



President's Annual Report

2017-2018

Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

P. O. Box 1233

Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Email: admin@centaurnursesfund.org.au

www.centaurnursesfund.org.au

ABN 68 670493663

Our Mission

To preserve, promote and maintain a living Memorial in honour and remembrance of Nurses who served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) at home and abroad (and the terms pre the instigation of the name of the Australian Defence Force).

To honour the memory of the sinking of the AHS Centaur off the Queensland coast on the 14th May 1943, the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses provides educational support and opportunities for nurses in the state of Queensland. The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses was established in 1948.

The objectives of the Fund are to:

- 2.1 Promote the history and legacy of the sinking of the AHS Centaur.
- 2.2 Maintain links with organisations with similar mission and objectives.
- 2.3 Promote the values and work of nursing generally, in particular the ADF.
- 2.4 Raise funds that enable nursing research and education.
- 2.5 Convene an annual Centaur Memorial Service.

Welcome

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for 2018.

Annual Memorial Service

The 74th Anniversary Commemorative Service of the sinking of the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* was held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church Lutwyche on 14 May 2017. Our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable, Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland was in attendance. The Guest Speaker was Dr Judith Dean RN, RM, BN, MPHTM, PhD, and one of our Centaur Fellows speaking on what the Centaur Fellowship has meant to her. The Service was conducted by Rev. Sandra Kjellgren, Rector of St. Andrew's Anglican Church Lutwyche, where the Annual Commemorative Service has been held for at least 10 years, and the Sermon given by Rev. Sandra Kjellgren.

The Brisbane Girls Grammar School Chamber singers with Director of Choral Music, Mr Paul Holley OAM and Director of Instrumental Music, Mr Owen Clark; the Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band, with Headmaster Mr Graeme McDonald, and Conductor Mr Steven Stanley; the Naval Cadets: TS CENTAUR Maleny under direction of Commanding Officer Lieutenant Linda Vann ANC, and the Bugler Mrs Emily Tattam were in attendance.

Education Committee

Thank you to the Education Committee of Dr Marion Mitchell, who ably chairs that committee, for organising the application for Scholarship for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. Dr Judith Dean supports Dr Marion Mitchell on the Education Committee. The Management Committee and the Education Committee wish to thank the panel for the significant role they play in assessing the annual scholarship applications, and for their willingness to assess the Scholarship Applications for 2018. Professor Helen McCutcheon, Head School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, the University of Queensland; Professor Brigid M. Gillespie, Professor of Patient Safety, National Centre of Research Excellence in Nursing, Menzies Health Institute Queensland, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University; and Professor Linda Shields MD (Research), PhD, FACN, Centaur Fellow, MAICD, Professor of Rural Health, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, NSW, and Member, International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame of Sigma Theta Tau International. We are so grateful for the commitment and support they give to the Centaur Memorial Fund for

Nurses. The standard of applications this last year was excellent. We received six (6) applications in October 2017. Last year was also the 23rd Anniversary of the award of the Centaur Scholarship to a Nurse or Midwife undertaking research and study for a PhD in a Nursing-Midwifery-History related subject. The PhD recipients are titled “Fellows”.

The Annual Scholarship will continue to be awarded on the advice of the Selection Panel which reports to the Management Committee. There were no requests for clarification. The winner of the Centaur Scholarship 2018 is Ms Jessica Schults, for her application on ‘Optimising endotracheal suction practices in the paediatric intensive care unit’. Jessica is undertaking her PhD study at Griffith University, is employed at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital, and will briefly present to us tonight on her PhD studies.

Centaur Silver Medal

The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses continues to support the presentation of a Silver Medal to the student who achieves the highest grade point average. Seven (7) universities are invited to receive this award annually. The recipients receive the Joy Croker Silver Centaur Medal to perpetuate the memory of the sinking of the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* on 14th May 1943. The recipients receive the medal and the history of the Centaur. The Silver Medal recipients during 2015/2017 are listed below.

