

Northern District School of Nursing Graduates Association



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Dear Fellow Nurses

This brief newsletter is being sent to all for whom we have a postal or email address. Please pass this newsletter on to any of your NDSN associates as we are looking for as much information/anecdotes/photos for inclusion in a book.

To assist you with your contributions, some guideline questions are over the page.

The deadline for contributions is 30 November 2013.

Please let us know if you do not want your name acknowledged on any contribution or photograph.

Don't forget, if you move house or change your email address, please let us know.

Some of the Stories to date:

- The girls who came down to Bendigo on the bus from Mildura and met up with a con-man who bought them all lunch.
- And to the tune of My Darling Clementine

Chorus: Oh my Darling! Oh my Darling!
Oh my Darling! Jimmy boy
Thou art here with us forever
What a shame O' Jimmy boy.

There's a school house down in Bendigo
That is known as Lister House
Where the nurses all do meet
To learn about there future spouse.

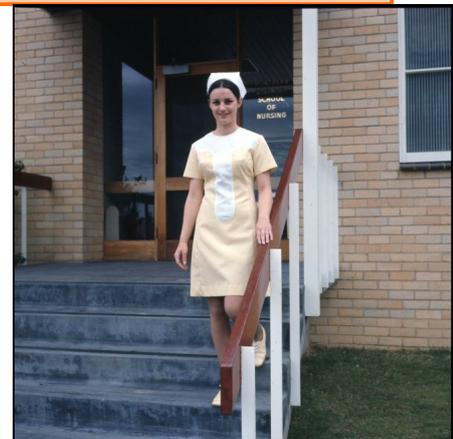
In a cupboard on the corner
In a room in Lister House
There's a boney looking creature
Whose on the lookout for this spouse.

Light he was like a fairy
And his bones where made of chalk
They used to rattle like the devil
Every time he tried to walk.

When the girls came into the room
He would whistle and they'd swoon
And he tried to bring them round
With some Brandy and a spoon.



Joan Painter, School 16, with 'Jimmy'! 1953



Modelling the new uniform 1972



Peg Donohoe lecturing 1960s

What about the end of block interviews with the Dean? Would anyone care to tell us about their interview?

Written by Clare Cooney

NORTHERN DISTRICT SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATES ASSOCIATION (NDSNGA)

The NDSNGA is compiling a book on the history of nurse education at Lister House between 1950 and 1989 with particular emphasis on the life of the students and staff who studied and worked there.

We are looking for contributions from staff and students in relation to their recollections and experiences during that time for inclusion in the book which will focus on the personal aspects of nurse training rather than the school itself.

A number of questions are listed below which can be used as a guideline for anyone who wishes to contribute to the book. Contributions can include special memories, anecdotes (funny or serious) and high quality photos which are suitable for publication.

All contributions used will be acknowledged in the book with the name of the author unless otherwise specified.

Please let us know if you do not want your name acknowledged on any contribution or photograph.

The guideline questions are as follows:

- What years were you at Lister House? What School were you in? What Hospital did you train at? Any adventures on travelling between your hospital and Lister House? We have a story where one group of nurses who met up with a con-man on the bus travelling to Bendigo.
- Tell us about your time at Lister House. What do you remember about lectures, the meals, (did you put on weight?) The gardens etc. Do you recall the Catholic Cathedral being redeveloped?
- What did you get up to in those hostels? Were you in one of the old hostels such as Mayfort, McIniry's, 99 Wattle St., Short St., Eurella or the new hostel? Were there many overflowing baths at your hostel? What was it like being in a "unisex" hostel? Do you recall any stories about 'sneaking in/out' of the building "out-of-hours"? Did you meet your future husband/partner whilst at Lister House? Tell us how you met or any funny anecdotes about your meeting.
- What changes did you see during your time at Lister House? Changes refer to both internal and external such as buildings added, Government changes, new equipment etc. There was a new curriculum in 1972, what difference did that make? What about the Sax Report – what effect did that have?
- On the weekends – did you stay at the hostels or did you return home? What was the public transport like during your time at Lister House? What did you do if you stayed in Bendigo for the weekend?
- Were there any celebrations or important events during your time at Lister House? (weddings, parties, retirement functions, graduations etc). What was the food like?
- Do you have any anecdotes to share – be they serious or funny?
- Can you tell us anything else about your time at Lister House? Other suggestions are: uniform inspections, doing exams including practical and oral exams, stories about the tutors, your first time on a hospital ward during your training
- Were you there for the final days of Lister House? What was the atmosphere like? How did you feel about the closure of the School? Who put the cat out?
- Can you solve the mystery of the time capsule? Do you know where it is buried?

If you would like any further information, please contact Fay Bourke (Rodoni) on

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or

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One nurse recalls how she and her nursing friend were sent to the Bendigo Base, after two weeks at Lister House in PTS, to undertake the full sponge of a elderly male patient. The patient had been prepared for this adventure, including the giggling of the two trainee nurses. He was very co-operative suggesting that the girls wash down as far as possible, then wash up as far as possible, and he would wash possible! Despite all the giggles, the sponge was completed to the satisfaction of the patient and the relief of the nurses.

We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future or before 30 November 2013