



Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association

Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association Inc.
PO Box 2182
The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria 3050

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June 2022 Newsletter

Dates to Remember

4th June 2022

Combined Annual Luncheon and AGM
1pm, Naughton's Hotel Parkville
Bookings via Try Booking
<https://www.trybooking.com/BYOWT>
RSVP essential, 27th May 2022

6th September 2022

Posy Day

21st October 2022

Deadline for December newsletter

22nd October 2022

Luncheon - Venue TBC

3rd December 2022

General Meeting - Venue TBC

New Members

We Welcome.....

Monica Feder	Julie Anne Longden
Susan McEniry	Julie Eastmure
Julie Vernon	Paula Nelson
Amanda McOrmond	Chris Bartlett
Bron Nowlan	Narelle Marston
Joanne Fincher	Joan Eastaugh
Helen Stute	Lynda Tivendale
Anne Mathews	Ann McWaters
Rosemary Loughnan	Virginia McLeod

Deadline for next Newsletter: **21st October 2022**
All items for the December edition to be emailed to:
rmhgna@outlook.com or mailed to
RM GNA
PO Box 2182
Royal Melbourne Hospital VIC 3050

Please keep your details up to date by contacting us by email or mail.

Presidents' Message

Well. It has been a year of improving my IT communication skills, and for a luddite like me, that is a big deal! Mastering Zoom Committee meetings still tops my list of professional development objectives...but I must admit there is an element of the convenience about them! I thank my Committee for their patience with me...

Since the phenomenal success of our Annual Luncheon in November last year, interest in the RM GNA has been astronomical!

Memberships are up, our Facebook Page is busy with fabulous stories, funny photos and wonderful memories of training days and friendships made, such precious things!

Thank you for sharing these gems.

I must thank our Secretary Julie Halton for the hours and hours she has spent revamping, actually overhauling, our Membership database to get us up to date – no mean feat!

Julie has also increased our profile at the RMH from her vantage point as an Educator, with very long arms! Our efforts at trying to get nurses in their Grad Year at RMH to join is a work in progress, we hope to be able to offer them a sense of history and to be part of something special.....

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Luncheon on the 4th of June at Naughton's Hotel.

Thank you for your support of our wonderful Association.

Lara Taylor

President

2021-2022 RM GNA Committee

President Lara Taylor

Vice President Helene Johns

Treasurer Lynda Tivendale

Secretary Julie Halton

General Members

- Sue Sherson
- Janet Briggs
- Kelly Wright
- Lorraine White
- Arlene Bennett
- Janyne Amy
- Christine Murray
- Rosemary Wright



RM GNA Nomination for Committee 2022-2023

The Election for the 2022-2023 Committee of the Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association will be held on Saturday the 4th of June during our AGM at our Annual Luncheon, Naughton's Hotel.

Office Bearers and General Committee will then be elected by this Committee (elected at the AGM).

Please find the nomination form on the back page of this newsletter.

Editor's Note

I would again like to thank everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter. The article, stories, and photos make for wonderful reading, and the more we receive, the more stories come to mind and subsequent print! Please keep them rolling!

I would also like to thank Julie Halton for her assistance, and our Publisher Quality Print to Post for their tolerance and crisp finished product!

Lara Taylor
0415 628 131

Committee News

We have a website!



One of the many things that the COVID pandemic revealed was that our established and enthusiastic members are great at face-to-face meetings, luncheons and reunions but we didn't have much of a profile outside of these activities. With one lockdown after another, it became clear that we needed a new way to 'advertise' ourselves, attract new members and to stay connected from our loungerooms.

As the secretary for the RMGNA, I knew we needed help in finding, recruiting and staying engaged with members as I watched the number of active members dwindle with each newsletter mailout. Also, even though we called ourselves an association for graduates, we weren't really known to the current RMH graduate nurses and relied a lot on word of mouth to find new members.

One sunny day in March this year, all of these concerns finally crystallised into a call to action.....we need a website!! I know we've been talking about creating a website for several years but this time I vowed it was going to happen. Two days of swearing, sweating, yelling at a computer that refused to answer back and lots of failed creative moments later and we have our new website.

