

**Northern District School of Nursing**

**Graduates Association**

**1990**

**NEWSLETTER**

## Welcome to the 1990 Newsletter.

The era of nurse education in which we have all trained has concluded with the Graduation of School 108 and the closure of Lister House as a nurse training school. The Loddon Campaspe Region of the Health Department has taken over the building and turned it into offices which were due to be occupied by mid July.

The first graduates of the Bendigo College of Advanced Education nursing course are now out in the work force - probably receiving similar reception to those of us in the early N.D.S.N. Schools, we hope the attitudes are now a little more enlightened! Whether we favour the present system of training or the hospital based system is now quite irrelevant.

The Committee has not been idle over the past twelve months. We have managed to retain much of the equipment formerly used at the School so that at some future time it can be incorporated in a Museum. When that will come to fruition is anybody's guess. We succeeded in preventing the records being sent to Laverton. Due mainly to the efforts of Yola Collins and a few staunch supporters, a room at the Bendigo College of Advanced Education has been allocated and the records have been stored in a manner as near as possible to the design of the room at Lister House which previously housed them.

Any-one requiring transcripts from their records should apply initially to your training hospital. Pilot students or any-one needing more detail than this may apply to the Registrar, B.C.A.E, P.O. Box 199, Bendigo, 3550.

The School photos will eventually be re-located in the Health Science Department at the College, along with the photo of Miss Long, the Citation and paintings donated to the School by student groups.

It was sad to see the contents of Lister House sold at auction.

At the first Graduation of B.C.A.E. students in April the Graduates Association presented a prize to the value of \$50.00 which was awarded for academic excellence during the third year of the course. The recipient was Kelly-Ann Stancombe, who is currently working at the Bendigo Base Hospital.

The Zonta Club International also presented a prize to the best student in both academic and practical areas in memory of Heather Winderlich. Heather was the Charter President of Zonta International Bendigo but was also Deputy D.O.N. at Bendigo, Deputy Dean at Lister House and Assistant Dean at the B.C.A.E.

The presentation was made by one of our Committee members, Mary Mulvahil who is currently President of Zonta, and was to perpetuate the contribution made to nursing by Heather. The recipient was Lisa Kuhn.

Cheryl Blair and I have placed flowers at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day and Anzac Day, in memory of nurses who have died as a result of wars.

Many of you will have memories of residing at Lansellstow Nurses' Home during your training. I think as much education occurred within those walls as anywhere else during training days! During April it was auctioned as it is no longer required by the B.B.H for student nurse accommodation. It is now to be restored as a private home.

The hospitals associated with the N.D.S.N. have held their final Graduations for General Nurse students, ending a significant phase of nurse education.

B.B.H. staged a Sound & Light Show "The End Of A Beginning", featuring a parade of uniforms from 1885 to 1989 and relative historical events over the years.

This was followed by a Graduation Ball, and Hospital Open Day. Echuca combined the Graduation with a week-end of activities including a Reunion of Past Trainees and a Hospital Open Day.

Many of the Hospitals will continue to have Graduations for students of other courses.

Any-one having news items or information for inclusion in our Newsletter please forward same to Maree by April.

## REUNIONS

**N.D.S.N. Graduates Association** will continue to hold reunions every fifth year, the next being 1995. If you have views on the format for the next one, please send them to us.

The last Reunion was attended by many who had not previously been to one of our functions. Unfortunately many of these girls did not include their membership fees and so can not be kept informed of future happenings. If any of your friends are in this category we hope that you will endeavour to encourage them to join the Association.

Because of the cost of printing and postage, we cannot afford to use members funds to provide non-members with information. However we would like to be able to keep in touch with as many Graduates as possible. Please notify Maree of any change of address.

New members are welcome at any time, membership is \$10.00 for five years - not much at present costs!

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**Bendigo Base** Trained Nurses' League :- 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1991

**Mildura** Past Trainees Association :- late June

**Echuca District** Hospital :- September

**The Schools of 1950** :- will hold a 40th Birthday Reunion, Saturday 20th October, 1990. An invitation is extended to all those who began their training, whether they graduated or not, and to any others who would like to help us celebrate. Further enquiries please send a stamped self addressed envelope to Joan. Cost \$18.00 each. A request has been received for a volunteer to organise a 40th Birthday Reunion for those groups for 1991. Any Volunteers ?

