

Northern District School of Nursing Graduates Association Inc

PO BOX 509
BENDIGO 3552



**Newsletter Issue No 9
November 2016**

President's Report:

Welcome to our 2016 newsletter. Our small hard working Committee continues to progress activities which include:

- ◆ **Archiving**—working to preserve NDSN historical nursing artefacts and memorabilia. This is a big undertaking which is slowly progressing. Special thanks to Fay for finding room in her home for some of our collection and hosting monthly sessions. (p.5) Our larger items are stored in a shed and we pay an annual fee to the Huntly Historical Society. There has been some water damage over the last year which was discovered at our recent inspection. The Committee feels the need to find a more permanent, secure and suitable repository, such as a museum setting. To that end the Committee will continue to advocate with the City of Greater Bendigo Council and the Heritage Committee.
- ◆ **Facebook** - continues to be popular despite Fay having a well deserved holiday (p.5).
- ◆ **Email**—has been recently set up for the Committee to have a dedicated email address (p.5).
- ◆ **Website**— is a work in progress (p. 5).
- ◆ **Membership**—has increased to 360.
- ◆ **NDSNGA Inc Annual Award**—This year's prize recipient was Ms Courtney Emma Jury. I attended the LaTrobe University Bendigo Campus Prize Ceremony 2016 held at the Ulumbarra Theatre which was unsurpassed (p. 3).
- ◆ **'First of its Kind: Nurse Education and Training at the Northern District School of Nursing'** - a reprint of our book has been necessary as a result of its reputation spreading nationwide (p.2).
- ◆ **Vale**—we pay tribute to past esteemed members Dawn Mary Buffham (p.2) and Diane Margaret Francis (p. 4).
- ◆ **Finances**—an Independent Audit of our books was attended by Beattie Financial Services. On 10 May 2016 David L Beattie reported *'In my opinion, the financial report does present a true and fair view of the receipts and expenditure of Northern District School of Nursing Graduates Association Inc from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.'* The focus of our expenditure is on Archival costs, Newsletters including printing and postage, Storage costs at Huntly, the Annual Award at LaTrobe University, Wreaths and 2020 Reunion.
- ◆ **Networking**—attendance at the Bendigo Heritage Group Meetings. Thanks to Jenny Pata, Joan O'Shea and Jenny Trewartha for attending these meetings.
- ◆ **LaTrobe University Alumni**—NDSNGA Inc is a member of the LTU Alumni and now has a seat on the LTU Alumni Board—Jenny Pata is our representative (p. 3)
- ◆ **ANZAC Day**—Fay, Jenny Trewartha and Joan O'Shea attended and laid a wreath (p.4).
- ◆ **Remembrance Day**—Fay Bourke attended on our behalf and laid a wreath (p. 4).
- ◆ **Local Reunions**—your contributions are always welcome (Pp. 6 & 7))
- ◆ **Committee**—members are invited to join the Committee to either assist with the Archiving or helping organise Reunion 2020. Contact: Rosemary Baker email: rosebaker3623@gmail.com
- ◆ **Special thanks**— to Jan Spenceley who has been a gracious hostess and caterer for our meetings.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

Marion Symes—President

OUR BOOK

“The First of its Kind: Nurse Education and Training at the Northern District School of Nursing” continues to be popular with not only staff and students but with Libraries, genealogical groups and other book repositories. Copies of the book have been donated to hospitals at Mildura, Swan Hill, Echuca, Maryborough, Bendigo and Castlemaine. To conform with our statutory obligations, copies of the book were given to the National Library of Australia as well as the State Library of Victoria. One book was donated to each of the Swan Hill, Mildura and North Central Libraries as well as each purchasing 3 further copies of the book. Other library organisations which ordered copies were the Prahran Mechanics Institute and James Bennett Pty Ltd (NSW). Local Genealogical Groups and the Genealogical Society of Victoria also have copies as well as the Bendigo Historical Society. Over the past 12 months there have been regular requests for books from those who either worked or trained at the NDSN to the point where we have had to arrange a further printing of 50 books which was undertaken in August 2016—making a total print run of 650 copies.