It has pages that explain who we are, membership information and forms, dates and details of upcoming meetings, information about our scholarships and awards and a blog area where we can post anything you want to talk about e.g. thank yous, reunion information, trying to find a friend, etc.

Of course, this is just a basic website and we can do so much more so go and have a look today and let us know how it can be improved and enhanced so we attract more people to our amazing Association.

Julie Halton, RMGNA Secretary

Membership Review

Over the last few months, we have been reviewing our current membership and have found the following:

- Total number of members on the database: 762
- Life members with current contact details: 349
- Life members with no up-to-date contact details: 94
- Lapsed or unknown status: 185
- New members in the last 2 years: 12

So what are we doing about revitalising our membership numbers and engagement?

We are about to do a big mailout to our lapsed i.e. non-financial members to hopefully bring them back to the fold but we also need your help.

If you know someone who used to be a member, please encourage them to renew their membership by going to the membership page on the new website (<https://rmhgna.com.au/>) and emailing us their completed renewal form. And, of course, if you know someone from your training group who is not currently a member, please encourage to complete the new member form and join us asap!

We are also reaching out to the current RMH graduate nurses.

This year we made the Art of Nursing Award, created to acknowledge and celebrate current RMH graduate nurses who embody excellence and caring, an annual award and it is currently open for nominations. It is hoped that not only will award winners feel recognised for their hard work and dedication but that the award will also increase awareness of the RMGNA.

We also reached out to the RMH Graduate Nurse Coordinator for her assistance in disseminating information about our Association and to advertise that current RMH graduate nurses are eligible for 1 year free membership with the RMGNA. Again, we hope this will increase awareness of our Association but also attract some new, enthusiastic members to add their ideas and voices to our activities and plans for the future.

Finally, just to personalise our attempts at connecting with the current RMH graduates, we have asked if we could talk with the Graduate Nurse Network (a committee of selected graduate nurses who represent the current graduates) about our Association and to ask them what they're looking for from us....what activities, incentives, etc. would make joining our Association worthwhile for them. Hopefully this will happen in the next month or so.

Newsletter by email

Just to let you know that you can receive the newsletter by email if that is more convenient for you – just email us at rmhgna@outlook.com and let us know.

Current members who want to receive the newsletter via email: 21.

Nursing Research Endowment 2022

Lara Taylor and Treasurer Lynda Tivendale met with University of Melbourne staff in March to facilitate an agreement between the Uni and Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association for the next few years where the Nursing Research Endowment will be awarded to the Masters of Nursing Research student with the highest mark.

The award is valued at \$7,500.

We are in the process of finalising our agreement.

We are yet to hear of the recipient for this year, when we do, we will hope they are able to invite them to present their work at a RMGNA meeting in the future.

Hospital Tours

We have had a large number of enquiries from Members about tours of the hospital... unfortunately these were forced to stop as a result of COVID.

After a light bulb moment from Lara Taylor and Julie Halton, we are currently in discussion with Medical Illustration on creating a virtual tour of the hospital that we hope will be accessed on the hospital website and our Facebook Members page.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Treasurer Lynda Tivendale on her appointment as Lecturer in Nursing, Masters of Nursing Science course and Subject Coordinator Nursing of Acute Health Conditions at the University of Melbourne, voted Australia's best University! Congratulations Lynda! The Uni and students are so lucky to have you!

Art of Nursing Award

Royal Melbourne
Graduate Nurses Association



In recognition of your commitment to the professional development of your clinical knowledge and skills, your great kindness and compassion and your focus on achieving best patient outcomes in your graduate years, we award the 2022 Art of Nursing Award to

?????

Stay tuned as we award and profile our 2022 recipient at the 2022 International Nurses Day's Award Ceremony.

Annual Luncheon 2021

The luncheon at Naughton's Hotel, 27th of November, had a turnout better than I could have imagined! With people taking advantage of the luncheon as a reunion opportunity, we had groups spanning decades enjoying the complimentary drink and delicious fare.



Birthday girl Sue Sherson at the Luncheon

We were particularly fortunate that Sue chose us to share her birthday with us!

