



THE CONCORDIANS NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2023– 2024

Bringing together past and present staff of the hospital to share and exchange experiences in a collegial, supportive and relaxed atmosphere.

Our Mission is to embrace and articulate the origins and history of the hospital, to promote its unique culture of communications and compassion and to nurture and support our members

Fun Times at the Liu Rose!



More than 50 members caught up over a scrumptious banquet at our semi-annual meeting at the Liu Rose restaurant on 30th November. Our special guests included Mr Joseph Jewitt, Hospital General Manager and Helen Goldsack, the Director of Nursing.



A welcoming address was given by the president, John Cullen and Concordian committee members gave updates on our activities. Margaret Sanger drew the lucky door prize, which was won by Jan Olsen.



A great time was had by all.



Happy times at the Liu Rose



Membership

Membership of the Concordians is open to all past and present employees and anyone who has a close relationship with the hospital.

Our aim is to provide an opportunity for old colleagues to catch up in a relaxed and convivial setting. We also give an annual donation to the hospital for medical equipment and staff and patient support.

Details can be found at <https://www.theconcordians.com/membership/>

Encourage your friends and colleagues to join

Retirement of Professor Peter Haertsch

After more than 50 years association with Concord, Professor Peter Haertsch has retired from his hospital practice. Peter has overseen the hospital's development from a quiet backwater which still had the bearings of a military camp to its current role as a major teaching hospital supplying specialist services to NSW and beyond.

Among many achievements Peter was the first Director of the Emergency Department and with Alf Lewis developed our internationally acclaimed Burns Unit. He was the President of the Concordians for more than 20 years.

SLHD and Concord Hospital will have a dinner to celebrate Peter's service and all Concordians are welcome.

Sydney Local Health District and Concord Hospital

invite you to

A dinner to celebrate the service of
Associate Professor Peter Haertsch AM



Friday 16 February 2024

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Waterview in Bicentennial Park, Bel Parco Room
Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127

Dress code: Lounge

Please RSVP by Thursday 1 February 2024

Tickets may be purchased at \$100 pp from:

<https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/events/SYD-Heartsch/>

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Annual General Meeting and Get Together

Our next get together will be at the 2024 Annual General Meeting on the 10th May at Club Five Dock RSL, 66 Great Northern Rd, Five Dock

Committee members will present the accounts and report on portfolio activity for the year. This will be followed by a three course sit down dinner and a guest speaker.

Invitations will be sent out in April but, in the meantime, please feel free to suggest any agenda items to the secretary through theconcordians@outlook.com or PO Box 3116 Wareemba 2046.

E M Lane Concordians' Museum

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the Concordians' museum, which has been closed for some years due to Covid 19, will reopen in April. The museum's name has been changed to show its close connection with our association and its focus has expanded from military nursing to the entirety of the hospital's history.

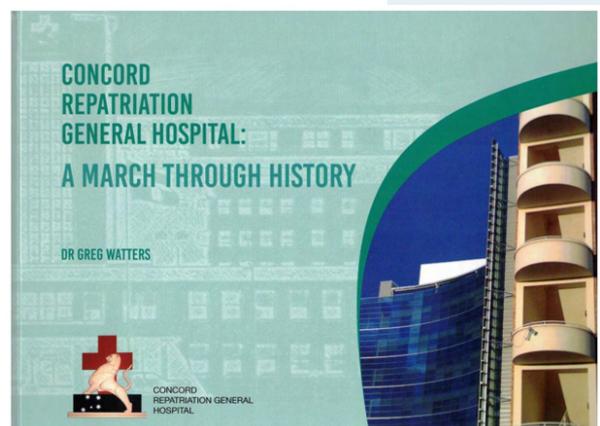
In even better news, SLHD and the hospital administration have allocated the former discharge lounge next to the cafeteria as the museum's new home. This is a more prominent and much larger space for the museum's exhibitions. Currently the site is a hive of activity as volunteers (mainly Concordians) are preparing the opening exhibition. We are being kindly assisted with expert advice by curators from the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park.

