



# Medical History

## Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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### THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings to all our members, and thanks to everyone who replied to my last column about medical records and historians. This is clearly an issue that many of our members have thought about carefully.

On a related topic, I have recently been browsing the Medical Deans website (<http://www.medicaldeans.org.au>) to explore the Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD). This 'tracks medical students through the medical education continuum', to help medical educators better understand the outcomes of medical education programs and their impact on the professional choices of graduates. Data collection began in 2006 and all New Zealand and Australian medical schools are involved. The project includes a number of surveys and the website claims it is an international first.

Reading about this project drew me back to the difficulties of researching women's medical education in the period before World War Two. I started this study assuming that women's experiences of medical education helped to shape their views about medicine and influenced their subsequent career choices. Many medical women of that era were clearly on a mission to change social conditions. Mary Booth (1869–1956) was one of those 'pioneers' whose correspondence reveals the enthusiasm with which women threw themselves into a new intellectual world. In 1893 she wrote to Agnes Bennett (another Sydney pioneer):

You will want to know whether the reality [of medical school] equals my expectation, and I am glad to be able to say, that it far exceeds it. There is such an air of steady work about this place that my liking for it grows stronger every day... There are nine of us at the hostel — 'the nine muses' we are called. They are extremely nice girls, full of fun and noisy enough sometimes, but they seem to work just from the love of it.

Such first-hand accounts are rare. As Colin Jones lamented for eighteenth-century France, it is easier to chart students' changing numbers than to divine the causes and ramifications of those changes.



Understanding medical training is crucial to making informed decisions about the future of medicine. I would also argue that the kinds of records I was seeking — those that offer some insight into a student's (or teacher's) experiences, and their personal values/beliefs — are essential materials to expand our understanding of the role that medical education plays for the profession and for society.

Will the MSOD give future historians this information? It will certainly help to identify local and national patterns in medical education. There will also be enriched opportunities to find connections between medical education and graduate career choices. Student attitudes to the profession and professional expectations can also be examined in a way never before available on this scale.

One key question that I had hoped to identify in my study was: Why do people choose to become doctors? I don't think we yet have the tools to examine this question comprehensively. Medical Deans are to be congratulated for starting the process of data collection. As historians we need to ensure that this work is supported, and hopefully expanded to include additional information to further aid our understanding of this crucial component of medicine.

Hoping to see you in Darwin in July!

**Louella McCarthy**  
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## ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

What does one write when asked to contribute to 'All About Ourselves'? As a relatively private person who is less than enthusiastic about people who seek self-aggrandisement, instinct suggested to me to decline politely. As a former editor of a similar newsletter, however, I well know the difficulties that such editors face, so felt under something of an obligation. I trust, therefore, that anyone who happens to read this will accept it on those terms.

What does one say about oneself? I went to school. I went to university. I worked in Australia and overseas before taking up the position that I have subsequently held with slight variations for 38 years. I have liberally indulged my self-interests whilst, I guess, somehow tried to make the world a somewhat better place in which we all can live.

I was born in Sydney shortly after my father left for the Middle East in the Australian Army during World War 2. He was lost in a sandstorm in the desert soon after I was born, thought killed, so my mother quickly booked me into a rather expensive school (Sydney Church of England Grammar School) on the assumption that subsequent benefits would pay for my education. She fortunately did not cancel that booking when a few weeks later he emerged alive. I remain perpetually grateful to my parents for the financial hardship that this decision later caused them, as that institution set me on a path that has guided me most successfully ever since.

A Scottish friend of my father (a professional author of children's books) asked me when I was aged about fifteen what I anticipated doing when I grew up and I said 'become an historian'. He turned to my father and said 'he should instead of that do something worthwhile [by which I think he meant "something that will earn a good income"]; he can always do history later'. So I went to Sydney University and studied medicine. I loved it. I intended to become a GP, but events led me into renal medicine at Sydney Hospital as dialysis and renal transplantation were just starting in the Antipodes. I completed the Australian training then went to The University of Washington in Seattle to work under Drs Scribner and Tenckhoff who had invented maintenance dialysis only a few years earlier, then to Guy's Hospital in London (where Richard Bright had invented the whole concept of

renal disease in the early 19th century), then back to Concord Hospital in Sydney to work in and sometimes run the Renal Unit.