The Committee, in 2015, resolved that at the LaTrobe University (Bendigo Campus) Prize Ceremony each year, at which the NDSNGA Inc provides a prize for the best 3rd year nurse undergraduate, a book would be provided to the winner of our prize along with the NDSNGA Inc annual prize. In 2015 the graduate who won the prize did not attend the ceremony, of which the NDSNGA Inc was not notified, thus a book was not provided. However, in 2016 the winner of the annual prize was Courtney Jury who was presented with a book. On page 3 is a photo of President Marion Symes with Courtney and Pro Vice Chancellor Betty Leask following the presentation.

As you will know from our 2015 newsletter, the book received a Commendation in the Collaborative Community Award section of the Victorian Community History Awards 2015.

In the Bendigo Advertiser of Monday 28 September 2015, Jim Evans, President of the Bendigo Historical Society wrote: *‘A splendid history of the Northern District School of Nursing by the Graduates Association, has been donated to the Bendigo Historical Society. It is a most informative work and great care has been taken to include the contents of the many and varied personal memoirs, photographs, and other documents submitted by former students and staff members’.*

VALE: Dawn Mary Buffham (nee Harris) 3 April 1928—18 March 2016

Dawn was born and educated in Cohuna and trained at the Bendigo Base 1945-1947. She undertook further training in Melbourne culminating in obtaining her Infant Welfare Certificate at Berry Street, Melbourne. In the years of 1954 and 1955 Dawn worked as a Tutor at Lister House and is fondly remembered by those who trained during those years. At our 2005 reunion, Dawn was the guest speaker and spoke of her life as a nurse with the Flying Doctor Service and the School Medical Service. From Australia she went to Canada where she was appointed supervisor of the intensive paediatric service of a Catholic Hospital in Toronto. Hearing that Monash University in Australia was considering a similar service, Dawn returned to Melbourne in 1970 where she set up a whole unit, encompassing an entire floor at the Queen Victoria Baby & Paediatric Unit. Her paediatric service overseas had stood her in good stead for this position. An irony of Dawn’s career was that Marie Godfrey (School 24A) was in Dawn’s first tutorial class in 1954 at Lister House. When Dawn undertook a refresher course at Berry Street in 1965, Marie was Dawn’s tutor!

Following her marriage to Fred Buffham in 1972 (they met on a blind date, so yes blind dates can have positive outcomes!) Dawn continued working, expanding her expertise and developing the Goroke Community Centre into an almost one-stop-shop service. Dawn and Fred moved to Bendigo in 1991 where they continued to be involved in community activities particularly at St Therese’s Parish, St John of God Hospital, Bendigo Lions Club and various social ‘Ladies Groups’. Dawn was a woman of unlimited energy and goodwill who had a loving and affectionate nature.

(Precised from the Eulogy at Dawn’s funeral. Thanks to Helen Nihill)

NORTHERN DISTRICT SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATES ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL AWARD 2016

Annually the NDSNGA Inc has provided an award to the value of \$100 to the student who displays outstanding academic achievement in the third year of an undergraduate nursing degree at LaTrobe University Bendigo Campus. A member of the NDSNGA Inc Committee presents the award at the Prize Ceremony in July. This year's prize recipient was Ms Courtney Jury who also received a copy of our book 'The First of its Kind: Nurse Education & Training at the Northern District School of Nursing'. It was decided at the June 2016 NDSNGA Inc Committee meeting to increase the value of this prize to \$200 and continue to provide a copy of our book to the prize recipient.



Ms Courtney Jury receiving her NDSNGA Inc prize from Professor Betty Least, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) LaTrobe University and Marion Symes, President of the NDSNGA Inc.

(Photo: Courtesy LaTrobe University Bendigo Campus Student Administration)

Bendigo Chapter of the LaTrobe University Alumni

The NDSNGA Inc. has sought, for some time, to have a seat on the LaTrobe University's Alumni Committee and in March this year we were successful. The benefit for the NDSNGA Inc means a closer working association with the University as well as providing links and networking opportunities. The NDSN is an antecedent institution of LaTrobe University and membership of the Alumni is open to all those who passed through the NDSN. Regularly throughout the year the Alumni provides Downtown Lectures at the Visual Arts Centre in View Street Bendigo. These lectures, generally on topical subjects, are open to the public and are advertised on the LaTrobe University website, in the *Bendigo Advertiser* and by word of mouth. Membership of the Alumni is open to all NDSNGA Inc members and costs \$15/year. Check out the LaTrobe University website—Alumni section. Stay tuned; we are looking at the possibilities for lectures in 2017 which will include a session on the new Bendigo Hospital.