If you are interested in becoming a museum volunteer, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jan Bell on 0418410612 or at theconcordians@outlook.com

Look out for your invitation to the opening

Concord History

Some copies of the hospital history, which was commissioned by the Concordians, are still available. Make sure you get copies for yourself and your friends before they run out. <https://www.theconcordians.com/book-publication/>.



Snippets and Memories

Many thanks to the contributors who have sent the following photos and snippets.

Cath Kennedy has sent us a lovely email to let us know that Peter Kennedy, who was a legend at the hospital for many decades as a surgeon and director of emergency, has recently turned 90 but has been unwell after a fall. He is now living in assisted care at Ashburton House, Gladesville. Visitors are very welcome.

Margaret Sanger has sent in the following photos:



Lyn Redknapp's farewell (?1996) - too many familiar faces for me to name!



L to R: Ron Newlands (pathology), David Gillett (surgery), Paul Driscoll (administration) and Kevin Byers, the first director of anaesthetics, possibly at Dr Byers' farewell.

Marianne Cummins has sent in this photo of the first meeting of the newly appointed CNCs in 1993



Back Row (L to R): Marianne Cummins (Gerontology/Psychogeriatrics), Alison Ingold (ICU), Katrina So (Continence), Margaret Flynn (Immunology), Verity Bonfield (DON), Glynn Steward (Renal), Dorrelle Duggan (TPN), Margaret Breust (Infection Control), Lana Donaldson (Cardiology)
Front Row (L to R): Coral Shankly (Diabetes Education), Sue Monaro (Vascular/Wounds), Judy Berry (Discharge Planning)

A busy night shift in Ward 430 (1965) - name withheld by request



The Newsletter is a great way to let fellow Concordians know what is happening. Let us spread the word on any approaching reunions or personal milestones. We also welcome any personal reminiscences and photos of life at the hospital
Send your contribution to theconcordians@outlook.com



Vale

Associate Professor John Hollinshead

Doctor John Hollinshead, who died in November 2023, was a long serving senior gastrointestinal surgeon at Concord Hospital and a highly valued member of its Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery Department until retiring in 2017.

John was born and raised in the small town of Bingara, near Inverell, where his father served for many years as the GP. John attended Wesley College at the University of Sydney and was noted for his prowess on the rugby field. After graduation, in 1972, John came to RGH (Concord) as an intern—the start of a nearly 50 year association with the hospital. After finishing surgical training at Concord Hospital, John undertook two years research in Los Angeles in the treatment of gastric ulcers before returning to the hospital as a staff specialist.

John was known for his meticulous work, calm nature and ability in major gastric, pancreatic and biliary surgery and he seamlessly transitioned to laparoscopic surgery in the 1990s. He was actively involved with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons for many years including his chair of the NSW State Committee from 1996 to 1998.

John was known as a patient and committed teacher who taught a generation of young surgeons and was highly regarded for his gentle, unhurried and kind manner with his patients. He will be remembered as a much loved friend and colleague who contributed enormously to surgical services at Concord.

Associate Professor Stephen Lee

Stephen Lee, who died in early December, was a pioneering dermatologist who was the Head of the Department at Concord for many years.

He was born in impoverished circumstances in China but, through the help of a benefactor, came to Australia for his education in the 1960s. His academic progress at Randwick Boys' High and Sydney University was spectacular and he qualified as a Dermatologist in 1981, establishing practices in the inner west and spending two days a week in Taree.

At Concord, he was known as a compassionate and caring doctor who took great pains to ensure that his patients received the best possible care and his students the best possible tuition.

A wonderful obituary, by his colleague John Thomson, was published in the Sydney Morning Herald <https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-acclaimed-dermatologist-known-as-little-stevie-wonder-20231203-p5eol6.html>

Contact Us

Please give us your news, stories and feedback

The Concordians can be contacted at theconcordians@outlook.com

Website

The Concordians website is regularly updated and can be found at: <https://www.theconcordians.com/>

All the best, until we next meet