University	Name	When sent/presented
Griffith	Rebecca Gordon	Feb 2017
Griffith	Julie Christie	May 2016
JCU	Wendy Anne Cottee	Dec 2015
CQU	Marie LeLagadec	July 2015
CQU	Alison Howell	May 2016
SCU	Paul Kaczykowski	Sept 2015
QUT	Ben McGarry	July 2015
QUT	Rebecca Lambourne	April 2016
ACU	Katherine Kaptain	Dec 2015
ACU	Ellen Johnson	Dec 2016
QUT	Janine Pampellone	Feb 2017

Update on the progress of the history of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

Dr Madonna Grehan has been continuing to study the history of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. Dr Grehan has been able to finalise most of the history up to 1975 which is in the State Library Queensland, and continues pursuing the last forty (40) plus years of the Fund. We thank Dr Grehan for all her contributions through this Fellowship. We have learned so much from her, through her blogs and advice. If you like reading her blogs, there is opportunity for you to make a comment on the blog or to add information about the subject. Just use the Post New Comment box on the right side of the page in the link supplied each time. Comments are helpful as they give State Library Queensland an indication of how users engage with the research that the Library Fellows, in this case Dr Madonna Grehan, produce.

Meetings of the Management Committee

Meetings of the Management Committee are held 2 monthly.

Committee 2017/2018

President: Julie Finucane

Vice President: Dr Marion Mitchell

Honorary Secretary: Mrs. Sue de Vries

Treasurer: Mrs Joy Wilson

Committee Members:

Miss Pixie Annat

Dr Catriona Booker

Mrs Diane Collins

Dr Judith Dean

Dr Leanne Jack

Mrs. Claire Lees

Mrs. Rosalie Lewis

Professor Linda Shields

Dr Snezana Stolic

Thank you

The President wishes to formally thank the Committee for 2017/2018 for their consistent efforts for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. The Executive has remained unchanged during the 2017/2018 year. Special thanks to Mrs Sue de Vries who has taken on the huge challenge of Secretary and continues in the role following the 2014 AGM. Sue has done a wonderful job, ably supported in the role by Rosalie Lewis. Special thanks also go to Dr Marion Mitchell who has reactivated the Centaur Fellow Alumni and for her Scholarship work, and Joy Wilson our Treasurer who continues to keep us on track financially. Thank you to the Committee and the Executive for all they have done to achieve the objectives of the Fund, and to grow the Fund into the future.

Other events of note

Nurses Memorial Candlelight Vigil was held at 5.30pm for 6pm in Anzac Square on Monday 24th April 2017. It was a very special event with close to 300 attendees. The Brisbane Girls Grammar School Choir sang at the Vigil. The event was proudly supported by the Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch Queensland, and Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. The Master of Ceremonies Squadron Leader Paul Lineham did a superb job. The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses was a Queensland Anzac Centenary Spirit of Service grant recipient 2017. The event will be held again in 2018.

Bathurst Centenary of Nursing Commemoration of civilian and military nursing

Five (5) of the Management Committee (Dr Linda Shields who lives in Bathurst, Sue de Vries, Rosalie Lewis AM, Diane Collins, and Julie Finucane OAM) attended this commemoration of civilian and military nursing at the Anglican Cathedral in Bathurst on Sunday 18th February 2018. Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses sponsored this event, ably lead by Dr Linda Shields,

who was on the organising committee for the Service. In Linda's usual way, she created a wonderful and very special service. The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) attended the Service. The Committee was also invited to attend a Civic Reception at the Bathurst RSL pre the Service. This proved to be the biggest event that Bathurst had seen. There were forty (40) wreaths laid at the Service. It was particularly special to have families of nurses who died on the sinking of the Vyner Brooke, and in the massacre at Radji Beach, Bangka Island, following the fall of Singapore in World War 11, to share in this commemoration.

Alan Shields, Linda's husband was one of the bell ringers at the end of the Service. It was just wonderful to be there and be part of this special event.

Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane – Army and nursing was close to the front of the parade in 2017. One of the World War 11 Nurses Miss Olga Anderson from Defence Service Nurses led the parade of nursing, in a wheelchair, in uniform.

Spyder board creation for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

Thank you to Dr Catriona Booker for the great work she has done earlier this year in leading the design of the spyder board which will now be available to display at our Centaur events. It is being shown here tonight. It looks great.