Much laughter was had and stories shared, the general consensus was bring on the next one!



Left - right Anne Hauke (nee Freeman) Sept 1968, retired after years of theatre work, Glenda Clarke (nee Balshaw)

retired after remote area nursing in Arnhem Land NWNT, Anne Marie Keogh ex RMH ED, Marg Walker ex RMH ED, Marg Nuttall ex RMH ED, Koon Kwong ex RMH ED, Lanie Anson ex 7N, Mary Wilde ex RMH pathology, Sue Sherson, Bron Nowlan HITH Knox Private, Jan Finney ex 5E retired after years at Freemasons.

L-R Bev Keogh Endoscopy ANUM, Kate Floyd (Black) Day surgery Cabrini Malvern, Vicki Hoath retired, Angie Black, 45 years at RMH cardiothoracic scrub nurse extraordinaire, Debbie Hickman ex RMH Radiology, Lorraine White (Parkie) Leanna Parker (Laffan) ex 8N now PAC at RMH.



L-R Jocelyn Sellers fundraising superstar retired RMH radiology, Rosemary Wright, RMH ED, Glenys Howard retired, Helene Johns, RWH, Nancye Smith, Narelle Dwyer Sunshine midwifery, Meryl Barrett, retired, Heather Barnes



L-R Michelle Mercier Werribee Mercy After hours Coordinator, Deb Biggs Assessor, Aged Care Quality and Safety. Commission, Sancha Aranda, Professor,

Melbourne Uni, Peter Mac Scope, Christine Murray, Clinical Nurse Consultant Urogynaecology Mercy Hospital, Angela Mellerick NUM Oliva Newton John Cancer Centre Day Oncology, Petrina Halloran AHPRA Policy Manager Nursing and Midwifery, Liz Virtue Ex RMH ED NUM, John Aranda, retired and kept man, Jenny Thompson ex NUM 4N.

Group 388 with Helen Pickering and Michelle Mercier and Deb Biggs (front row).



Annmaree Cox, Virginia Mcleod, NUM HDU and Medical oncology, Beleura Hospital, Julie Eastmure

Ballarat Day Procedure Anaesthetics and Recovery, Sandi Lord property development, Katie Mitchell, Melinda Rohloff, NUM at Box Hill, Chris Ritter, Bolton Clarke Clinical Learning and Development, Liz Mahoney Epworth Geelong CCU, Kathy Bates

RMH "Casualty" team.

Jan Finney, Marg Walker, Lara Taylor, Rosie Wright, Sue Sherson, Liz Virtue, Koon Kwong, Marg Nuttall, Glenda Clarke, Bron Nowlan.



Angie Black's Farewell



On a picture perfect autumn afternoon in the Flagstaff Gardens, Cardiothoracic Professors, (Prof Tatoulis and Prof Skillington) perfusionists, perioperative and perianaesthetic nurses gathered for a unforgettable farewell to a legendary cardiothoracic scrub nurse.

Angie Black has spent the last 45 years at the RMH, from starting her training in 1970 to pioneering mind blowing techniques with incredible surgeons, being their right hand “man”, knowing their operations as well as each surgeon, anticipating their every need and being forever ready for anything.



Angie, OR 6 on a Thursday will never be the same!! Thank you for all your amazing hard work, your teaching, mentoring and trail blazing has left a wonderful legacy! I still think you will come back- we are like Hotel California!!



Enjoy you travels and retirement dear Angie!

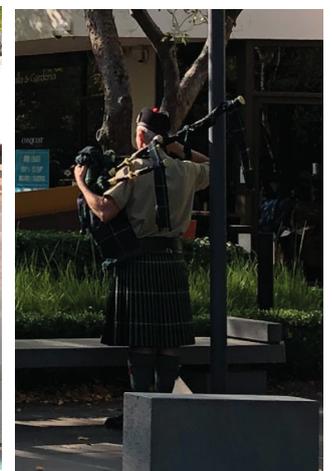
Lara Taylor

ANMC Commemorative Service 2022



With the sun shining, President of the Australian Nurses' Memorial Centre our own Arlene Bennett, spoke of the tragedy and bravery of events 80 years ago at the fall of Singapore. The nurses who died, and those who returned home, remembered in a solemn ceremony, with a sole piper and the Keytones Choir.