I had, in the late 1980s, the opportunity of taking study leave for the best part of a year in Oxford. I occupied my time studying just one word: 'disease'. This led eventually to my PhD thesis ('Disease explicated and disease defined' (Sydney 2005)). I felt, however, that before writing this I needed a good grounding in both philosophy and history so undertook an Arts degree at Sydney University followed by an MSc in History and Philosophy of Science.

All medical specialties have their national and international societies. Renal medicine is typical so I belong to several and have made many international friends. We also have the International Association for the History of Nephrology that meets in some exotic spot (eg Greece, Italy, Poland) biennially. I am the only Australian member, but was privileged to be President a few years ago. I also serve on the Library Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians; am a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (London) and belong to the New York Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society of New South Wales, the History of Science Society, the British Society for the History of Science, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, and the Professional Historians Association.

I enjoy writing and have published some eighty peer-reviewed articles, editorials and chapters in books. These have, in recent years, reflected approximately equally my clinical and historical/philosophical interests.

All of this pales into insignificance against my involvement with my family—a wife of 45 years standing, a daughter who teaches intellectual property law at the University of New South Wales, a son who has a PhD in entomology as well as Medical and Arts degrees, a son who is a Squadron Leader in the RAAF and is also a barrister, and a daughter who has recently completed her Master's degree in International Studies.

And what is my hobby? Gardening. That is how I really love to spend my weekends.

**Charles George**  
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## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Welcome!

Mayumi Kako (SA)  
Allan Mawdsley (VIC)  
Ursula Potter (NSW)  
Cheryl Power (VIC)  
Anantanarayanan Raman (NSW)  
Bruce Short (NSW)  
Nadeem Toodayan (QLD)  
Zaheer Toodayan (QLD)

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 May. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at [d.dow@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.dow@auckland.ac.nz) or, if you prefer snail mail, 62 Koraha St, Auckland 1050, NZ

## BLAST FROM THE PAST *Medical History Australia 25 years ago*

February 1988 saw the launch of a revamped newsletter. Sponsorship, previously the preserve of the Medical History Society AMA (Victorian Branch) and the University of Melbourne Medical History Unit, became the responsibility of the national body. The announcement included the information that the Society, whose membership was open to 'all persons interested in the history of medicine', now had around 180 members.

This first issue included a summary of paper on Dr Ratten of Hobart, delivered by Dr Mike Hodgson as part of Royal Hobart Hospital reunion. The editor commented approvingly: 'This is the sort of material that should be published but is not generally acceptable by journals such as the MJA.'

Later that same year, Victor Richard Ratten (1878–1962), made it into the pages of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. The son of a Tasmanian minister of religion, Ratten came to medicine via dentistry and an American medical qualification. Refused membership of the local BMA because of his American degree, he was tentatively recognised by the BMA after serving with the military forces in WW1, although they soon changed tack again and unsuccessfully tried to have him deregistered. He remained connected with the Royal Hobart Hospital as a surgeon until his death in 1962.

Ratten was described by the *ADB* as a successful racehorse owner, with wins in major Tasmanian races. It seems he was lucky to have done so. On 26

September 1911, around the time of his initial dispute with the BMA, the *New Zealand Feilding Star* reported that the Newnham Racing Club had disqualified Ratten for life after finding him 'guilty of attempting to corrupt and fraudulent practice in relation to racing at Mowbray racecourse'.

What would the Australian Crime Commission have concluded had it occurred a century later?

**Derek Dow**

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## HARRY DALY MUSEUM

Sydneysiders and anaesthetists may know about the Australasian Society of Anaesthetists' Harry Daly Museum, located in Eastpoint Tower, 180 Ocean Street, Edgecliff NSW 2027 and open weekdays from 9-5. A founder member of the Society, Dr Harry Daly (1893-1980) began collecting items depicting the history of the profession in the 1950s.

Located at various times in two local hospitals, St Vincent's and the Royal Prince Alfred, the collection was incorporated into the Society's combined library-museum in the early 1990s. The acquisition of additional space in 2005 allowed for the expansion of the displays from 2008 and the exhibits now depict the evolution of anaesthesia from the 1840s to the present.

The museum now boasts an exciting multimedia online exhibition which can be accessed at <http://harrydalmuseumoptheatres.com/>.



## AMPI NEWS

### Three colonial medical artists

Traditionally doctors have used the visual arts not only for recording and communicating scientific information, but also as a means of self-expression. In modern times, associations such as the Medical Art Society (est. 1935) have served to foster the development of doctors as amateur artists, providing a forum for those who “enjoy painting, drawing and sculpture when at leisure”.

