



Royal Children's Hospital League of Former Trainees & Associates Inc.

Founded 1921

March 2013 | Vol. 22, No. 1 | ISSN 1444-1179

Submissions to the Editor: PO Box 198, Carlton North, Vic., 3054 or loftnurses1@gmail.com

President's message



President of RCH LOFT, Chris Fautley.

Dear members

At our Annual General Meeting last year, we set an all-time attendance record of approximately 110 members, including about 18 new members. By all reports, everyone really enjoyed the day catching up with friends and acquaintances.

I would like to welcome new committee members Sue Tamblyn, Margaret McPherson and Nance Gooderham who were elected at the annual meeting, with Sue subsequently being appointed Minute Secretary. Unfortunately, in February, Nance had to retire from the committee because of family commitments, but remains a willing and active member on the stall at the annual meeting. (A full list of current committee members appears later in the newsletter.)

We look forward to our 92nd Annual General Meeting. Our guest speaker, Alex Wood (who trained at The Royal Children's Hospital [RCH]), is Associate Unit Manager of Sugar Glider, a general medical ward at the hospital. She will speak on the topic, 'Is everything old new again?'

We will also hear from our 2012 Elizabeth Fearon Scholarship winner, Sacha Petersen, who will present her project, 'Assessment of overnight care and comfort needs of children with cerebral palsy compared with typically developing children'. (Donations to support the nurses' research scholarship are very welcome and essential for the continuation of the scholarship. Nance Gooderham's bed and breakfast at \$60 per person, per night, is one way to support the scholarship and enjoy a short break. See the enclosed flyer for further details.)

When you receive your invitations for the annual meeting, your membership renewal will also be enclosed. Please complete all the details on the renewal form to enable us to keep our records up to date. If you no longer wish to remain a member of LOFT, please advise us so we do not send unwanted mail.

Recently, some members from Victoria were under severe fire threat, while others living in Queensland and northern New South Wales were threatened by floods. We sincerely hope that none of you, nor your families, were injured, or lost homes or property in these unusual weather occurrences, and wish anyone affected the strength to recover as quickly as possible.

Sadly, on 5th December 2012, one of our distinguished honorary members, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE, passed away. Dame Elisabeth, who reached the amazing age of 103, was a wonderful supporter of the RCH since 1933. Her commitment to the hospital and to the well-being of the children of Victoria never faltered.

(Continued on page 2)



**Royal Children's Hospital
League of Former Trainees & Associates Inc.**

92nd Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

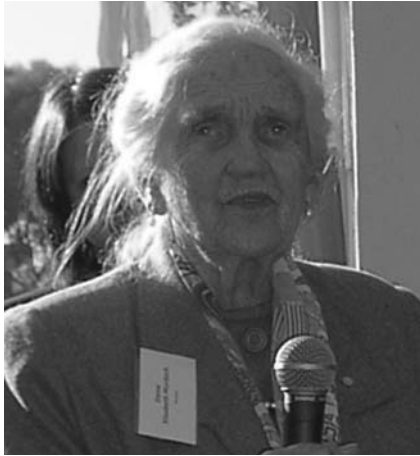
Saturday, 18th May 2013 at 10.15 am (registration)

Royal Automobile Club of Victoria

Level 2, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

See further details inside.

(Continued from page 1)



Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE.

Another member, Mrs Esme Dunell MBE (née Cheesman, 1938–1941) also passed away last year (28th May). She was aged 92. Esme was a devoted worker for children at the former Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, where she was matron for 17 years.



Mrs Esme Dunell MBE.

Our sympathy goes to the family and friends of these and the other members listed in the obituaries.

On a personal note, I wish to thank my committee, especially Sally Mizrahi, for their support while I was unwell from July to September last year. I would not have been able to continue without their help.

I hope to see you all at the 92nd Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 18th May 2013.

Chris Fautley

Elizabeth Fearon scholarship recipient 2012

The Elizabeth Fearon Scholarship is the annual endowment provided by LOFT to support the integration of research processes into nursing practice, and to foster improved outcomes for paediatric patients at the RCH.

The scholarship, which relies on donations from members, is awarded in memory of Elizabeth Fearon who commenced her training at the RCH in 1948, and was instrumental in the opening of the first Day Surgery Unit in 1977.

