



# President's Annual Report

## 2020-2021

Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

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## **Our Mission**

To honour the memory of those who died in the sinking of the 2/3 AHS Centaur on 14 May 1943 by advancing the professions of nursing and midwifery in Queensland

The objectives of the Fund are to:

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- Recognise excellence in undergraduate nursing education in Queensland
- Fostering research by postgraduate nurses and midwives in Queensland
- Communicate the history of the Fund and its origins
- Hold such events and services that align with the Fund's mission

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2021, our second Zoom AGM, as the Committee of Management thought it was sensible to continue to do this AGM in this way due to the possibility of further CoVID-19 restrictions, and because of your feedback on last year's AGM success. At this time we think of all those across the world struggling with this pandemic and the impact on health across the world and the world economies. May we all continue to work through this together, stay safe, and keep each other safe.

## **Annual Memorial Service**

The 77th Anniversary Commemorative Service of the sinking of the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* was cancelled last year due to CoVID-19 restrictions. Instead an email was distributed in the early hours of the morning to the membership and friends of Centaur to remind all of the importance of the day and the event that occurred on the 14 May 1943, and our sadness at not being able to gather today to commemorate this event. There was a reminder to link into the live stream from the Australian War Memorial at dusk to hear one of the 2/3 AHS Centaur stories of someone lost in that tragic event. These are held every year on the day, and very worthy of attendance.

## **Education Committee**

Thank you to the Education Committee of Dr Judith Dean, who ably chairs that committee, for organising the application for Scholarship for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. Dr Carol Reid and Dr Sonya Osborne support Dr Judith Dean on the Education Committee. The Committee of Management 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 2020. 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; Professor Marion Mitchell, Professor Marion Mitchell, Professor Critical Care (RN, PhD, FACCCN, Centaur Fellow, Honorary Fellow School of Health in Social Science – The University of Edinburgh), Higher Degree Research Convenor, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University, and our previous Education Chair; and Professor Linda Shields MD (Research), PhD, FACN, Centaur Fellow, MAICD, 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. This year the Committee of Management continued with the decision to reduce the scholarship amount for 2021 to \$5000 due to concerns about funding and our viability to maintain the scholarship into the future. 2020 was the 25th 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 Committee of Management, through the Education Committee. The winner of the Centaur Scholarship 2021 is Mrs Hui (Grace) Xu, for her application on 'uSing Meditation App to Reduce emergency department occupational sTress (SMART trial)'. Grace is undertaking her PhD through UQ.

Tonight we will have two scholarship recipients for 2014 Gillian Lewis and 2020 Suzanne Williams present an update on their PhD studies, and Hui (Grace) Xu the 2021 recipient will present a brief introduction to her study. Sincere thank you to our Selection Panel for the contribution you have made to Centaur through this valuable work.

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> May 1943. The recipients receive the medal and the history of the Centaur. The Silver Medal recipients during December 2019/ March 2021 are listed below.

<b>University</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>When sent/presented</b>
CQU	Robin Harris	Nov 2020
CQU	Aislin Barry	Dec 2019
ACU	Ruby Geddes	Dec 2019
ACU	Millicent Brand	Nov 2020
USQ	Lauren Wilson	Mar 2020 (inaugural USQ award)
Griffith	Leesa Bobbermien	Feb 2020
QUT	Joyce Van	Feb 2020
QUT	Brigitte Finlayson	Mar 2021
JCU	Purdy Guest	Dec 2019
JCU	Ellen Kristina Hogarth	Feb 2021
USC	Nicole Wright	Dec 2019

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

Dr Madonna Grehan has continued to study the history of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses over this year. Dr Grehan has finalised 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. We will add a link to our website with a presentation Dr Grehan gave for International Women's Day 2020 on the 'Magnificent and Untiring Service; Nursing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF 1939-1945' as well as Centaur Talks from the Shrine of Remembrance exhibition 'Imaging Centaur' by Dean Bowen.

### **Meetings of the Committee of Management**

Meetings of the Committee of Management are held 2 monthly. Thanks to Dr Judith Dean who has organised a meeting link via Zoom to allow our Committee to be more easily present at the meetings. This has been great for those Committee members who are either out of Brisbane or not able to attend in person. And it has been very useful to be able to hold the AGM this year via the same medium. Thanks Judith for coordinating this for all of us.

We have continued with the change of venue for our Committee meetings, thanks to Mrs Sue de Vries' brother. We have been fortunate to be allowed to use the venue at Imagine Education at 170 Leichhardt Street Spring Hill over the last year which has been very helpful.

