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ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITALS NURSES' ASSOCIATION INC.

P.O. Box 63  
Royal Brisbane Hospital  
Brisbane 4029

## Newsletter November 2024

### President's Note



It's hard to believe that we are now seeing Christmas decorations in the shops and turning our attention to our final event of the year in late November. It has been a busy time in the last few months, and we are keen to share all the news and some photos with you.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our **'Back to the Nurses' Quarters'** Event in mid-October. It was a lovely day and our guest speaker – Dale Dally-Watkins – shared great insights about her own career and the evolution of nursing across the RBWH campus. We must once again extend our gratitude to Tina Grey from Australian Unity for all her support and professionalism in helping us make the event so memorable. The Australian Unity team and the UniLodge team gave of their own time and talents to help us in hosting what was an amazing and successful event. I'd also like to extend my thanks to the Committee members who spend many hours organizing all elements of the event – including the amazing Museum display.

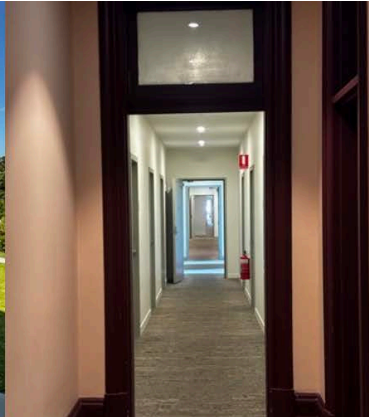
There is no doubt that many of us who worked and lived across the Herston campus feel a strong connection to the hospital and the quarters. We hope that many of those members and non-members who joined us on the day will continue to participate in our events; and support the Association through membership. We have included photos of the day below.

Our next event, the Annual Christmas lunch, is fast approaching and we look forward to you all attending on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> at Kedron Wavell.

For those who will not be able to join us in late November, we wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas season.

**Cathy**





## LIVING IN THE LADY LAMINGTON NURSES' HOME

**T**hese four rooms were built in 1896 as bedrooms for junior or trainee nurses. The colours on the walls in these rooms reflect the original Victorian-era colours. Furniture was provided and the nurses could decorate minimally if they wanted to.

*"The accommodation was very basic but clean. There was a bed, and beautiful silky oak bedside table, desk, dresser and wardrobe. Later there was built-in furniture. We were minimalistic - bedspread, photos, things like that, but you could never take much."*

In the days before fans and air-conditioning, the building was designed with large windows, and partition walls that did not reach the ceiling. This encouraged air circulation throughout the building, but was useful for the residents too.

*"We didn't have much in the way of privacy. No locks on doors. The Home Matron would do rounds at night with a torch to see if you were in bed. Walls only about halfway up to the ceiling. Sometimes sparrows would fly through the windows and above the walls."*

*"The Lady Lamington Building had these floor to ceiling windows. We rarely closed them completely. Sometimes at night you could hear windows being raised - frightening the first time, but then you got used to the noise of girls sneaking in after curfew and trying to evade the Matron! With no door locks, you could easily get to your room through someone else's."*

Recollections of Margaret W. (resident 1946-1950), Marcia C. (resident 1951-1955), Sandra E. (1965-1969), Patti C. (resident 1970s-1980s), Sharon O. (1980s-1993).

First year nurses on the verandah of the Lady Lamington Building, c1920. State Library of Queensland, John Oxley Library, Graduate Nurses Association collection 7747, Neg No 173519.



# Museum Report



On the occasion of the Return to the Nurses Quarters, on October 19<sup>th</sup>, it was a great opportunity to present a small display from the Museum of Nursing History collection. We are grateful that Australian Unity afforded the space in the Lady Lamington Board Room for this display. The massive board room table afforded space for several small displays from the past. The displays featured objects from the pan room; china from the dining room; equipment for basic observations; bandaging, and photos of nurses including nurses who trained at the Brisbane hospital and served in the Army Nursing service also nurses in uniform over the ages Included also were nursing reference and history books and a nursing certificate that was given on completion of training. It was a great pleasure to hear many stories associated with the display particularly the stories of the boiling test for sugar in the urine with the Benedict's solution and the dreaded sputum mugs.

We wish to extend many thanks to Bernadette who photographed the display on the day.