The RMGNA has donated funds towards a scholarship at the ANMC, in lieu of flowers, with a combined wreath laid from participating groups.



An extraordinary Graduation Ceremony

Joan was awarded her Royal Melbourne Hospital Training Badge by Denise Heinjus and Christine Kilpatrick in an extraordinary Graduation Ceremony held in the Historical Room of the Royal Melbourne Hospital on the 22nd of March 2022 - 54 years after it should have occurred.

Lara Taylor sourced a genuine training badge and had it engraved with Joan's name and the year that the Graduation was completed, 1968. All the Divisional directors were present, and Joan's family and friends were able to attend this heartfelt occasion



Joan with Christine Kilpatrick CEO and Denise Heinjus DON.

Here is Joan's story-

I visited my grandfather whom I didn't really know very well at RMH in 1956, I was nine years old he was in bed 17. It was my first experience with a hospital and nurses. From that day on all I wanted was to be a RMH nurse.

I began my training in June 1965, my first experience was gathering at Trawalla in Lanceslls Ave in Toorak. My parents and my boyfriend Nils handed me into another world. My time at RMH was probably not much different to the many who went before me until, in February 1968 I discovered that I was pregnant. All June 1965 nurses including myself were studying for our final exams.

Telling our Lady Superintendent was worse than telling my mother. As you can imagine she was very upset, RMH nurses did not get pregnant and not being married. After much deliberation it was decided that I be married on 9th March two days after finals, I was allowed one weeks leave and then to resume working the final weeks of my 36 months to the minute. Miss Aitken stipulated that I must work on night duty so I couldn't be seen.

I travelled by train and tram from Croydon every night, sometimes not getting home until about 10am. This I was doing until Miss Aitken decided I was not an acceptable sight in the hospital. I was called to her office to be told I must leave. I was devastated.

She promised me that after I had had my baby I could return to finish my five weeks remaining. This I did when I visited with an expectation of working the said five weeks she refused to take me back. It was one of the worst moments of my life, all I wanted was to be an RMH nurse.

It was arranged between Miss Aitken, The Nursing Board and Miss Harding DON of Epworth Hospital that I could do my five weeks there and then work for them as a Staff

Nurse, This I did. I belonged to nobody RMH refused to allow me my Graduation Badge and of course Epworth owed me nothing.

I had a fairly good career as a State Registered Nurse as we were known, I worked at a variety of nursing from acute care at St Vincents Private, the going Epworth and Mitcham and District Private Hospital. I became an Occupational Health and Safety Nurse in 1978-1981.

In 1981 I began a long career in aged care particularly for the German speaking communities in Bayswater and Boronia. I retired earlier than I would have liked in 2006. I was DON and I had a dispute with the CEO over funding for resident care. I didn't take well to retirement. I had lost my identity.

Following a particularly rough time in February this year I knew I had to reach out to RMH and explain my 54 year pain of not receiving my RMH Badge. I looked up the heirarchy of the hospital and decided I needed to contact Associate Professor Denise Heinjus. I wrote to Denise on the 16th February just explaining how I felt. Within a couple of hours I had a reply that brought me to tears. She had validated my words.

As I could never imagine happening. These Emails culminated in My Graduation as a Royal Melbourne



Hospital Nurse on 16th March 2022. 54 years late. My family and I are overcome with the love and understanding we received that day by staff from all over RMH.

I cannot explain the serenity this process has brought me, it has been like closing the loop. I will be forever grateful to Denise.



Joan and her daughter



Joan with Sue Sherson and Lara Taylor

Joan von Baggo (Eastaugh) 1965-1968

80th year Commemoration of Fall of Singapore.

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. One hundred and thirty AANS nurses remained in Singapore in the dying days of Fortress Singapore. On the 10th of February it was finally decided that the nurses would be evacuated. Sixty-five nurses were selected to leave on the EMPIRE STAR which, despite being bombed, made it to Australia to safety. The remaining sixty-five nurses were ordered to leave behind the men that they had been caring for which would have been unimaginable.