Committee 2015-2020:

President—Marion Symes

Secretary—Rosemary Baker

Asst Secretary—Jenny Pata

Treasurer—Marion Symes

Archiving/Cataloguing—Fay Bourke

Committee: Joan O'Shea, Joan Broad, Jan Spenceley, Jenny Trewartha, Maree Worme, Marg Coad, Chris Forbes

VALE: Diane Margaret Francis 1948-2015:

Sadly Di Francis (School 69) passed away shortly after the reunion of 2015. Di had been instrumental in trying to get a comprehensive history of the NDSN and this provided a spark for our Committee to undertake the task. Many of you will fondly remember Di either from the NDSN, Bendigo Base or LaTrobe University. In The Bendigo Advertiser on 30th May 2015, Dr Jean Douglas wrote an article about Di giving an overview of her work and achievements over her lifetime. The following is a synopsis of that article, courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser.

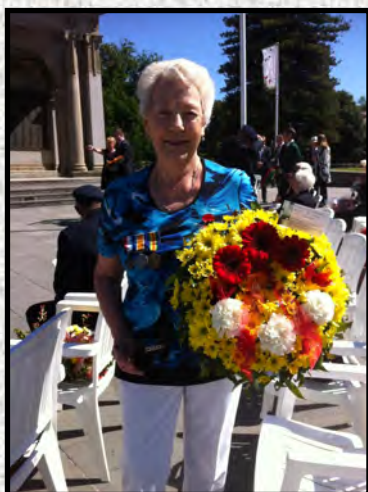
FOND MEMORIES OF A SPECIAL NURSE WITH A SIGNATURE LAUGH.

A Grand passion for health services by Dr Jean Douglas

In the early 1970s health care was a high priority for the Whitlam government. With a shortage of doctors in the Bendigo area, a committee was set up under the leadership of David Kennedy MP to get funding to establish a Community Health Centre for this area. Medical care in Eaglehawk at the time was very deficient with only one solitary General Practitioner servicing 800 people, hence it was chosen as the site for a Community Health Centre. This would be a new concept in health care with emphasis on the team approach working in a general practice setting looking at preventative medicine as well as offering curative care. It was under this challenge that Diane Margaret Francis was appointed as a clinical nurse working hand in hand with a wide variety of health professionals. Di worked at the centre for nearly 20 years and had a great respect and knowledge of the Eaglehawk community. Her medical prowess was 'spot on' and she had compassion for all her clients and fellow workers. She was a consummate worker and dedicated her life to caring for others. She had a wicked sense of humour and a characteristic laugh. Even in her latter years when she was hospitalized once she was giving me a dissertation of what to use to do a dressing. Di had trained at Bendigo Base through the NDSN and had also completed her midwifery training at the Base. Di enjoyed medical and nursing history and had researched that old miners condition known as Miners Phthisis which was prevalent in Bendigo during the mining days of the late 1800's and into the 1900's. After leaving community health she returned to study gaining a post graduate degree through LaTrobe University to where she returned as a nursing tutor. As well as being a member of the NDSNGA Inc, Di had been a long service committee member of the Bendigo Base Hospital Trained Nurses League.

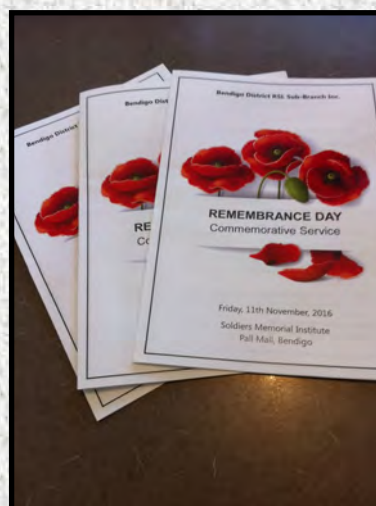
ANZAC DAY and REMEMBRANCE DAY

Annually the NDSNGA Inc joins the other wartime Associations for the ceremonies relating to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day and laying a wreath at the Cenotaph. Fay Bourke represented the group this year on both days with Jenny Trewartha and Joan O'Shea for ANZAC Day. Our Committee has a standing order with the florist, *World of Flowers*, to provide the wreaths, presented in the NDSN School colours.