The handful of colonial doctors who are known to have been amateur artists could never have formed a society - being too few and too isolated - and none achieved the stature of the best professionals of their day. Nevertheless the work they left for posterity has secured their reputation in the field, and has given us some fine pictorial records of colonial times.

Two of the best-known colonial medical artists were Maurice Felton and James Stuart. As it happens, both men were registered by the NSW Medical Board in 1840, and both died in New South Wales in 1842 at about the age of 40. However their careers – and their artistic output – were very different.

Maurice Felton hailed from Leicestershire. He qualified LFPS Glasgow 1830 and appears to have been living in Liverpool before emigrating. He arrived in New South Wales with his wife and four children in 1839. He is not known to have practised medicine in the colony, but was active as a portrait painter, signing his productions *Maurice Felton, Surgeon, Sydney*. A number of his paintings are in the collections of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Google *Portrait41* to view an informative article that includes images of his work.

The Irishman James Stuart came out to New South Wales in 1834, and was appointed Colonial Assistant Surgeon in 1836. He served first in Sydney and later at Norfolk Island, where he produced most of the 200 drawings - mainly of birds and fish - that survive today. These beautiful and instructive works are held in the Mitchell Library and can be viewed online on the library's website. An obituary noted his attainments in both art and literature. Evidence of his literary ability is found in a fine piece in the *Australasian Chronicle* of 27 June 1840, arguing for more humane prisons.

A very different kind of colonial life experience is reflected in the artwork of another Irish doctor,



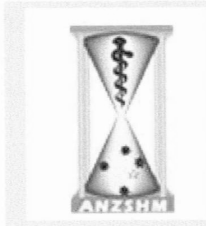
*At Point Henry, by Charles Travers Mackin*

Charles Travers Mackin, MRCSE 1840, MD Glasgow 1841, LAH Dublin 1841, LSA London 1851. Dr. Mackin practised in London before emigrating to Victoria in 1852. He spent about 18 months touring the goldfields, sketching and possibly also prospecting, before settling at Geelong, where he was in practice from 1854. He had published medical articles in the *Lancet* while in England and he continued as an occasional contributor to the *Australian Medical Journal*. In addition he served as Medical Officer to the Gaol and Industrial Schools. He remained in Geelong until his death in 1884, producing a substantial body of watercolours and pencil drawings, mostly landscapes and buildings. The Geelong Gallery has a fine collection of his work. Images can be viewed on the gallery's website.

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*Kakadu National Park, in the scenic Northern Territory.*



THE SECOND TOP END CONFERENCE  
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THE 13th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE  
HISTORY OF MEDICINE

## NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Several thousand years ago in Northern Australia the sea level began to rise and the rainfall increased. The large rivers that run north from the Arnhem Land plateau picked up extra silt and dropped it at the base of the plateau escarpment. Thus were born the Top End's freshwater wetlands. Aboriginal people moved into this region of bounty and prospered. Testimony to this largesse is found in the extraordinary rock art in the shelters of the escarpment and the outliers. At the same time Macassan fishermen sailed south in their thousands for the wet season to gather trepang in the mudflats for the Chinese markets. The remnants of many boiling and drying camps are found along the Top End coast.

For those coming to the ANZSHM conference in July next year who sensibly arranged a little extra time, it is possible to acquire a sense of this extraordinary natural and cultural richness. If you drive east out of Darwin you cross first the Adelaide River with its river cruises and wildlife sanctuary at Fogg Dam. Next you come to the Mary River with its resorts and river cruises. Continuing east you arrive at the well known South Alligator River Motor Inn and then you reach the mining town of Jabiru with a wide accommodation range. A little south of here, in the upper reaches of the South Alligator River is the Cooida resort and the Yellow Waters cruises. These cruises are a must for any visitor.

Alternatively you can head south and west from Darwin to a smaller plateau, Litchfield NP. The park's spectacular scenery and waterfalls are an easy day trip from Darwin. Further south along the Stuart H/W, you come to a small mountain range about Pine Creek that hosted a gold rush in the 1870s before you enter the broad cattle country acres about Katherine. Turning west from here along the Victoria H/W, the grand Victoria River country opens up; beautiful Australian landscape.