Applicants for the scholarship are judged by a selection committee currently comprised of Ms Bernadette Twomey, Executive Director Nursing Services (RCH); Professor Fiona Newall, Director Nursing Research (RCH); Ms Sue Scott (LOFT) and Ms Dianne Paul (LOFT).

Ms Sacha Petersen, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Developmental Medicine (Intrathecal baclofen) has been selected as this year's recipient from a field of outstanding applicants.



Sacha Petersen (right) receives her award from Melody Trueman, Director – Nursing Education.

Sacha will undertake a project dealing with the 'Assessment of overnight care and comfort needs of children with cerebral palsy compared with typically developing children' with the aim of developing interventions to minimise overnight care needs, improve quality of life for parents/carers, and provide a platform for further research. ❖

Support the scholarship!

Many LOFT members have been collecting their five and 10 cent coins in support of the Elizabeth Fearon scholarship. To help a little in this endeavour, we have produced a label (enclosed with this newsletter) that you can use to put on your collection container. Please bring your donation to the annual meeting. ❖



A website and new email address for LOFT

A RCH LOFT website is under development.



We intend including information about membership activities, scholarships recipients and RCH nursing history.

More information will be given at the annual meeting, but we are asking for your contributions of photos and stories.

Please send them to our new email address: loftnurses1@gmail.com. ❖

RCH nurse heads Vic chapter of ACCYPN

The Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses (ACCYPN) is a national organisation that promote excellence in health care for children and young people.

The RCH Palliative Care Liaison Nurse, Jacquie Burton, is the ACCYPN Chapter Coordinator for Victoria.

Jacquie was inducted to the RCH in the 1990 Graduate Nurse Program, working in wards 4 West and 5 West. She later completed a Bachelor of Nursing and a Post Graduate Diploma in Paediatrics before moving to the United Kingdom in 1994 to work for nine years at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. The last nine years saw Jacquie return to Australia to work at the RCH and the Alfred Hospital in many varied and responsible roles.

Under Jacquie's guidance, the Victorian Chapter of the ACCYPN recently hosted their first event, with the presentation topic being, 'Immunisations and vaccines – what is new and what is different?'

If you would like further information about ACCYPN, please visit: www.accypn.org.au. ❖

LOFT committee 2012–2013

Committee members for 2012–2013 are listed below. They can be contacted via mail: PO Box 198, Carlton North, Vic., 3054 or via our new email address: loftnurses1@gmail.com.

- President – Chris Fautley
- Vice President/Secretary – Sally Mizrahi
- Honorary Treasurer – Rose Siecris
- Editor, Newsletter/Membership Officer – Sue Scott
- Assistant Editor, Newsletter – Jill Newitt
- Minute Secretary – Sue Tamblyn
- Annie Hardham
- Dianne Paul
- Helen Connelly
- Jenny Freestone
- Margaret McPherson



Who are our new committee members?

• **Margaret (McKenzie) McPherson**

Margaret McPherson commenced training at the RCH in January 1970, graduating in 1973. She undertook midwifery training at the Mercy Maternity Hospital from 1974 until 1975.

After working in 7 West, the surgical cardiac ward at the RCH, for 12 months, Marg left for a short interval to raise two children. On return, she worked for nearly 30 years on a permanent part-time basis in the RCH Emergency Department, retiring in 2012.

• **Sue (Barry) Tamblyn**

Sue Tamblyn, who began her nurse training at the RCH in January 1970, pursued many aspects of nursing after leaving the hospital in December 1973. These included working in fertility and radiology units, as well as managing a nursing agency, before commencing at the Alfred Hospital in 1981.

At the Alfred, she spent 10 years working in the Intensive Care Unit, and a further 20 years as nurse manager of the Heart and Lung Transplant Service. A post-graduate diploma in advanced nursing management at La Trobe University and a degree in horticulture at Burnley were completed during these years.

Sue was president of the Transplant Nurses Association, Victoria, and is a life member of the Heart Lung Transplant Trust Victoria. She is now happily retired. ❖

RCH LOFT membership

- Annual membership: \$15.00
- Life membership: \$115.00
- Annual administration: \$5.00

Further information and membership forms can be obtained from Sue Scott, Membership Officer, by emailing loftnurses1@gmail.com or alternatively phoning Chris Fautley on (03) 9347 3546.

Where are they now?