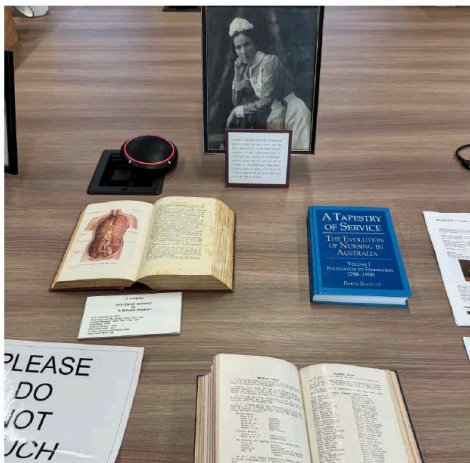


We are most grateful for the many positive comments received and we do encourage you to visit the museum in the near future.

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

**Joy 0488 418111**

Urine Testing stand and equipment courtesy Museum of Nursing History.



The Museum of Nursing History display was a great success.

# Membership Report



Our current membership is as follows.

Members (financial) 151  
Honorary Members 9

The following new members were welcomed into the Association –

Nadine Wilson	1983-1986
Louise Vincent (nee Schmith)	1981-1984
Eira Moroney (nee McCoy)	1983-1986
Joanne Evans	1986-1989
Christine Egan (nee Chiles)	1985 -1988
Katrina Alexander	1985-1987
Carolyn Joseph	1977-1979

We look forward to welcoming more new members from our recent successful Back to the Quarters event. Membership Renewal reminders will be sent to relevant members during November.

## Vale Carolyn Joan Eacott

We are sad to report the passing of Ms Carolyn Joan Eacott on 5 June 2024. Carolyn has been a member of the Association since 1997 having trained at RBH from 1971-1974 and undertaken her midwifery at RWH from 1974-1975. Carolyn would also be known to people through her service in the Operating Theatres. Our condolences have been extended to her family.

**Lorraine**

# Christmas Lunch



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE RBH NURSES'  
ASSOCIATION

## Christmas Lunch

Saturday 30th November, 2024 10am - 3pm

Cost: \$50 Members / \$55 non-members includes Traditional Christmas Lunch.  
Cold drinks can be purchased on the day.

*VC Room, Kedron-Wavell Services Club, 21 Kittyhawk Drive Chermside*

[Please click here to purchase your tickets and confirm any dietary requirements.](#)

### **All Enquiries:**

To Aileen Hinsch / Bern Smith by email - [rbhnursesassn@gmail.com](mailto:rbhnursesassn@gmail.com)

### **On the Day:**

By popular demand, we will once again have a Secret Santa! Please bring a gift to the value of \$20.

We will also have copies of our reprinted **Bearers of the Tradition** book to sell on the day for \$60 and raffles during the day.

## Vale Joan Mackie – compiled by Nada Martinek (fmr Vice President)

*I was fortunate to attend Joan Mackie's (nee Butler) funeral service in Toowoomba on Tuesday 15th October 2024.*

*Joan had been my Director of Nursing at Toowoomba General Hospital in 1986 after I returned to work in the acute mental health ward following overseas travel. Joan was a brilliant nursing leader and held the esteemed position of serving two terms as the President of the Directors of Nursing Association (D.O.N.A) (1991-2 and 1995-7).*

*I met Joan again in 2011 when I joined the RBH Nurses' Association Inc. Committee. Joan had trained at the Royal Brisbane Hospital (1956-1960) and was a long time Committee Member and Member of the RBH Nurses' Association Inc.*

*Joan was best friends with former Committee Members Fran Ryan (nee Harvey who was in the same training group) and Jeanette Wiley. Many friends and members will recall Joan often stayed the night in Brisbane with Fran Ryan before the AGM and social events and they would arrive all smiles, regaling us with talk about the evening before and proceed to sell the raffle tickets.*

*The funeral service was elegant and Joan's only child - her son Brett gave a wonderful eulogy and noted Joan's passion and dedication to Nursing, her love and unfailing support for him, his wife and daughter and Joan's family and friends.*

*Brett also spoke of Joan's love of travel and her wicked sense of humour. Thus, we all smiled when the farewell song played - "Leaving on a Jet Plane" - by John Denver*

**Rest in Peace Joan.**

## Portofino Fashion

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.

Please support this amazing business.



### **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