The sixty-five nurses who left on the SS VYNER BROOKE would be involved in a fate that was very different.

They set sail shortly after midnight on the 12th of February 1942 on the hopelessly crowded ship. They sailed along the coastline of small islands but on the 14th of February they were spotted by Japanese planes. The ship was bombed and strafed. Twelve nurses would die at the time of the sinking or shortly thereafter including Sr Kinsella, an RMH nurse. A total of 5,000 people were killed.

The remainder of the nurses would wash up along the beaches of Banka Island. Thirty-one would become Prisoners of War for the next three and a half years. Twenty-two nurses would wash up on a beach called Radji Beach. Several soldiers would also wash up there. Matron Drummond took charge of the nurses and they cared for the sick and injured with what little they had. They lit a fire which would act as a beacon for those who were still at sea. Finally, it was decided that a party would walk to the local town to hand themselves into the Japanese. Matron Drummond suggested that women and children should also walk into town as they would be slower. This saved their lives.

The Japanese came to the beach to rescue those who had assembled there but this was not what happened. They ordered the men around the bluff where they shot or bayoneted them. They then walked back and ordered the nurses to walk into the water. When they were waist deep in the water they opened fire. Matron Drummond turned to her nurses and said, "Chin up girls....I am proud of you. I love you all." Then she and 20 other nurses died. Only Vivian Bullwinkel would survive the massacre. Clarice Halligan, an RMH nurse, perished at the time of the massacre.

Vivian met up with the other 31 nurses some time later as they began an awful period of incarceration.

With disease such as malaria, Banka Fever, Beri-Beri and starvation a further eight of their number would die before the end of the war. Irene Singleton who had trained at the RMH was one of them.

Twenty-four nurses would make it home to Australia.

LEST WE FORGET.

Arlene Bennett



Offspring News

Catherine Whelan

Proud Mum Catherine Whelan, nee Lorensene (Group 289) went from RMH to Mt Isa and worked there for 5 years before having 3 children. Catherine then moved to Newcastle in 2004. She worked at John Hunter Hospital for the last 17 years on the colorectal, upper GI surgical award. Catherine's daughter Em has always loved athletics, but has a coach for high jump for the last 10 years. Em has won multiple state and national titles and her greatest achievement was being selected to compete in the Bahamas at the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2017, coming away with a silver medal! Em has won silver at the last 2 Australian championships as a senior athlete, her best jump is 1.85 cm.



Performer of the Year

The Performer of the Year Award is now in its twenty-first year at Westbourne Grammar. It is an opportunity for highly skilled musicians to challenge themselves by auditioning, preparing for and presenting substantial works written for an instrument or voice that require orchestral accompaniment.

The 2022 winner of this prestigious award is Madeleine (Maddie) Bryant, the year 12 daughter of Liz Virtue (382). This was the second time Maddie had entered the event having received an honourable mention in 2021, when due to COVID restrictions the opportunity to prepare was significantly impacted with singing considered a high risk activity. Maddie found the challenges of remote learning in 2021 very difficult and that made her achievement even more special.

Maddie performed two pieces: Where Corals Lie by Elgar and Habanera by G. Bizet but there was no doubt that the performance of Habanera won Maddie the award.



The adjudicator this year was the highly credentialed Roland Yeung who has received the Music For Life Award for the Australian Society of Music Education and in his remarks he noted that all of the participants were highly skilled, however it was Maddie's ability to connect with and move the audience that made her the winner.

The joy on Maddie's face when she was announced as the winner was magnificent. And as one teacher remarked to Maddie's sister Sophie the next day he could not tell who was more happy Maddie or her mother who lead the standing ovation.



Liz Virtue



55 year Reunion

4th of April 1967 55th Reunion held at Narooma, sth Coast NSW on the 3rd and 4th of April 2022 was a great success with our small group of 5 attending. Helen Allsop (Wilcox), Mary Echberg (Culbard), Marcia Spring (Lloyd), Judy Rutherford (Mansergh) and Lesley Moody (Mathew) with our respective others. Great memories and companionship enthusiastically shared. To meet again with more participants in better times in 2024.