- **Sue (Gayer) Lamb**

After completing her training in 1973, Sue returned to her home town of Geelong and worked in the children's ward of the Geelong Hospital (now Barwon Health).

Returning to the hospital after the birth of her two children, Sue worked for another 27 years in the children's ward before retiring to enjoy playing golf, caring for her grandchildren, helping on the farm, maintaining a large garden, and indulging in an occasional overseas holiday.

- **Paul Longridge**

After completing his training Paul commenced in the Graduate Nurse Program at the RCH in 1991. He worked in Burns and Plastic Surgery, 9 West, for several years before it merged with 4W to become 4 Main, and was an associate charge nurse there before working in the Hospital Support Unit as a quality manager.

Following this, Paul was the nurse unit manager of Ward 8 West. He undertook a project role for the development of the Short Stay Unit at the RCH, which then led to the RCH Interim Capital Works Project.

Paul was a clinical advisor for the new RCH, co-authoring the master plan briefing documentation, along with the functional brief. He was also a design coordinator for the new clinical areas. During this time Paul developed experience as a health planner for a private consortium undertaking a master plan for a new \$105 million children's hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam.

In 2011, Paul left the RCH and joined Billard Leece Partnership



Royal Children's Hospital

League of Former Trainees & Associates Inc.

Founded 1921

92nd RCH LOFT Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday, 18th May 2013

Royal Automobile Club of Victoria

Level 2, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Guest speaker: Ms Alex Wood, Associate Unit Manager, Sugar Glider – Medical Care, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

Topic: 'Is everything old new again?' Alex will speak about the patient population and nursing care in a general medical unit.

Program

Arrival	Morning tea
10.15am–11.00am	Registration
11.00am	Meeting
12.30pm	Luncheon
1.30pm	Guest speaker
3.00pm	Finish

Unfortunately, the price of the luncheon must increase due to rising overheads. As this may be prohibitive for some, Chris Fautley will discuss the problem with those in this situation.

Bookings close 12th April 2013. Enquiries to Chris on (03) 9347 3546, loftnurses1@gmail.com or RCH LOFT & Associates Inc., PO Box 198, Carlton North, Vic., 3054.

to lead the clinical health planning for the new children's hospital in Perth.

- **Marcell McLaughlin**

Marcelle joined the RCH as a registered nurse in 1993, working in Burns and Plastic Surgery, 9 West. From her clinical nurse specialist role evolved the first care manager position coordinating burns. She then moved on to care manager on 4 Main prior to setting up the cleft and craniofacial coordinator role.

After a period in clinical risk management, Marcelle joined

Paul Longridge as a clinical advisor on the new RCH hospital team.

Leaving the RCH in the middle of 2012, Marcelle is now working in New South Wales representing both the local health district and existing hospitals to deliver government approved capital works projects. She is currently helping transfer operations from two existing hospital campuses into one new facility, as well as bringing over 20 community health services together on four community centre sites. ■

End of an era

The Nurses Home on the corner of Flemington Road and Gatehouse Street has now been demolished as part of the Stage 2 development of the new RCH Project.



View from Gatehouse Street as the nurses' home is demolished.

The City of Melbourne and the Department of Health are working together on 'Return to Royal Park', a project to reinstate parkland on the site of the old RCH.

Community consultation has been sought to inform a design for the parkland. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

If you would like to share your memories and photos of the nurses' home on our new website, please contact us via post or email. ❖

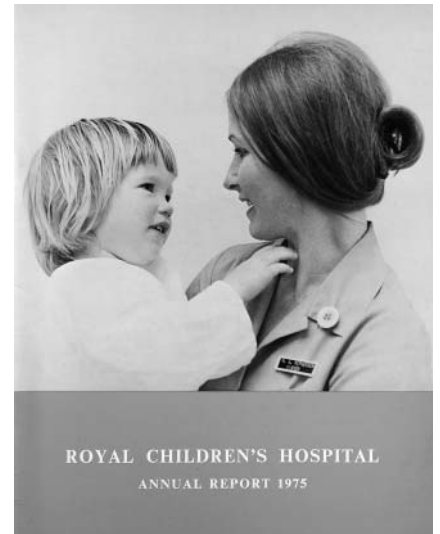


Opening of the nurses' home in 1958. Sister J. A. Henderson gives out room keys to the student nurses.

Photo courtesy of RCH Archives Department. Photographer: Laurie Richards.