### **Committee 2020/2021**

President: Julie Finucane OAM

Vice President: Dr Judith Dean

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Georgina Blomfield

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Sue de Vries

### **Committee Members:**

Miss Pixie Annat MBE OAM

Mrs. Rosalie Lewis AM

Dr Catriona Booker

Mrs. Claire Lees (RIP 29 December 2020)

Mrs Joy Wilson

Dr Carol Reid

Dr Snezana Stolic

Dr Sonya Osborne

Professor Mary Courtney

### **Thank you**

**Claire Lees** (RIP 29 Dec 2020) – It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of one of our Committee of Management on 29 December 2020. Claire had spent quite some time in hospital in 2020, following a number of falls. She was a truly great lady and several of the committee attended her memorial service/funeral on 13 January 2021. We learned so much about Claire through that service. She was such a quiet achiever and was always there to lend a hand, taking great pride in presenting the Joy Croker Centaur Silver Medals at award ceremonies, whenever possible. Her passion was nursing education and mental health, and her family. Her family said they couldn't understand how she could give so much to outside groups and still always have time for her family. Claire was one of the inaugural leads in setting up a group for families and carers of people with mental health, long before this was a 'recognised' need. She came out to Australia as a 'ten pound pom' and truly made Australia her home with her husband and five children. Mrs Rosalie Lewis AM spoke on behalf of the PAH Past Nurses Association, and Julie Finucane OAM spoke on behalf of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. We thank Claire for all she did for the CMFN and her active participation on the Committee for

about 10 years. Claire made us some lovely bookmarks which she produced at no cost to Centaur. Our sincere condolences go to her family, friends and colleagues. The world has been a richer place with your presence. May you rest in peace Claire.

The President wishes to formally thank the Committee for 2020/2021 for their consistent efforts for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. The Executive has been unchanged during the 2020/2021 year. Dr Judith Dean has been the Vice-President and is working really well in the role, and is a great support to me in my role of President. Thanks also to Georgina Blomfield who has been working in the role of Honorary Secretary and Sue de Vries who has been in the role of Honorary Treasurer this last year. Georgina and Sue have been actively working on grant applications and they have been successful in gaining some funding, which will support our website maintenance from December 2020 to November 2021. Georgina is working on further grant applications, which will hopefully support our scholarship funding into the future. So thank you Georgina and Sue for the effort and success so far. It is a really positive step forward.

One member, Mrs Joy Wilson, has decided not to renominate for 2021 to 2022 Committee. Joy has contributed for many years to the CMFN, many of those recent years as Treasurer. Joy we thank you for such a wonderful contribution and we hope you will have a bit more time now to enjoy your grandchildren and some time for you.

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. The Committee of Management has been working really well over the last twelve months and exploring other opportunities for growth. We have three (3) Centaur Fellows on the Committee of Management in 2020-2021.

### **Constitution**

We were delighted to be able to fully review the Constitution and have it approved following the AGM in 2020. This review has set us up well for the future with the requirements for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as the national regulator of charities.

### **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)**

In the last six to twelve months we have been working through a self-evaluation of the CMFN against the ACNC governance standards, required for Charities, under the leadership of our Secretary Georgina Blomfield with the support of a number of the committee including Rosalie Lewis, Judith Dean, Sue De Vries and other committee members. We began this work at our Strategic Planning Meetings in 2019 and 2020, and are pleased to report that we are able to meet these standards. We are presently formalising a few policies and procedures to ensure that we have the documented evidence to meet all these requirements for Charities of which the CMFN is listed as a registered charity.

### **Centaur Working Committee**

We explored some opportunities for funding at a higher level, however the working committee in communication with the Committee of Management decided at this time, that funding through movie nights or sausage sizzles may be more appropriate. We will explore bigger opportunities at a later time.

### **Events of note / Events held**

**Nurses Memorial Candlelight Vigil**, due to CoVID-19 restrictions, was held at 6pm on 24 April 2020 via Zoom. Thank you to the support provided by the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and particularly Ms Michelle Gunn to be able to do this in 2020. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland presented to the

gathering, as well as Adjunct Professor Shelley Nowlan RN, BN, MHM, Grad Dip PM, MAICD and FACN, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Queensland; two (2) relatives of World War 1 Nurses, namely: Ms Karen Schultz, in memory of her Great Aunt, Sister Muriel Leontine Wakeford who served in World War One, and on the Hospital Ship the Gascon off Anzac Cove Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, Mrs Susan Holz granddaughter and Sophia great granddaughter of Sister Kathleen Flossie May Turvey who served in Salonika Greece in World War One.

We will hold the Vigil on Friday 23 April 2021 in Anzac Square. Our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland will be in attendance. It will be a public event and also live streamed this year, due to the success of the zoom Vigil last year where many advised they were delighted to be able to join in, from outside of Brisbane. The event will be proudly supported by the Queensland Government from 2019 to 2022.

