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The NDSN was an important development in nursing education but encountered considerable opposition and was regarded by some as a radical and unnecessary venture. Miss Long was a persistent and tireless advocate of improved education for nurses. We should be proud of our heritage, ready to share it with others and ready to support the new generation. Otherwise, by the time the most recent NDSN graduates are ready to join, the Association may either be irrelevant or non-existent.

I believe, with some minor changes, the Association could continue to meet the needs of the practising, non-practising and retired nursing graduates of this region. Such a move would help to overcome fragmentation between nurses and former nurses, providing a forum for social contact and discussion of current nursing and health-care issues. Since the way in which health care is provided is an important concern for any community such concerns can also become a continuing link between recent nursing graduates and nurses/former nurses of an earlier generation. Changes to the NDSNGA which would need to be considered are:-

(1) Change of membership eligibility.

For example:-

- * Membership open to graduates of NDSN and CAE nursing courses in this Region.
- * Membership also open to NDSN students who did not complete the course.
- * Nurses who graduated elsewhere but subsequently worked as graduate nurses for a period of five (5) years or more in hospitals or communities in the Northern District Region also eligible for membership.

(2) Change of name.

- * The name of the Association could be changed completely or slightly modified, depending on the preference of members. For example, Northern District Nursing Graduates Association would be a minor change which would cover the possible variations in membership eligibility.
- * Northern District could be dropped from the name in favour of Loddon Campaspe Region or something similar. *No!*

Thank you for the opportunity to present these views.

Elaine Capuano, School 29

*→ agree with you except
on point mentioned on p 7. Glad you
are pushing ahead - 6 - with this
Regards Pam Bell*

NDSN - Barbara Balnaves (Cuthbertson) Bendigo, Trix Shaw (Hender) Mildura, Jenny Clutterbuck (Mildura), Lesley Hosking (Erickson) Bendigo and Marie Power, Swan Hill. (Margaret Slattery (nee Turner) Mildura, was working there also but returned to Canberra in December 1990). If you are in Bendigo and would like a tour of the building, phone Barb or Jenny (054) 424399 and they would be happy to arrange it. Some of the School equipment has been passed on to them including "Bones" the skeleton.

The Regional Director and his assistant occupy what was the new library while downstairs the recreation room has become a staff room and Board room. The Hostel is leased out to the U.C.N.V. so it is still occupied by "student nurses". The kitchen/dining room are not in regular use. Some of the garden has disappeared to make way for car parking space.

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Progress on establishment of an archival repository is very slow, and any hope of a Museum is much further down the track. This is partly because the local people involved are all very busy, although very enthusiastic about the project, and partly because of the volume of ground work that must be done before any application for funds can be contemplated. Three members of our Committee attended a meeting addressed by the Director from Geelong Historical Records Centre - that centre took twenty eight years to become a reality! However if you are cleaning out cupboards and come across material that you no longer wish to keep but which may have historical merit, please sent it to us. Just think how much the course content has changed since "your day". Nursing is now regarded as a Profession with its own areas of expertise. Students no longer receive "Doctors lectures", followed by general nursing for those topics.

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Over the years it is interesting to recollect where and when you have met other NDSN graduates. The face may be familiar but "can't remember the name" - it has probably been changed anyhow! Conversation results immediately. Nurses normally communicate very well verbally, however written communication is a different matter - I guess it takes more time out of our already busy day. In our last Newsletter we included a letter from Elaine Capuano and a questionnaire but neglected to add a reply date. We had a reasonable response but for those who would like to contribute their opinion we will include a portion of Elaine's letter to refresh your memories. Please return your comments by 30th November, 1991. Remember that any change to membership eligibility must result in a name change to the Association.

Responses of NDSN graduates, members and non-members, to the following questionnaire would be appreciated. The Committee can then make decisions based on your views.