RCH news

To catch up on the news and events that happen at the RCH, you can log on the RCH website at www.rch.org.au.



The RCH Annual Report 1975 depicting LOFT member Margaret McPherson.

You can also view the 2011–2012 Quality of Care Report at www.rch.org.au/rchpa/publications, which highlights improvements in patient care. ❖

RCH Good Friday appeal

Some interesting things you may not know about the RCH Good Friday appeal:

- When the hospital was founded in 1870, it managed to raise funds to purchase six beds, blankets, sheets, towels, soap, a hip bath and a large boiler;
- The appeal was established in the early 1930s by a group of journalists from the Herald & Weekly Times Limited newspaper, the *Sporting Globe*;
- Every year, the appeal amazingly receives slightly more than the pledged amount.

If you wish to donate to the 2013 appeal, you can visit: www.goodfridayappeal.com.au or phone: (03) 9292 1166. ❖

International Nursing History Conference 2012

In August 2012, Margaret McInnes, RCH trainee and historian, attended the International Nursing History Conference in Kolding, Denmark. The conference theme was 'Nursing History in a Global Perspective'. Margaret has compiled the following report for LOFT:

Held in what is Hotel Koldingfjord in Jutland, formerly a tuberculosis sanatorium for children, the conference was organised and hosted by the Danish Society of Nursing History and the Danish Museum of Nursing History.

The society, which was founded in 1997, endeavours 'to promote interest in nursing history in Denmark, the Nordic countries and internationally' and 'to support the collection of material to the museum exhibitions, archives and library'. The museum, housed in the former babies pavilion, was inaugurated in 1999 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Danish Nurses' Organization. It provides an educational component for Danish nursing candidates with lecture room teaching facilities.

The history of nursing is now a component of nursing education in degree courses in most countries of the world. By teaching this subject, each student is enabled to reflect academically (as an adjunct to clinical practice); to argue how the evolution of historical problems in disease, health and the profession have had major influences on present day practice; and how that knowledge can be important for present and future policy makers.

The purpose of the conference was to exchange ideas and knowledge between countries and to learn how they approached the subject of nursing history. There were eight delegates from Australia. I attended



The beautifully preserved Hotel Koldingfjord, where the conference was held.

the conference (at my own expense) as a freelance historian of medical, hospital and nursing history with more than 20 years experience as a volunteer in the RCH archive collections, involvement in exhibitions and publications, and the collection of historical records and memorabilia for LOFT. I also wished to observe the Danish Nurses' Organization museum development.

The position of nursing history in Australia is not quite so bright as it is in Denmark and the rest of Europe. Indeed, the material is mostly shuffled to out-of-the-way archival and personal collections, housed in small rooms, and given little priority by hospital administrators.

Major hospitals in most capital cities, have collections of memorabilia, photos and personal records over a very long period, but what should be a showcase of world importance is largely ignored. Many remnants of past exhibitions that created wide public interest were destroyed, while other archival material was relegated to the public records office due to lack of space.

If nothing is done, archival material will languish and eventually perish;



RCH nurse Grace Collins (right), 1891–92, and fellow nurse

information will not be remembered. A separate general museum of nursing history needs to be established in Melbourne (or in Australia), but it will need public funding and corporate sponsorship. Fortunately, the Denmark conference has inspired a group from the southern hemisphere to form an electronic network, tentatively called 'Australia, New Zealand and South Africa Nursing and Midwifery History Group'. The leaders are Linda Shields (James Cook University), Queensland, Australia, and Linda Bryder, Auckland, New Zealand. ■

Obituaries

- **Dame Elisabeth Murdoch
AC DBE, Honorary member
(1909–2012)**

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was associated with the Royal Children's Hospital since 1933, joining the Management Committee and serving as its president from 1954 to 1965. She was head of the planning committee to relocate the hospital from its site in Carlton, and to build a new hospital in Parkville.

The LOFT Committee pay tribute to this great Australian woman, her inspirational philanthropic spirit and the enormous impact she had on so many during her life, including those who have been touched by the RCH.

- **Mrs Esme Weldon (Cheesman)
Dunell MBE (1920–2012)**

In 1938, at the age of 18, Esme commenced her nursing training at RCH Carlton, which was followed by six months adult nursing at Prince Henry's Hospital in 1941 to gain registration as a general nurse. A midwifery certificate from the Royal Women's Hospital followed in 1942, then an appointment that saw her in charge of the children's ward at Mildura Base Hospital.