Lesley Moody

Lunch with Louise & Bonita



L to R Louise McArdle (nee Fong) 181, Janet Kearney, Koon Kwong, Suzi Wong, Wendy Dingle, Me (382) Bonita Dingle (? 181 TBC), Marg Walker, Marg Nuttall & Sue.

The cracker about this lunch was Bonita and Louise both live in Canada and travel half way across the world to see each other at (of all places) and old stomping ground of Watson's.

Liz Virtue

Tripping-Out and About Marg Nuttall

Lara asked me to write a note about my Top 4 travel spots. Does she mean specific places, area, experiences?

It would be impossible for me to choose only four places or experiences. Each place is special in its own way and wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.

I have chosen to list only Australian places as it may be a while before we can safely go anywhere else.

The locals are now marketing Kangaroo Island, also known as Karta Pintingga, as "Australia's Galapagos". From Cape Jervis, car ferries chug 45 minutes across the swells of the Backstairs Passage to Penneshaw. Long devoid of tourist trappings, KI, these days is a booming destination for wilderness and wildlife fans – it's a veritable zoo of seals, birds, dolphins, echidnas, and (of course) kangaroos. There was 50,000 koalas who called KI home. Many mainland predators never made it to the island, and do not pose a threat to the koalas. However, since the 2019/20 bushfires the numbers are thought to be about 8500. The island remains rurally paced and underdeveloped – the kind of place where kids ride bikes to school and farmers advertise for wives on noticeboards. Island produce is a highlight and includes cheeses, marron, wines and a distillery which makes a local (very good) gin. The beaches and scenery are stunning too.

Many, many years ago I first heard of Lamington National Park through the award of a Churchill Fellowship. Many years ago Sue Sherson told me a fascinating story of a rescue and her wish to go to the site in Lamington National Park which is part of the McPherson Range on the Queensland/New South Wales border.



Last year, while waiting for our Caravan to have a service, we found ourselves in a 1960s motel in Canungra about 38 kilometres away so we took the drive up to O'Reilly's in Lamington NP. Sometimes you just get all the ducks in a row!

The area is thick with an interesting rainforest (I wouldn't have been surprised to see Tarzan swing across) and trees intrude across part of the road. Much of this steep narrow road is one lane so it relies on drivers looking 200 or 300m ahead, and stopping if necessary, to allow cars to pass!!! The road was scary. Nonetheless, the views are stunning.

In 1937 a plane went missing on a flight from Brisbane to Sydney. Extensive searches did not find the plane which was assumed to have gone down in the ocean. Bernard O'Reilly was an experienced bushman who lived most of his life in Lamington area. He was aware of conditions and set out to find the plane. Ten days after the crash he found two survivors. It is an amazing story.

Not far from Exmouth in WA, Ningaloo Marine Park is one of the best places to go snorkelling. The fringing Ningaloo Reef stretches about 260 km along the coast.



The coral was varied and brightly coloured and the fish curious and plentiful. One of my "bucket list" items was to swim with the whalesharks during migration. They are extraordinary animals – huge, silent, imposing and they move surprisingly quickly. We were fortunate to see several very up-close and personal!

Flinders Ranges is the largest mountain range in South Australia, and starts about 200 km north of Adelaide and stretches for over 430 km. Much of it is quite isolated and some days we may have only seen a couple of vehicles. The geology changes every 100 KM or so and is really fascinating with different colours and shapes of rocks.



We were just at the start of the wildflower season and were able to see some colour from flora also. One day we were very lucky to not only spot the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby, but they also put on quite a show for us.



