

POST GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

5 Cambridge Crescent,
WHITE HILLS 3550

14th October, 1988

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Northern District School of Nursing,
P O Box 481,
BENDIGO 3550

Dear **

Since our last communication, recording and cataloguing all NDSN memorabilia has commenced.

We have contacted various organisations and individuals, e.g., Historical Society, National Trust, Ministry for Arts, Regional Health Department, Mr. C. Moorehouse (BCAE), Mrs. M. Matthews (former BCC Archivist), Miss G. Williams (former Nursing Advisor, Hospitals & Charities Commission), Miss M. Avery (former VNC), Mr. S. Gerry (former Dean, NDSN) and Mr. F. Cusack (Historian).

The result being a reinforcement of our views that NDSN formed an important part in nursing history. Consequently, all effort should be made to ensure it is preserved for future generations, historians and researchers, etc.

Therefore, it is essential the following is carried out:-

1. Inventory of all equipment produced (completed).
2. Equipment is catalogued correctly (in progress).
3. All records kept in entirety (e.g., student files, correspondence, minute books etc.).
4. Correspondence to be compiled in chronological or schematic order, labelled on spine with volume number/date of first & last entry - minute books similarly labelled.
5. Provide suitable storage area to ensure safety and preservation from deterioration. Insurance cover essential.
6. Provide suitable display area. (Ministry of Arts advise regularly updating display, i.e., museum conditions to apply).

As you are aware, Bendigo does not have a museum and it has been suggested 'Lister House' be converted to same. This would solve the problem of storage etc., and provide a permanent home for the NDSN collection and the many thousands of other historical artifacts currently spread across the Bendigo district. The proximity of 'Lister House' to View Street and the City Centre makes the proposal a valid one and the Association has written to the Bendigo City Council for its views.

'Lister House' is held in trust by the Trustees but the Health Department Victorian ultimately owns the buildings etc., therefore thought must be given to the future of memorabilia and records (for continual access), after the official closure of NDSN in August 1989.

Temporary storage facilities have been offered by BCAE and Bendigo Trust but urgent attention needs to be given to finding a permanent home to avoid rapid deterioration of all items. Further, we must ensure the memorabilia is not divided and/or is committed to an already overcrowded State Archive where it would be difficult, if not impossible, to access/view.

** Mr. Watts, Mr. Humphreys or Mr. McKean

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Members of the Post Graduates Association are all trained nurses and we are not trained as curators or archivists, we do not have expertise in this area nor, the required time or, possibly, the legal right to take possession and make decisions on what the future of this historic collection should be - we therefore need assistance.

The Post Graduates Association asks for your support to the proposal that 'Lister House' becomes Bendigo's Museum and requests the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Committee of Management at its November meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Joan O'Shea
PRESIDENT
POST GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

cc: Committee of Management Members