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KEMH Alumni Inc Newsletter

Edition No.3

November 2018

2018 – 19 Committee:

Ailsa Allen Anne Rae Brian Austin
Chris Laird Georgie Taylor Graeme
Boardley Helen Benninger Jenny
Kennedy Kate McGurk Bev Thornton
Wendy Leeson

Fundraising and donations

We have recently held two raffles. The May Mothers' Day raffle proceeds were donated to Living Child Incorporated, and the October raffle with a beach / summer theme which was combined with a movie night to raise funds for Harvey House restoration.

Four Centenary books have been donated. Recipients were: the Hon Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia; Irene Nicholas [see story below]; Hon Julie Bishop Australian House of Representatives [Curtin] and Hon Bill Marmion, WA Legislative Assembly [Nedlands].

Stall

We will have an Alumni stall in KEMH foyer from 10th to 18th December, 10 to 2 each weekday. There will be Christmas gifts and baubles for sale, plus a Christmas raffle. Drop in to help on the stall and buy some goodies. For more information email Jenny Kennedy jjken4@bigpond.com.

President's message.

The objectives of the Association are our 'raison d'être' and form the basis of Alumni business. It is not possible to make progress on all of them at all times, but I think you will agree that in the first seven years of the KEMH Alumni, a lot has been achieved by our relatively small organisation. In brief, our objectives are:

To provide a forum for past and current members of staff to meet, exchange ideas and socialise.

To foster a spirit of loyalty, promote the general welfare of KEMH and WNHS by supporting the organisation's goals.

To strengthen the ties between alumni, the community, and the organisation.

To maintain contact with past staff and ensure the history of KEMH and the WNHS is maintained and updated.

To raise funds for subsidised educational and social activities for members of the Alumni.

To assist in raising the profile of the WNHS and KEMH in regards to recruitment and retention.

To establish a scholarship fund to assist in education and professional development of persons associated with King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

Sincere thanks to each member of the KEMH Alumni committee who meet monthly to monitor and progress the objectives of the Association. Additional appreciation goes to Brigitte, Kate, Brian and Jenny for taking the lead in secretarial, social, financial and fundraising activities.

Anne Rae, President.

Staff Recognition and Wellness Committee,

Bev Thornton has joined the KEMH Staff Recognition and Wellness Committee as an Alumni representative.

Participation on this committee will facilitate the Alumni Committee's decision to give \$1000 over 12 months to support and encourage KEMH staff.

Irene Nicholas

One of King Edward Memorial Hospital's (KEMH) little patients is celebrating 100 years of longevity. Irene Nicholas was born on July 22 1918 at the original KEMH at Harvey House just two years after the hospital opened.

Her family touched base with the hospital to ask if they do 100th birthday cards for babies born there; it had never been done before, but a special card was designed and delivered to Mrs Nicholas by executive director Graeme Boardley.

Mrs Nicholas has a family party on Sunday.



Irene Nicholas and Graeme Boardley

Harvey House and Update

An extract from “**King Eddies**” describing the Harvey House maternity wards into which Mrs Nicholas was born 1918.

The fabric of the austere graceful 1897 limestone building was altered only slightly and funds were spent on adding another ward, providing staff quarters, and upgrading laundry facilities. The original building featured two wings separated by a central reception.... The larger room at the rear [was converted] into a delivery ward, the siting of which was hardly ideal. It must have been disconcerting for expectant mothers and visitors arriving at the entrance to be able to hear clearly what was happening on the delivery ward that was separated from the reception area only by a thin wooden partition.”

There was a lively discussion at our

AGM regarding restoration of Harvey House, the home of the WA Medical Museum. A resolution was passed to support and donate to the project. As you all probably know, the turrets on Harvey House are in dire need of repair. Harvey House is an integral part of King Edward Memorial Hospital history and needs to be preserved for posterity. As a result of our fundraising, we have donated \$1000 to this worthy cause. Various avenues for future funding are being explored by the Museum's Board, including an approach to Julie Bishop, Federal Member for Curtin, for her advice and assistance. It is hoped Federal and State Governments will recognise the importance of its preservation. Harvey House appears on the new \$50 note released in October 2018.

A thank you from Living Child:

Your donation came when I'd recently returned from an outreach trip to PNG. Thank you so much for the generous donation from the raffle! Such a blessing! I'm busy putting together our next newsletter and will make sure a copy is sent to you. There are a number of significant points of progress to report in regards to our project setting up maternal and newborn services in remote Angoram District, PNG. While I was there in May, the Birthing room was opened and we had our first baby born while there – a little boy. Both mother and baby are safe. We had some health workers participate who had been part of our training so it was great 'on the job' training.

Just this week, the PNG Midwife who we've been supporting to get to Angoram, finally moved there and has begun work. Her house which Living Child paid to renovate and make safe, is all ready and she is settling in well. Her job is huge, but we will work closely with her to provide continuous support and mentoring.

Thanks again for your support. I have popped a Thank you Card in the mail.

Kind Regards Sara David

Link to the Living Child newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/42a4f295d469/living-child-inc-newsletter-14?e=fb930e29d3>

KINGS PARK GUIDED TOUR

On 17th May a Kings Park tour and lunch replaced our usual evening social event. Hamish McGlashin coopted his friend and fellow Kings Park guide John Taylor to lead us through some of the park. We gathered for the walk in the Old Tea Pavilion which once stood on the lower terraces of Mount Eliza, but now looks out over Perth from Fraser Avenue.