We mostly camped on sheep stations. We spent about a week on one station (Beltana) which is quite historically significant. It was previously owned by Thomas Elder, in the early 1800s, who went on to found Elders an Australian based agribusiness company that provides products such as livestock, farm

supplies and grain as well as financial services to the farming community of Australia and New Zealand. Elder spent a great deal of money sinking artesian wells, making dams and fencing. In 1866 he imported 120 camels from India with "Afghan" attendants, which were of much use in the dry areas and in conveying supplies from Port Augusta. Elder also financed and provided camels, to some of the early explorers who opened up the inland. John Flynn (on our \$20 note) was the visiting Presbyterian minister at Beltana when he worried about the medical care for isolated communities. He went on to found the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The area around Arkaroola (at the northern end of the



Flinders) was gazetted as a wildlife sanctuary in 1969. Radium was found there and retrieved by camel but isolation and the terrain made it unfinanical to obtain. Douglas (later Sir) Mawson was one of the early

explorers and described the area as 'gem of the Flinders Rangers: A Geologists paradise'.



Annual Luncheon and AGM



Annual Luncheon 4th of June 2022

1pm

\$59 pp, 3 course lunch, complimentary drink on arrival

AGM in between courses including the awarding of Honorary Life Membership Certificates and acknowledging our first ever Patron of The Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association.

Details of booking on front page TryBooking.com RSVP 27th May 2022.

Remembering

Vale Ronda Colliver (nee Barnes)

Ronda was the second eldest of 5 girls and trained at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in the late 60's. Ronda met her husband, John, while playing a game of cricket on a camping trip to Wilson's Prom.

John remembers trying to visit Ronda at the nurses' home in the Charles Connibere building and laughs as he tells of the 'dragons' that manned the desk – he and other visitors were so scared of missing the curfew and incurring their wrath!!

Ronda and John married in 1969 and had 2 children, Cameron and Tania. They were married for 20 years until separating and Ronda moved to South West Rocks in NSW. Ronda worked as an orthopaedic scrub nurse in a private hospital on St Kilda Rd until she moved to NSW. She was very active in the South West Rocks community and was recognised by council with an award for her work with indigenous groups and the local football club.

Ronda became ill last year before eventually succumbing to AML. This was a difficult time for Ronda as Covid restrictions meant she was not able to see her family, but they spoke regularly on the phone.

Ronda's ashes were spread at her beloved South West Rocks by her son and daughter and some of her 6 grandchildren.



Ronda Colliver (Barnes) "End of Finals-Nov 3rd 1967

A touch of history

Group 187 Graduation Glasses

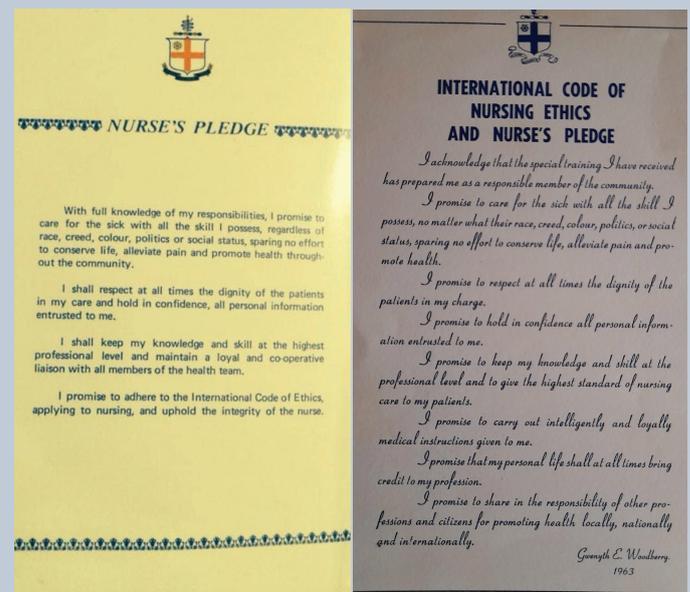


Thanks to Anne Beecham, Group 187, who shared photos of some remarkable souvenir Graduation glasses to our Facebook page It reads "Ours is not to question why When charge nurse yells we do or die, Sputum, blood wee and shit Don't bother us one little bit For we can cope with the worst Because we are the "SUPERNURSE"

RMH Group 187

Nurses' Pledge over the years

Our changing pledge, from 1978 to 1984.... Thanks to Marlene Sharpe and Julie Vernon for adding these to our Facebook page!