### **HISTORIES**

We would still like to hear from more of you re your experiences during your training years, related to Lister House. We would like to enlist the services of a writer to complete the story of our School - what was not covered in the first book, and what occurred from 1975 to the closure.

Other nurses are also working to compile and retain nursing information and the College of Nursing Australia conducted a Seminar in Sydney in May entitled "Creating a Nursing History Resource". Books are being written on various aspects of nursing in most states. It is interesting to note that the Honorary Editorial Adviser to the Australian Nursing Resources Series, published by Saunders/Bailliere Tindall, is Associate Professor, Pam Bell - formerly Pam Thacker, Graduate of N.D.S.N.

A History of the Nursing Service of the B.B.H. is being compiled by Yola Collins, Social Science Dept., B.C.A.E. Any-one who would like to contribute may contact Yola on (054) 44 7238 or 43 1503.

Mildura will celebrate the Centenary of the Hospital in 1992. The History of the Hospital has been recorded over the years but little has been written of the nurses themselves. Mrs Meg Nathan is trying to correct this, and would be pleased to receive your information. Her address :- 8 Oak Avenue, Mildura Vic 3500.

Why didn't we all keep diaries? Who would have thought that so many people were going to be interested in what we did!

## HOSPITAL CHANGES

Castlemaine has been through the process of amalgamation of the Boards of Management and Administration of the District Hospital and Alexander. Now there is a proposal to relocate the hospital to become part of Mt. Alexander. This is a very controversial topic in the area and will be widely debated over the next few months.

A new D.O.N. was recently appointed, Mr Graham Joysen, who has held that position at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and had wide experience in the U.K. and Australia.

Mildura has had to close the Gynae ward and many areas have been given a face lift or are serving a new purpose. Pathology, Pegler House and the Marie Yapp Centre have been altered to provide a Chemotherapy Unit, Community Nursing, Geriatric Assessment, Dental Service, etc. A new Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Department plus a C A T Scan Department, have been created.

Bendigo Renovation of the Midwifery area is continuing and will extend into an area associated with Women's Health Issues on the same level.

Wards have been re-arranged to have all patients with specific conditions located in the same area, this will give nursing staff more job satisfaction and specific experience, and reduce time spent by Doctors, formerly having patients in various wards, by avoiding the need to visit several departments.

All Hospitals are facing increasing problems of trying to make the Health Dollar stretch far enough to provide quality patient care.

In our last newsletter we asked for your views on two issues:-

1. Whether College students should be admitted to the Graduates Association.
2. Whether N.D.S.N. students who did not complete training should be able to become associate members.

From more than 500 members we did not receive a large number of replies but they probably summed up the views of most of you and are divided into two camps.

Response to (1), 40% felt that B.C.A.E. graduates should be invited to join, but probably would not be interested in becoming members. Numbers of the Association would be strengthened by their membership. The students have had no choice as to whether they trained via the College or in a Hospital.

60% felt they should not become members as they have no ties with the N.D.S.N.

Response to (2), 58% were in favour of those who did not complete training being admitted as Associate members, with all students being eligible. 42% wished membership to remain as Graduates only.

It would be necessary to change our name if either of the YES votes is adopted. One member's letter is included for consideration.

*Dear President and Members of Graduates Association,*

*I thank Joan O'Shea for the opportunity to present a point of view different from the one most currently favoured regarding the future of our Association. Popular opinion seems to favour admitting only NDSN graduates to membership with some support for also admitting those who commenced but did not complete the NDSN course.*

*Arguments in support of these views seem to fall into the following pattern :-*

*\* Graduates from Colleges of Advanced Education courses would not have the same background or interests as NDSN graduates and therefore would not want to join the Association.*

*\* Graduates from College of Advanced Education (CAE) nursing courses could/should start their own associations.*

*\* The NDSNGA exists mainly, or even exclusively, for members to meet and reminisce with friends and acquaintances from nursing training days and should not be open to any-one else.*

*In my view, if we discriminate against CAE graduates, we also leave recent NDSN graduates without a support network, a function this Association has so ably provided until now. We also show ourselves unwilling to meet challenges similar to those faced by the founding Dean, Miss Nancy Long, who established the Northern District School of Nursing. The NDSN was an important development in nursing education but encountered considerable opposition and was regarded by some as a radical and unnecessary venture. Furthermore, 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 healthcare 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.