Left: Fay Bourke holding the Remembrance Day Wreath.

Right: Commemorative Service leaflets for Remembrance Day.



UPDATES:

- ◆ **Archiving**—we are continuing to archive documents/photos/books etc which were donated to the group from the estate of the late Di Francis. Also other papers continue to come, thus keeping the Archiving group busy. The group continues to meet monthly at Fay Bourke’s place where the records are stored. A laptop computer/scanner/printer has been purchased specifically for the archiving process which will assist with cataloguing the collection. This computer also has internet access. Currently the group is getting a complete set of school photos for posterity.

The group have looked at various **cataloguing options** in regard to the accumulation of historical documents. Once the cataloguing option has been chosen, it is hoped that it will take roughly 12 to 18 months to complete, then the paper documents and paraphernalia will be handed over to the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre for their safe-keeping. The NDSNGA Inc also has equipment and artefacts stored in a shed at the Huntly & Districts Historical Society’s repository.

- ◆ **Email**— this is our new email address: ndsn@outlook.com
- ◆ **Facebook**— Our Facebook guru, Fay Bourke, keeps the pages up-to-date. From the number of people viewing the site weekly (around 300), it appears to be quite popular and especially with around 50 stalwart followers who make favourable comments and/or put posts of their own on the page. Naturally, nursing related information or photos produce the most interest and comments.
- ◆ **Website**—has been put on hold for the moment until the Committee has a discussion regarding the format of the site.

Now for a few of those wonderful definitions from the Irish Dictionary!

ARTERY	The Study of Paintings
BACTERIA	Back Door of a Cafeteria
CAT SCAN	Searching for Kitty
D & C	Where Washington is
DILATE	To Live Longer
ENEMA	Not a Friend
FIBULA	A Small Lie
GENITAL	Not a Jew
HANGNAIL	Coat Hook
IMPOTENT	Distinguished, Well Known
LABOUR PAIN	Getting Hurt at Work
NITRATES	Cheaper Than Day Rates
RECOVERY ROOM	Place to do Upholstery
RECTUM	Dang Near Killed ‘Em
SEIZURE	Roman Emperor

Thanks to Joan O’Shea for these pearls.



Above: Lunchtime meeting for the committee at Huntly after sorting artefacts housed at the Huntly & District Historical Society. Below: Storage cupboard at Fay Bourke’s house.



REUNIONS



Mildura District Nurses Association held their annual Reunion on 25th June 2016 at the Workingmans Club in Mildura. It was the Groups' 60th birthday. A cake with the hospital's insignia was cut by Judy Van Maurik, Betty Whiting, Irene Vallance, Marcia Hines and Marg Chiswell. A biro was struck specially for the occasion.



Mildura District Nurses Association Committee
 L-R: Jenny Gledhill (Pres), Sandra Doyle (Sec), Lyn Castleman, Heather McWilliams (Treas), Julie Galbraith, Alison Wrate, Grace Budich, Maria Ferguson. (Absent: Kathy Nolen and Sue Tassone)
Photo: Jenny Pata



The cake being cut by Judy Van Maurik, Betty Whiting, Irene Vallance, Marcia Hines and Marg Chiswell.
(Photo: MDNA Facebook)



Mildura District Nurses Association 25 June 2016

Mildura District Nurses Association holds their annual Reunion on the last weekend of June.
 Contact: Sandra Doyle (Sec) 0419 536 700 or

**Having a Reunion?
 Don't forget to let our Committee know and send in some photographs and/or information on the event for our newsletter.**

REUNIONS



School 66—held a Reunion at the Shamrock Hotel Bendigo on July 5th 2016. Some of those in attendance from left are Leonie Ford (Maxwell), Sue Donnelly (Schultz) and Cathy Hemenstall (Scott) and below Helen Nihill (O'Connor) and Glenis Taylor (Williams). The group meets each year on 5th July to celebrate the day they commenced their training.