One group was treated to a feast of information regarding the flora and fauna of WA. John's botanical knowledge is extraordinary. One of the fascinating pieces of information John related was that our native Grevillia species, like the majority of Australian native plants are pollinated through a variety of birds attracted to the flowers which are often red. This is somewhat unique in the plant world. It was a privilege to accompany John on our walk and many thanks to John for giving us some of his precious time.

Helen Benninger

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Tree planted by the Queen in 1954

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Another group headed to the historical section of the park under Hamish's guidance. This area along the western side of Fraser Avenue was set aside as a park by Sir John Forrest in the mid 1800's and planted in the style of an expansive English country garden. Early settlers who had been granted land on Mount Eliza were eventually bought out by the Forrest government and the park extended along Fraser Avenue and down the eastern slopes towards the river. In this historical section, the monument to the First Lighthorse Regiment and the Lone Pine were especially poignant for one of our alumni walkers. Barbara Bolton's

Life after 25 years at King Eddies.....

It is hard to believe that 6 years have gone by since I finished working at KEMH – in some ways it seems a lifetime ago and in other ways only yesterday.

Camping has been a major focus with many outback trips including nearly a year on the East coast from Tasmania to Cooktown and in 2016 Perth to Brisbane through the Kimberley & Top End returning through the Great Central Road. Favourite places are Lucky Bay near Esperance, the Gibb River Road, Karijini National Park, Dryandra Woodland, the Kennedy Ranges, Palm Valley & the Western MacDonnell Ranges near Alice Springs, Lawn Hill Gorge in Boodjamulla National Park and almost anywhere in outback NSW & Queensland towns & Tasmania! Annual wildflower trips in WA are a must, with this season being the best John & I have ever seen. We consider ourselves lucky to live in this amazingly beautiful country. Long overseas trips in 2014 to the UK for 4 months & this year to Europe for 3 months have been fantastic.

In between travel my garden keeps me occupied as I have over 30 fruit trees and try to grow my own vegetables and herbs. My rose garden gave me a stunning display this year, especially my two KEMH Centenary bushes.

I fill in the rest of my days with walking, aqua aerobics, reading, knitting, catching up with friends & family & now enjoying my first grandchild.

Wanting to maintain a connection with the hospital I joined the Alumni and enjoy being an active member of the Committee. It is very rewarding and is a wonderful way to see old friends and colleagues.

Jennifer Kennedy

Tour of His Majesty's



In September, 18 Alumni members joined actor, archivist, theatre historian and Curator of The Museum of Performing Arts Mr Ivan King. Ivan regaled us for two hours with a history of the performing arts in decades from early colony times to the present day.

Originally the site of an outdoor theatre and showground called 'Ye Old English Faire', here in 1896 colonial audiences were treated to the first moving pictures by American magician Carl hertz on his Cinematograph.

In 1904, the opulent Edwardian theatre dedicated to His Majesty Edward V11 was built on this site, complete with four waterfalls and a domed roof built to slide open so that on a warm night the audience could have the sky as their roof.

Soon The Maj was weaving its way into the artistic and social life of Perth. It's history has been enriched by a rollercoaster of legendary names such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who performed a séance here, Dame Nellie Melba, Margot Fonteyn and Anna Pavlova.

Academy Award winners who have performed here include Vivien Leigh, Sir Laurence Olivier, Sir John Gielgud, Dame Maggie Smith, Geoffrey Rush and Cate Blanchett.

Through the decades the theatre has played host to many events from political rallies to Diggers Receptions [attended by Prince of Wales in 1920]. At one stage it became a cinema, boxing matches were held here and it played host to many American musicals and the Russian Ballet.

Ivan took us on a fascinating and spellbinding journey interspersed with hilarious tales of the many famous artists who graced the stage. We were taken through front of house and auditorium onto the stage. Alumnus June Cohen had performed here when she was not yet three years of age, singing 'Stay as Sweet as You Are'.

As the WA Ballet performance of Dracula was currently playing at His Maj, we were fortunate to see backstage dressing rooms, wig room and props. We ended the tour at the Museum Performing Arts with its current exhibition of silk programs.

It was a great day and we could have stayed for hours and hours.

Thanks to Annette Finn for taking photos.

Kate McGurk

Recipe

The finger foods at Alumni social nights are always tasty. Here is one reason why: kasundi 'chutney' in the cheese sandwiches.

Here is the recipe requested by Ailsa and Brian.

KASUNDI

1 kg eggplant in 1 cm dice
1 ½ cups finely diced onion
½ cup finely diced fresh ginger
½ cup finely diced fresh garlic
2 tablespoons fresh tumeric
3 tablespoons cumin seeds
2 teaspoons fenugreek seeds
2 tablespoons mustard seeds
250 mls malt vinegar
1 ¾ cups sugar
2 tablespoons salt
85 grams chopped fresh chillies
1 1/3 cups canola oil

Toast the seeds till fragrant then grind. Blend the additoinal ½ cup each of ginger and garlic with the tumeric and a little vinegar to make a paste. Fry onions in 1/3 cup oil till soft, then add garlic and ginger. Fry till golden. Add toasted spices and paste, remaining vinegar, salt, sugar, eggplant and chillies. Simmer for 40 minutes. Place in sterilised jars and seal.