Thank-you for the opportunity to present these views.

Elaine Capuano. School 29

During the past year the death has occurred of Marjorie Turner, former Deputy D.O.N. at Mildura and Assistant Dean of Administration at Lister House until her retirement. Also Mrs Nance Thornley who was a member of the Secretarial Staff for some years, and past trainees Ellen Wise (Butterworth) Marj Kupke (Purchase) and Bev Sutherland (Taylor).

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Have you renewed your membership for 1990 to 1995?  
If not would you do so before you forget please.

NAME :

NEE :

ADDRESS :

TRAINING HOSPITAL :

SCHOOL :

A dot here indicates that your are no longer financial           .

Assistant Treasurer :-

Mrs Kay Walsh,  
Plante Court, Bendigo 3550.

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.

### **FUTURE OF NDSN GRADUATES ASSOCIATION**

Please indicate your preference by circling your answer and/or writing your suggestion in the space provided.

1. **Membership**

Do you prefer :-

- a) Membership only for NDSN graduates
  - b) Membership for NDSN graduates plus students who did not complete the course.
  - c) Membership for NDSN and CAE graduates
  - d) Membership as in (b) above plus CAE graduates
  - e) Membership also open to graduate nurses who trained outside the region but have worked as graduate nurses for five (5) or more years in hospitals or communities in the northern district region.
- Other (please specify)
- 

2. **Change of Name**

- a) No change
  - b) Northern District Nursing Graduates Association
  - c) Nursing Graduates Association, Loddon Campaspe Region
  - d) Northern District Past Trainees Association
- Other (please specify)
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Thank you for your assistance

Please indicate your name, address and whether member/non-member of NDSN Graduates Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member of NDSN Graduates Association YES/NO

Please send completed questionnaire to :- Maree Worme

**COMMITTEE OF N.D.S.N. GRADUATES ASSOCIATION**

President : Joan O'Shea,  
5 Cambridge Cres.,  
White Hills, Vic. 3550

Vice President : Cheryl Blair

Secretary : Maree Worme,  
135 Mc Ivor Road,  
Bendigo, Vic. 3550

Assistant Secretary : Mary Mulvahil

Treasurer : Marg Delecca

Acting Treasurer : Kay Walsh,  
Plante Court,  
Bendigo, Vic. 3550

Noli Berry  
Elaine Capuano  
Jenny Clutterbuck  
Val Craven  
Linley Gibbons  
Evelyn Hawke  
Joan Moore  
Jenny Reid  
Avis Rowe  
Lesley Tangay

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3550 POSTMEN  
GOLDEN SQUARE 15

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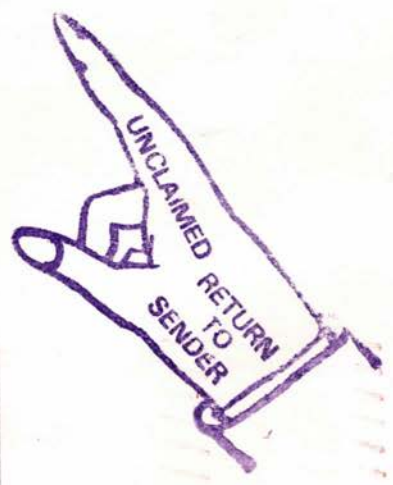
TO:

MS MADELINE MURPHY  
7 MADE STREET  
GOLDEN SQUARE 3555

*Address unknown*

FROM :

**Mrs Maree Worme  
135 Mc Ivor Road,  
BENDGIO, VIC. 3550**



BENDIGO  
VIC 3550

1990  
SEP  
25  
5.00PM