On the conference web site, [www.ANZSHM2013DARWIN.org](http://www.ANZSHM2013DARWIN.org), is a link to the tourist authorities in Darwin. Enter here and explore the delights of the Top End.

## PASSAGE TO INDIA

My wife and I spent six weeks over Christmas travelling through north India with an Indian friend. Whilst at times confronting, it was a wonderful catalogue of deserts, Himalayas, World Heritage sites, National Parks and the all but overwhelming richness and density of Delhi. Through a mixture of religion and nationalism, it is a society, or more accurately a blend of societies, that daily lives its history. There is a new India emerging from all of this but sadly many are being left behind.

One of the sites we visited in Delhi was the National Science Museum. It is a large, well put together and well managed institution. It contains all the visual and technical options that museums seem to need to have these days. One particularly interesting display was an account of the history and adaption of the traditional Indian Ayurvedic medicine. It grew out of sagas dating back nearly two and a half millennia. Today it has features of what we could call holistic medicine and is taught in institutes and colleges around the country. Many practitioners practice a blend of Ayurveda and Western Medicine. The display is well worth seeing if the opportunity arises.

Darwin has a splendid museum as well. Perhaps not up to the level of the Indian National one, it nevertheless has good displays of Northern Territory flora, fauna and history. It has a well stocked maritime display and one of the finest collections of Aboriginal art in the nation. It is another exciting reason to attend the Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the ANZSHM in July of this year.

**Brian Reid**  
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## NSW BRANCH NEWS

Happy new year to all ANZSHM members in NSW! We have another varied year of activities for members ahead, and as our regular calendar of events shows, New South Wales continues to offer a wide range of medical history talks, walks, exhibitions and conferences.

### Annual General Meeting

The NSW Annual General Meeting was held on 7 February 2013, attracting 10 members and one non-member. The President, Charles George, lauded the variety of medical history on offer in NSW, and reviewed our Society's own events through 2012. In particular, he thanked the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia for so graciously hosting ANZSHM events. Complimenting some of the papers presented as world standard, he noted with regret the cancellation of the year's final 'bibliomania' session in Berrima, which attracted few registrations. In addition to the talks programme, the main activity of the Executive Committee was forward planning for the 2015 Biennial Conference in Sydney.

Amongst the sadder aspects of 2012 was the passing of Peter Tyler, a bastion of support for medical history across Australia and a friend to many of us. Another issue of concern was the demise of the proposal to host the 2014 conference of the International Society of the History of Medicine in Sydney which neither NSW nor the ANZSHM nationally felt able to support. Several members present were animated in this regard. Speaking both as President and Treasurer, Charles expressed concern over the state of the NSW finances. We are currently running at a loss. It was noted that the deficit incurred by the 2012 medical history dinner was an unfortunate one-off, but further diminished the working capital for NSW members. It was suggested that donations might be called for at future Society events, rather than providing them as a free service to members.

The Secretary noted that ANZSHM-NSW had been added to the website [expertguide.com.au](http://expertguide.com.au). So far only one media request has been received through this listing. More encouragingly, through the hard work of Judith Cornell and Clare Ashton, the records of the former NSWSHM were permanently archived at the Mitchell Library in 2012, a significant achievement for preserving the history of medical history in the state. This end will be further served by the Peter Tyler Memorial Witness Seminar scheduled for December 2013.

The 2013 Executive Committee was elected unanimously as follows: President & Treasurer -

Charles George; Vice President - John Sinclair; Treasurer - Charles George; Committee Members - Susan McAlpin & Cate Storey.

### Medical history dinner

For the 26 members and friends who attended, the 2013 medical history dinner on 7 February was a convivial evening. Hosted at Nostos Greek restaurant in Leichhardt, diners enjoyed a seemingly endless progression of banquet courses. Explaining many of the ancient uses and associations with Greek foods was our invited presenter, Emeritus Professor Yvonne Cossart. Reviewing a feast hosted by physician and pharmacologist Dioscorides, Yvonne detailed the careful balance of virtue, flattery, luxury and salubrity implied by the many dishes he offered up, linking their ingredients to those on our own plates. President Charles George noted in thanking Yvonne that medicine had suffered a grave turn for the worse when it was divorced for centuries from dietary concerns.