School 68—met at the Woodhouse Restaurant in Bendigo on 16 July 2016— a 50 year celebration.



Back Row: Nanette Hamilton (Munro), Patricia Rojo (Sporn), Dawn Oswald (Tarran), Donna Brook (O'Dwyer), Joan Rogers (Matson), Maxine Ferguson (Gray), Suzanne Margan (Gee), Wendy Dillon (Martin), Rhonda Williams (Marshall).

Middle Row: Val Davies (Brown), Heather Martin (Pell), Joan Clevin (Voutier), Janet Whelan (Brereton), Sue Lowe (Davies)

Front Row: Judy Besley (McAlister), Cheryl Johnson (Winzar), Myrtle Darby (Eickert), Pam Van Kempen (Gray)

OTHER REUNIONS:

Echuca—annually—2nd Saturday in October—next Reunion will be 14 October 2017—Contact: Janet Whelan via June Brereton: junevbre@mcmmedia.com.au

Swan Hill—annually—2nd Saturday in September—next Reunion 9 September 2017—Contact: Heather Chislett on hjchislett@westnet.com.au

Maryborough— annually in March—next AGM 19 March 2017 at Ripples on Res for lunch. Next meeting 30 November 2016 at M'boro Highland Society. Contact: Marj Shay: mandgshay@bigpond.com

Bendigo— annual Reunion in March Contact: Wendy Wilkinson: wilko134@bigpond.com

Castlemaine—we have no information on an Association but if there is any interest to form a group please contact Joan Broad on joan.broad@bigpond.com

Nurses Reunion Get-together - twice a year there is a general Get-together of nurses for lunch which is held at one of the hotels in Bendigo. It's open to all nurses wherever trained. Contact: Rosalie Vanstan: 5443 1358

WHERE ARE THEY?

From time to time we have mail returned to us. This usually results from people moving addresses and forgetting to tell us. If anyone knows the current addresses of any of the following members, please contact Membership Secretary Jenny either by post (PO Box 509 Bendigo 3552) email (kayjay@bendigodomain.com.au) or phone (0411799202). Your assistance is appreciated.

- Mrs Dorothy Hoare School 62 Bendigo (Holt)
- Mrs Helen Pettifer School 94 Bendigo (Fitzsimmons)
- Mrs Maree Wood School 31 Bendigo (Teasdale)

HOW TO GET YOUR OWN NURSING HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY (BUNDOORA)

LaTrobe University Archives at Bundoora holds two collections of records relating to your time as a student of the Northern District School of Nursing . These are:

- ◆ 20017/106 Student Record Cards, 1950-1987
- ◆ 2008/031 Student Assessment & Correspondence Files

To assist you in your choice of records to access, a detailed description of these collections has been provided to the NDSNGA Inc.

In applying to have access to your records, please follow the steps below:

Email: Records&ArchivesServices@latrobe.edu.au and include the following details:

- Your name (including your maiden name where applicable)
- Your date of birth
- The collection/s (see above) you would like to access
- Records Services will then scan your records and attach these in a return email
- Should alternative arrangements be necessary due to, for example, the unavailability of email or a preference to view the records in person, please contact the Manager, Records Services on (03) 94792056. Please note that records can be viewed in person at either the Bundoora or Bendigo campuses.
- It is also noted that some files are missing (or currently misplaced) as in the case of School 67.

FOR SALE

Badges: Limited number of NDSN Badges (the 1972 design) \$25 each includes postage

Books: *'The First of its Kind :Nurse Education and Training at the Northern District School of Nursing'* @ \$40 plus \$15 p&p

Spoons: Limited number silver spoons with NDSN insignia \$10-00 each includes postage

Commemorative Mugs from the 2000 reunion @ \$5- each plus p&p.

Contact: Asst Secretary Jenny Pata, PO Box 509 Bendigo 3552 , 0411 799 202 or email : kayjay@bendigodomain.com.au



Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year