



ROYAL MELBOURNE
GRADUATE NURSES'
ASSOCIATION

Reunion Lunch

17 May 2025

Park Hyatt Melbourne

Welcome to this most extraordinary gathering!

Today we are celebrating not only our own stories but also those of the 100 exceptional nurses immortalised in Sue Sherson's soon to be published book '100 years, 100 nurses'.

We are so lucky to be sitting amongst thousands of years of nursing expertise, sharing treasured stories and strengthening friendships forged by the special experience of nursing at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Please enjoy the company of your training groups, colleagues and friends and catch up with some of the most revered (sometimes feared) Charge Nurses and Nurse Educators who were pivotal in shaping who we all are today

Thank you
Lara Taylor, RMGNA President

Welcome

Order of events

12.00 pm	Pre-lunch drinks in foyer
12.30 pm	Lunch begins in Ballroom
1.10 pm	Speaker: Cindy Barry
1.45 pm	Interview: Sue Sherson
2.20 pm	Speaker: Yvonne Chaperon
2.45 pm	Raffles drawn
3.00 pm	Event ends


*Please join us in the Raddi Bar if you wish to
keep chatting after the lunch*



Entree: Burrata, roasted pears, candied pecans, bitter greens, vincotto, olive oil (v, nuts)

Main: Spiced lamb rump, crispy onions, spiced carrot puree, eggplant, chickpea jus (gf)

Chicken breast, freekeh tabbouleh, Romanesco dressing (has nuts)



The Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association (RMGNA) was formed in 1917 by Lady Superintendent Jane Bell. Our Association aims to keep our nurses connected and advance the interests of nursing through education, research and community. We provide scholarships, awards and grants to past and present nurses as well as organising social events such as this lunch.

Our Committee members work hard to ensure the Association's rich history is preserved and our support of nurses and nursing continues into the future. Thank you for participating in this special day and please consider becoming a member, make a donation or even join the Committee to help continue the work we do.

Website: <https://rmhgna.com.au>

Email: rmhgna@outlook.com



About us...

About the author...

Susan Sherson trained at the Melbourne School of Nursing in 1962. Susan is a nurse, nursing historian, clinical ethicist, author and our treasure.

Susan has written a number of books, most recently "A Daring Woman" (2018), a biography of Sister Jean Henderson.



Susan and the '100 years, 100 nurses' Editorial Group - Helen Pickering, Arlene Bennett, Lorraine (Parkie) White, Gillian Whitehead and Lara Taylor - have met regularly over the last few years to research and select, inspirational RMH nurses from each decade to be included in the book.

Work continues but the book is almost complete; for those wishing to buy '100 years, 100 nurses', please add your name to the presales list in the foyer.

'100 years, 100 nurses' sneak peek...

Sarah Harris started work at the Melbourne Hospital in 1896 & fought tirelessly for the introduction of Nightingale education

Mary Thompson graduated in 1903; in her 1st first year as a pioneer bush nurse she managed 15 accidents, 10 maternity patients, 47 cases of illness, 1 post operative patient and made 22 school visits

Lily Addison, a highly successful Australian tennis player, trained at The Melbourne 1913-1917 before enlisting with the Australian Army Nursing Service; she successfully juggled both careers, including competing at Wimbledon, & died at age 93

Milly Waite was a much loved and respected Head of Nursing Education to decades of undergraduate students

Linley Aiken (1938 graduand) had a long career as the RMH DoN (1958-1975); she was described as innovative & strong but gentle

Win Gherardin graduated in 1948 and became a dedicated, insightful and good humoured teacher to Year 1 students at Jane Bell House

Rona Glynn was the first indigenous nurse to train at the Melbourne; after graduating in 1958 she studied midwifery and set up clinics in Alice Springs however she tragically died in childbirth

Rae Bourke, 1961 graduand, became a national and international leader in stomal therapy; "sorely missed and irreplaceable"

Cathy Boyce, 1989 graduand, owns & runs Leisure Options, an award winning holiday tour company for people with disabilities

Raffle

Diamond earrings (Matt Wynne Designer Jeweller)

\$1000 GIFT CARD (RMH Foundation)

Signed 2025 Carlton FC jumper

King View room & breakfast (Park Hyatt Melbourne)

Stack of books (Readings, Carlton)

Ryobi tools (Bunnings)

Meals & drinks voucher (Naughtons Hotel)

TICKETS: \$10 each or 6 for \$50



Donations

We are so lucky to have the support of the Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation for this function and many other Association ventures such as the Small Grants Program.

They have also created an account for people to donate directly to the Association via the RMH site.

Please scan the QR code if you wish to donate to the RMGNA.

Thank you to our sponsors and donors



The Royal
Melbourne Hospital
Foundation



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RMGNA AGM

14th June 2025 from 1pm

Kathleen Symes Library

Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association

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