Widowed in 1945, Esme then worked as a paediatric charge nurse in Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth; the Hobart Base Hospital; and the Geelong Hospital. This followed with assistant and matron roles at the Spastic Centre, the Hamilton and District Hospital, the Queen Victoria Hospital, and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, where she remained for 17 years. She finished her career as relieving matron at the Croydon Quadriplegic Hospital in 1979.

Esme became a fellow of the Royal College of Nursing in 1959, and was a recipient of a Churchill scholarship in 1971. She was awarded a MBE in 1978 for her outstanding nursing service to the blind and handicapped children at the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

- **Mrs Jean (Steer) Bradford
(1923–2012)**

Jean trained at the RCH from 1939 to 1943. Although then married, she was invited to stay on.

After moving to Western Australia with her parents in 1945, Jean did not resume nursing, but continued as a volunteer with the Red Cross, which she joined in 1939.

Jean was instrumental in setting up the Blood Bank and Opportunity Shop in Narrogin, Western Australia, and in 2004, was awarded a 60 year citation for her work.

Jean's daughter Judy Gladman tells of her mother, together with her aunty, Joyce Evans, attending the RCH Centenary Celebration in 1970, an event that gave Jean much pleasure. Judy said that Jean had spoken fondly of the occasion until her life's end.

- **Nurse Daniel (?–2012)**

We have been advised that Nurse Daniel (pictured below) passed away in February last year, aged 88 years. Does anyone know her first name? Vivienne B. Daniel, who graduated in 1941 or Gloria J. Daniel, who graduated in 1943?

- **Mrs Marjorie Joy (Hosking)
Tomlinson (1918–2012)**

Graduated in 1941.

- **Mrs J. C. Derrick (?–2012)**

- **Miss Aileen Mary O'Donnell
(1920–2012)**

Graduated in 1942.

- **Ms Valda Schulz (?–2012)**

- **Mrs U. von Der Lippe
(?–2012)**

- **Mrs Marjorie May (Schmidt)
Scott (1921–2012)**

Trained from 1943 to 1949.

- **Mrs Elenor (Catto) Catto–
Smith (?–2013)**

Trained from 1945 to 1949.

- **Mrs Gabrielle (Neave) Hayes
(?–2013)**

Trained from 1967.

To their families and friends we extend our deepest sympathy. ❖

Photo courtesy of RCH Archives Department.



Nurse Daniel with group of children in 1945 at Carlton.

Tours of the new RCH

There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the new hospital on the afternoon of Friday, 17th May—the day before the annual meeting. Numbers will be limited, and priority will be given to country and interstate members coming to the annual meeting and luncheon.

If you are interested in attending, please email your interest to loftnurses1@gmail.com or call Chris Fautley on (03) 9347 3546. Other tour dates will be announced at the AGM.

The RCH will also be conducting tours as a part of Open House Melbourne 2013, which will be held on the weekend of 27th and 28th July 2013. (Further information can be obtained by visiting www.openhousemelbourne.org.)

A small group of past nurses who had worked at both the Carlton and Parkville sites toured the new hospital in September 2012 and found many differences to compare. ■



Touring the new hospital, past nurses Margaret Grummet (left), Kate Harden, Jill Mobilia (chief pharmacist), Heather Telfer, and (background) the 'Creature' in the 'main street' of the hospital.

Notices

RCH LOFT books available

Caring For Our Children: The History of Paediatric Nursing at the Royal Children's Hospital is available for \$20.00 plus \$12.00 p&h. Email Sally Mizrahi (sally0307@hotmail.com) for further information.



Membership badges

LOFT membership badges are available at the AGM for \$5.00 each or mailed out for an extra \$3.00. Contact Chris Fautley on (03) 9347 3546.



Conference

The Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses (ACCYPN) Fourth International Congress on paediatric nursing will be held in Melbourne on 24th to 27th August 2013. Further information can be found at www.accypn.org.au.

Fund raising

In November, there is a bustrip planned to the Mornington Peninsula to include a visit to Cruden Farm, lunch and wine tasting, then off to a berry farm for strawberry picking. More information will be given at the AGM or Sue Tamblyn at LOFT email or PO Box addresses.

B&B at Rhyll, Phillip Island

See enclosed brochure for further information.