### 2015 ANZSHM Biennial Conference in Sydney

The NSW sub-committee planning the 2015 conference will accelerate their efforts. Set for the first week of July in 2015 at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney, the conference is themed 'Mission, method and management'. We are currently focusing on attracting sponsorship, international speakers and participants for the witness seminar on the changes in the administration, ownership and function of Australian hospitals from 1970 to 2010. Members wishing to become involved in conference planning, or with suggestions regarding speakers, activities or sponsors, are invited to contact the Secretary.

### Forthcoming events

Building works at Durham Hall will preclude us from meeting at the RCPA's Surry Hills offices. A new venue is being sought, probably in the proximity of Sydney University. Owing to the failure of the planned Berrima session in 2012, all functions for 2013 will be kept within the metropolitan area - with apologies to our members living outside of Sydney.

7 April - Pre-modern medicine and supernatural illnesses

May/June - 6<sup>th</sup> Ben Haneman Memorial Lecture

10 August - Visit to SPASM Museum, Gladesville Hospital (date to be confirmed)

1 December - Peter Tyler Memorial Witness Seminar

Enquiries/RSVP for all events to Peter Hobbins, [peter\\_hobbins@bigpond.com](mailto:peter_hobbins@bigpond.com) or 02 9569 5561.



## BOOK NOTICE

R Lynette Russell & Judith A Cornell, *A Vision for the Bush: The NSW Bush Nursing Association 1911-1974*, Australian College of Nursing, 2012, 170pp.

This is the hitherto untold story of the Bush Nursing Association from its beginnings until its role was assumed by the NSW government in 1975. The scheme was conceived and promoted by Lady Dudley, wife of the Governor-General, and was based on the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nursing Institute, which had also been the model used by Dudley for a similar scheme in Ireland in 1903.

The Association is described in the conclusion as 'an extremely effective organisation which provided a very real and accessible health care service to people in rural and remote areas of New South Wales'. In the same vein, this account of the Association is both accessible and very readable; it is also well illustrated.

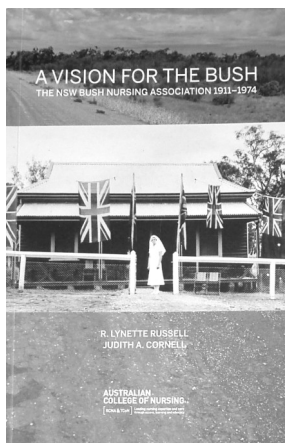
For those interested in trans-Tasman comparisons, the story of the NSW Bush Nursing Association has many parallels with the New Zealand Backblocks nursing services, initiated in 1909

## JOURNAL WATCH

Local authors have again been active in the latest round of medical history journals.

*Social History of Medicine* (August 2012) includes an article by Shirleene Robinson and Emily Wilson from Macquarie University and Bond University respectively, entitled 'Working together? medical professionals, gay community organisations and the response to HIV/AIDS in Australia, 1983-1985'. The October 2012 issue of the same journal incorporates an article by Adelaide history PhD student Clare Parker, 'From immorality to public health: thalidomide and the debate for legal abortion in Australia'; this examines aspects of Parker's thesis on legislation around abortion and homosexuality in South Australia in the 1960s and 1970s. The January 2013 issue of *SHM* contains an article by Otago PhD graduate Gwen Parsons entitled 'The construction of shell shock in New Zealand, 1919-1939: a reassessment'.

*The Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (Winter 2012) is a special issue with Alison Bashford as joint editor. Bashford's own contribution to the volume is a paper headed 'Anticolonial climates: physiology, ecology, and global population, 1920s-1950s'. This is primarily a case study of the racial physiology of Indian economist, ecologist, and anticolonial nationalist Radhakamal Mukerjee.



Looking beyond the medical historical journals, there are two recent contributions with a local flavour in *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*. Alison Bashford and Catie Gilchrist write about 'The colonial history of the 1905 Aliens Act' in volume 40.3 (2012). Although based on British legislation this cites New Zealand and Australian precedents for

the grounds of lunacy or the presence of infectious or loathsome diseases.

*Newsletter 35* contained a reference to Katherine Foxhall's 2011 article in *Social History of Medicine* on 'Fever, Immigration and Quarantine in New South Wales, 1837-1840'. Foxhall has since published 'From convicts to colonists: the diseases of prisoners and the voyage to Australia, 1823-1852', also in *TJCH* (March 2011), and her book on this theme, *Australian Voyages: Convicts, Emigrants, Surgeons and the Sea, c.1815-1860* (Manchester University Press) is due to appear shortly.