**Annual Commemorative Service for the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sinking of the 2/3 AHS Centaur** needed to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Movie nights**

We have held two (2) movie nights in the last twelve months, and these have proved to be really successful events, for networking and fundraising, and we will continue to hold these as fundraising opportunities. Thank you especially to those on the committee who worked so hard to make these events a success; namely Rosalie Lewis, Judith Dean, Sue de Vries and Catriona Booker, Mary Courtney and the rest of the committee. The first movie was Military Wives on the 12 March 2020, and our latest movie was 'The Dry' on 25 February 2021. The evenings were enjoyed by all who attended. We had successful raffles on both these occasions.

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 11 in the Pacific**

The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses was invited to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 11 in the Pacific, on the 15 August 2020, at the Shrine in Brisbane. As numbers were limited it was most fortunate to be able to attend, despite the threat of a severe thunderstorm happening, and possibility of needing to move to Government House. The rain held off until after the event was finished. There were eight (8) World War 11 service men and women who attended. In my role as President I was invited to do a reading that was chosen by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It is an editorial article, published in The Courier Mail on 16 August 1945. It was unknown who the journalist was who wrote it, but I think you'll agree that it is an amazing, and I thought worthy of putting this in the Annual Report for all to see.

#### ***NOW IT IS PEACE***

*Now there is peace.*

*After six years of groping through the agonies of war the world returns to a place of light and hope.*

*Our first thought in this time is to offer our grateful thanks to Almighty God for the merciful guidance that has brought us through these dark years.*

*We must give honour, too, to the men who carried the toils and burdens of war, to the leaders who gave us hope and purpose, to the mothers who, in quiet places, have dignified and ennobled our cause; they have been among the really great in these troubled years.*

*And now we have victory in our hands.*

*For this we have been called upon to pay a great price; a price that has been reckoned in fine young lives, in distress and suffering among countless millions of people, in destruction and broken hopes.*

*Peace purchased at so great a price is a fine and precious thing. It brings great blessings and great responsibilities. It is a thing that must be used with honesty and good purpose.*

*Today we enter upon a new life. We may make of it what we will. We can from this day go forward in the determination that we will use this great opportunity to build and encourage the fine virtues of life.*

*We can give our lives to holding peace among nations, to fair dealing among men, to caring for the helpless, to giving happiness to the young. If we misuse or abuse this gift of peace we will have been false to the chance that has been bought for us at so great a price.*

There was a gentleman standing opposite who came over later to let us know that he had gone into the city to watch the parade on the 16 August 1945 as a young boy and was so moved by everyone there. He said how wonderful it was to be present again today.

It was a truly special service for all whom attended.

### **Multicultural Service in Brisbane March 2021**

The CMFN was invited to a Multicultural Service to celebrate Commonwealth Day at St. John's Cathedral, Ann St, Brisbane on Monday 8th March 2021. Two of our Executive, Mrs Georgina Blomfield Secretary, and Dr Judith Dean, Vice President represented the CMFN at this event.

### **Membership**

We have been working on increasing our membership and this will continue over the next twelve months.

### **Some exciting news**

#### **TS Centaur Cadets**

Each year in December a number of the Committee attend the passing out parade for the TS Centaur Cadets from Maleny. It is a lovely event where the cadets demonstrate their skills, and receive awards on their performance through the year. Each year they attend our Annual Centaur Service, ably lead by LEUT Linda Vann ANC and her husband LEUT Eddie Vann who is now the Executive Director of the TS Centaur Cadets. In the last Annual Report we advised that they wished to name their new boat 'Sister Ellen Savage GM'. Her family were delighted with this offer and fully support this. Due to CoVID-19 restrictions in December 2020 they were unable to invite other than family members to the December parade, however they will plan to have a special ceremony at a later time with the family of Sister Ellen Savage and CMFN and other friends of TS Centaur Cadets. At this time we wish to formally thank LEUT Eddie and LEUT Lind Vann who have led the TS Centaur Cadets for years, and their wonderful contribution to honour and remember the 2/3 AHS Centaur. Each year they have been there for our Annual Centaur event on the 14 May. Eddie and Linda retired late last year, and have handed over the reins of the TS Centaur Cadets to Tayler Gale and Jon Gutke. So we look forward to continuing our involvement through the new leadership.

#### **Centaur exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance**

'Imaging Centaur' by Dean Bowen has opened at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne where it will remain open till possibly April 2022. If you get a chance to visit Melbourne, please try to visit the Shrine. CMFN loaned our Maquette Centaur Window to the exhibition and Sister Ellen Savage's family has loaned her original WW11 Medals to the display.

As advised above, the links to the Exhibition and these Centaur talks will soon be placed on our website.

### **In closing**

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2020-2021 President's report for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. Are there any questions or comments from the floor?

I would like to propose that the President's report be accepted.