RMH April 1972 PTS 50 Year Reunion

* It's like no time has passed when the group have a reunion and they easily slip back into catch up and reminiscing mode. The laughter coming from them all makes me think of them back in their training days

* We have a contact list of around 30 ladies who we invite to the reunions. Mum said it was 49 ladies who started their training so that's pretty fantastic that they have maintained contact with 2/3 of the group.

* The ladies are now thinking about making it an annual catch up instead of every 5 years. Please can you ask anyone to reach out if they want to join the fun and aren't on our list (some people's emails bounced and we didn't have contact numbers for them)

* Around 5 of the ladies are still working, with one still in full-time employment!

* We did visit the Historical Room on Saturday morning but it wasn't much to look at unfortunately.

* We had 2 ladies travel from Queensland, 1 from New South Wales, 1 from Tasmania and a handful from regional Victoria - so much effort was placed on getting together. Particular now as Covid restrictions have been eased.

* One of the ladies (Sue Corbould) lives in the Netherlands and usually attends but couldn't this time around. Fingers crossed for next time.



L-R: Karyn Bugeja (Stevens), Wendy Hayes and Piri Davidson (Kaldy)



L-R: Trish Florakx (Leeson) and Jennifer Hallam

Sunday 1 May 2022

Brunch at Kettle Black, South Melbourne.



L-R: Margaret Gillett (Frauenfelder), Heather Ayson (Gowty) and Piri Davidson (Kaldy)

Saturday 30 April 2022

Visiting the Historical Room at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.



L-R: Jennifer Hallam, Margaret Gillett (nee Frauenfelder), Trish Florakx (Leeson), Wendy Hayes, Valerie Martin (James), Karyn Bugeja (Stevens), Lynne Nicholson (Anderson),

Heather Ayson (Gowty) and Jo Byrnes (Jericho)



L-R: Louise Mackinnon, Margaret Cartledge (Shroeter), Sam Henderson (Dye) and Sue Harris



L-R: Penny Marshall (Tyson), Wendy Hayes, Valerie Martin (Scott) and Jenny Scott (Bracher)

Lunch at Naughton's Hotel

L-R: Sam Henderson (Dye), Trish Florakx (Leeson), Lynne Nicholson (Anderson), Jenny Scott (Bracher), Jo Byrnes (Jericho), Jennifer Hallam, Wendy Hayes, Heather Ayson (Gowty), Margaret Gillett (nee Frauenfelder), Valerie Martin (nee James), Piri Davidson (Kaldy) and Margaret Hill (Delaney)



Front row: Karyn Bugeja (Stevens) with Theodore Hallam

L-R: Jenny Scott (Bracher), Margaret Hill (Delaney), Jennifer Hallam, Wendy Hayes, Piri Davidson (Kaldy), Sue Harris, Margaret Gillett (Frauenfelder), Penny Marshall (Tyson) and Heather Ayson (Gowty)





Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses Association

RMHGNA
PO Box 2182
Royal Melbourne Hospital
VIC. 3050.



0415 628 131



RMHGNA@outlook.com

Nomination form RMGNA Committee 2022-23

If you wish to become part of the RMGNA Committee:

1. Complete the nominee section
2. Your nomination needs to be supported by two (2) current or life members, preferably past or serving committee members, who need to complete the nominator section. If you need assistance with contacting nominators, please email rmhgna@outlook.com
3. If you are unable to gain these signatures before the AGM, please write the nominators' names in the boxes provided and submit the form – the Committee will then seek confirmation of their support for your nomination.
4. Email the completed form to rmhgna@outlook.com by **Friday 3rd June 5pm**

NOMINEE SECTION

I, _____, wish to be considered for a position on the RMGNA Committee 2022-23

Signature

NOMINATOR SECTION

Nominator name:

Signature:

Secunder name:

Signature

The election of the 2022-23 Committee of the Royal Melbourne Graduate Nurses' Association (the 'Association') will take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on **4th June 2022**.

The Association Office Bearers and General Committee members for 2022-23 will then be confirmed by the newly formed Committee at the first Committee Meeting following the AGM.