## HISTORY OF ANAESTHESIA FISHER LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

**23 January-3 May 2013**

Anaesthesia is often portrayed in narrow terms as an in-theatre adjunct to operative procedures. The great joy of this new exhibition is its expansive exploration of the many roots and meanings of anaesthetic knowledge and praxis. Curated largely by local stalwarts Yvonne Cossart and Cate Storey, with generous input from the Harry Daly Museum, it comprises three integrated elements: an extensive ribbon of chronological developments, a series of themed book displays, and a selection of technological artefacts.

The great strength of the exhibition lies in its breadth of vision. As befits its links with the Rare Books collection, the texts are the treasures on show. If the intent of the curators was to widen perceptions of the components and concerns of anaesthesia, they have succeeded admirably. Perhaps the only notable absence from the display is a welcoming panel explaining the basics of anaesthesia and providing a unifying definition of the field, especially for the casual browser with little direct knowledge of medical history.

**Peter Hobbins**

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS 50 YEARS

This year marks an important milestone for the RANZCP. From its beginnings in 1946 as the Australasian Association of Psychiatrists (AAP), the College has grown since its inauguration in 1963 with 67 Foundation Fellows and now has more than 4800 members.

Partly inspired by the establishment of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1938, the AAP was designed to be a fully fledged medical specialist body. Dr Hal Maudsley is credited as the 'Father' of the AAP. Twice president, Dr Maudsley was the great-nephew of Dr Henry Maudsley, the founder of the renowned psychiatric hospital in London which bears his name, and son of another distinguished physician who established the neurological and psychiatric clinic at Melbourne Hospital. Other early presidents include Dr John Cade (1969) whose 1949 studies on the use of lithium had arguably the most far-reaching effects of any discovery in psychological medicine made by an Australian, Dr Eric Cunningham Dax (1964) who collated the Cunningham Dax art collection comprising over 15,000 works by people with an experience of mental illness and trauma, and Dr CIA Isobel Williams (1967), to our knowledge the first female to lead a medical college in Australia, the UK or the US.

For more information about the College, biographies of Presidents, historic photos and access to our official history e-book *Menders of the Mind* go to [www.ranzcp.org/50years](http://www.ranzcp.org/50years). If you have information to add or items to share with our historic exhibition please email [50years@ranzcp.org](mailto:50years@ranzcp.org).

### FOR YOUR DIARY

A 70th anniversary service will be held in St John's Cathedral, Brisbane on 14 May 2013 to honour those who served aboard the Australian

Hospital Ship *Centaur* which was sunk on 14 May 1943 with the loss of 258 lives.

There will be a celebratory dinner later that day at the United Service Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane to mark two decades of advancing professional nursing by Centaur silver medal awards and research scholarships. Guest speakers will be Dr Madonna Grehan, nurse historian, and Anna-Louise Meyer RN, a Centaur medallist. For further details on these two events contact [admin@centaurnursesfund.org](mailto:admin@centaurnursesfund.org).

The Launceston General Hospital Sesquicentenary Medical History and Research Seminar will take place from 15-17 May 2013. The programme includes sessions on Launceston's medical history, nursing history, medical research, and history and classics. Specific topics will include the life of Dr William Russ Pugh (1805-97), the first Australian medical practitioner to use ether anaesthesia. For further information contact Paul Richards: [pacrichards@bigpond.com](mailto:pacrichards@bigpond.com).

The International Society for the History of the Neurosciences will hold its 2013 Annual Meeting at the University of Sydney from 18-22 June. The ISHN is a multi-disciplinary group, which includes medical practitioners, psychologists and neuro-psychologists, psychiatrists, neurologists, neurosurgeons and neurophysiologists, all health professionals with an interest in the brain and mind, as well as historians of science and technology.

This is the first meeting of the Society to be convened in the Southern Hemisphere. The meeting coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Prize to Sir John Eccles for his work on neurotransmission, and there will be a special one-day symposium in celebration of the history of neurosciences in Australasia.

For further information please refer to the website [www.ishn.org](http://www.ishn.org), or contact Dr Catherine Storey (Tel: +61 2 94391993; email: [cestorey@bigpond.com](mailto:cestorey@bigpond.com)). The final programme will be announced in mid-March.

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For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM Internet Website: [www.anzshm.org.au](http://www.anzshm.org.au)

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ARE WELCOME, PREFERABLY IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.