Vale to one our previous Committee Members

Mrs Joy Vickerstaff AM was a member of the Committee over several periods a number of years ago. It is with sadness that we advise of Joy's passing in late December 2017. A number of the Centaur Committee attended her funeral in January, and also a most fitting Memorial service on 19 February 2018 lead by Mrs Veronica Casey which was held at Princess Alexandra Hospital where Joy was the Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services Metro South in early 2000-2004. One of our Centaur Fellows, Dr Sarah Winch spoke at the service. Joy's professional career as we know was impressive. Her professional and personal commitment has touched many lives, and will live on long after her passing. May she rest in peace.

Grant Applications

Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses has been busy with grant applications in late 2017 and early 2018.

Lasting Legacies Grant Round 6: Dr Madonna Grehan has been actively involved in the submission of a Queensland Anzac Centenary - Lasting Legacies Grant Round 6 – titled, 'Queensland's Tangible Memorial: a History of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses' in February 2018. If the grant is successful, Dr Grehan will record several oral histories during this project, lodging copies of the recordings with State Library Queensland. She will write a manuscript and oversee publication of an ebook to encompass the work she has done over the last several years on researching the history of the Fund. This needs to be completed by December 2018. This grant was for amount of \$48,000. If successful the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses would need to cover one quarter of this amount, namely \$12,000. To cover this amount, the Fund may need to consider its options, as to whether we should not award a 2019 Scholarship to the amount of \$15,000; perhaps instead use this amount as part of the development of our history for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. The Management Committee would value your thoughts on this to assist in our deliberations on this matter. Our resolution submitted for your consideration tonight may assist in this venture.

Spirit of Service Grants: An application for a Spirit of Service grant was submitted on 4th March 2018 for framed replica medals of Matron Grace Wilson, Matron of the 3rd Australian General Hospital on Lemnos Greece in World War 1. If successful, the three copies requested would be

presented to the Brisbane Girls Grammar School (where Grace went to school); the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (previously the Brisbane Hospital, where Grace trained in 1905 to 1908 and was Matron in 1914 prior to joining World War 1); and to the Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch Queensland (as she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service for both WW1 and WW11).

An application for the Spirit of Service Grants for the support for the Vigil in 2018 was submitted in October 2017 however this was unsuccessful. These grants are seldom awarded for the same event twice, as the Queensland Anzac Centenary Coordination Unit believes it is important not to provide ongoing funding as this will not be sustainable for future years, and may impact future success of such events.

Events pending

Nurses Memorial Candlelight Vigil in Anzac Square on Tuesday 24th April 2018 at 5.30pm for 6.00pm, proudly instigated by Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses and Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch Queensland. All welcome. Seats limited (250) however you are welcome to bring your own.

Dinner on Saturday 12th May 2018 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm - 'Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of 2/3 AHS *Centaur*, Celebrating International Nurses Day. Venue: United Service Club. Dr Grehan, our guest speaker, the title of her presentation – "the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses: 'a means to benefit humanity'" to further highlight to our membership and Centaur 'friends' the history of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses established in 1948.

Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane – Army and nursing will be close to the front of the parade this year. We hope that one of the World War 11 Nurses Miss Olga Anderson from Defence Service Nurses may be able to again lead the parade of nursing, in a wheelchair, in uniform. Her portrait in WW11 uniform was commissioned as part of the Anzac Centenary for the Australian War Memorial.

Annual Commemorative Service for the 75th Anniversary of the Sinking of the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* – Monday 14th May 2018 at 1000 for 1030 prompt start at St Andrews Anglican Church, 673 Lutwyche Road, Lutwyche. The Centaur Fellow address will be given by Dr Deborah Prior PhD FACN (Rtd), Centaur Fellow and Immediate Past President. Wendy Taylor, District President, South Eastern District Ltd, Returned and Services League of Australia, Queensland Branch & LTCOL (Rtd) will address the gathering on 'Centaur, the War Grave'. We are delighted that our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs de Jersey will attend the Service this year.

In closing

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2018 President's report for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses.