the room. I also think it was great to see some new faces – who we should stay close to – who brought a group along to celebrate together. I think these last two events have shown us what is possible if we can engage deliberately with all of those who have an interest in nursing across the RBWH campus. The proceeds from the raffle proved another bonus for the association – thank you Aileen for bringing this element to life.

I was fortunate on 11th November to attend a luncheon at The Moreton Club where Dr Madonna Grehan spoke about her time as a Research Fellow at the State Library of Queensland researching the Centaur Memorial Fund and the amazing contribution of nurses during wartime. Madonna even had a photo of my (now 96 year old) Aunt in her presentation when she was the Maryborough Hospital's entrant in the 'Queen of Nurses' pageant. Madonna has since been in touch to let us know about a project underway, led by Maggi Boulton and Ian Roberts-Thomson from the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine (ANZSHM). They're planning a book to showcase Australia's medical and health history collections. The definition of medicine and health includes nursing and midwifery of course. They would like us to be involved in some way. Joy has agreed to 'lead the charge' with this work and has already had positive conversations with Maggi Boulton. We will have more information in the New Year.

A range of communications has been received in relation to the 40th Anniversary of the **RBWH Foundation** with an Afternoon Tea on 2nd March and a Gala Ball on 30th August. We have included some information from the Foundation later in the newsletter.

As we come to the end of 2024, I would like to express my personal thanks and gratitude for all of the work the committee members have done across the year. I feel it has been a year of consolidation and optimism as we think collectively about the future of the Association.

To all of our members, can I convey our best wishes for an amazing break with family and friends.

**Cathy**

### Museum Report



The Hospital Foundation is celebrating its Forty Years of service to the Hospital and author Nick Earls is writing of its achievements. Nick has been interviewing forty people to feature in this book. He has interviewed me regarding our collection in the museum. He was very interested in the trowel used by Lady Lamington to lay the foundation stone for the Lady Lamington Nurses Home in 1896. The story of the Trowel and how it returned to the museum will be the central feature of the chapter in the book.

As mentioned above, Maggi Boulton and Ian Roberts-Thomson from the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine (ANZSHM) are writing a book to showcase Medical and Nursing History across the country. A suggestion has been made that we showcase the Centaur wheel and the story of the nurses raising money at the Brisbane Exhibition for Centaur.

The Centaur wheel was one of the objects that was retrieved from the flood waters. It is in poor condition but can be spruced up with a bit of care. Any stories from the members would be appreciated.

Visitors to the Museum: Alanna Mc Fadzean, Operations Manager from Brisbane Living Heritage has requested a time to visit the Museum. An invitation has been extended to her to visit next year. This is a visit to look forward to as the museum will surely benefit.

Ann Bramwell President of Defence Nurses RSL Qld has extended an invitation to the committee to attend the Banka Island Service at St Augustine's in February. Members of the committee have attended for several years.

Many thanks to Jeanette Wiley and Margaret Welsh for their support and assistance over the past year. Both have just celebrated their birthdays, and best wishes have been conveyed.

I am looking forward to the break and resting to prepare for another great year in 2025. The Museum has now closed for Christmas and will re-open on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.

*Joy*

## **Membership Report**



Our current membership is as follows.

Members (financial) 150

Honorary Members 9

Reminder notices for renewal of membership 2025 have been sent. We will send a further reminder early next year. Please check if you need to renew your membership at this time. A form is included with the Newsletter.

### **Vale**

We are sad to report the passing of one of our members. Her family has requested privacy. At this time of year, let's remember all of our members who are no longer with us.

*Lorraine*

## **RBWH Foundation 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

As part of the RBWH Foundation's 40th-anniversary celebrations, the Foundation is delighted to invite all past and present staff, alumni, and friends of the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital (RBWH), Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), Herston Health Precinct, Redcliffe Hospital, and RBWH Foundation to join us for a special reunion afternoon tea on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 2pm – 5pm. The afternoon tea will be held in **The Ballroom, Victoria Park, 309 Herston Road, Herston**. Tickets are \$55 per person and include a welcome drink, sweet and savoury afternoon tea, and unlimited tea and coffee.

Tickets are limited, so be sure to purchase yours today by following the link:

[https://events.humanitix.com/rbwhf\\_reunion](https://events.humanitix.com/rbwhf_reunion)

## Acknowledging Our Generous Supporters



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

Perhaps you would like to visit Roz at the Portofino warehouse in Highgate Hill to access her great range of fashion and accessories as you plan your holiday wardrobe. Call her to make an appointment.



Please support this amazing business.

We have also been supported for many years by the Kedron Wavell RSL Club. For all of our events, the club provides us with free room hire and great pricing on catering. We would encourage you to make use of their wonderful facilities whenever you can.



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## A Snapshot from Our Collection

### The General Nurse Training badge

As a matter of historical interest, Joy Wilson contacted Professor John Pearn regarding the design of our Hospital badge. The badge is of high historical value, and it was proudly worn by each nurse who completed their training at the Brisbane Hospital now the Royal Brisbane Hospital. It was first given to those completing their training in the early 1950's but further research will be done to confirm this. The badge was presented on completion of training with the signed certificate. The number on the back of the badge used to correspond with the number on the training certificate though this may have changed over time. It is important to protect our badge and what it stands for as it was well earned and is a badge of courage and determination a proud symbol to be treasured.

#### **Description from Professor John Pearn:**

*The Hospital Nursing badge of the Former Brisbane Hospital (after 1967, "Royal") contains four elements: a lamp, a cross, a quasi-circlet of fruiting laurel and the featured colours of maroon and gold.*

*The **lamp** is traditionally used as a symbol of nursing, from the time of Florence Nightingale and her identity as "The Lady with the lamp". It also has a double connotation of the symbol of learning and education.*

*The **cross** is a symbol of caritas, or caring; and in Christendom, symbolises sacrifice and duty unto others. Since 1864, it also carried the secular message of the Red Cross, or humanitarian service to others.*

*The **quasi-circlet** contains two enfolding twigs of fruiting laurel — a universal emblem of esteem and excellence.*

***Maroon** was of course the state colour from 1876, and featured in numerous badges, certificates and other emblems relating to Queensland. The **gold** is a symbol of priceless value.*



1910



1962



1976



1986

The badge on the far left of this photo is part of the State Library of Queensland collection from circa 1910 and belonged to Constance Mabel Keys. The next is owned by Honorary Curator Joy Wilson and was conferred in 1962. More recent badges reflected the change in name of the hospital to The Royal Brisbane Hospital as you can see from Kathryn Linnane's badge from 1976 and Bernadette Smith's from 1986.

# Photos From Christmas Event



## Your Committee is....

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 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     |

