

President's welcome

More than a quarter of 2014 has gone! How did this happen? This is, however, our first newsletter for the year, so it's appropriate to say 'Happy New Year'. Greetings to all QEII staff and CMS Board members. Welcome back to those who have enjoyed a summer break.

This time last year CMS members and QEII staff were looking forward to the QEII Family Centre 'turning fifty' and now, here we are, well into the first year of our new half century and planning again.

Last year we partied well and successfully. We took time for important re-unions and delved into our history. The contacts with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues - past and present - reminded us of the importance of our associations. There were many acknowledgements of the work of CMS and demonstrations of the high regard in which QEII is held in the community.

Now it may be time to draw on that goodwill. The CMS Board held its first meeting for the year on 22 February. New committees were formed and the Board planned its direction for the next twelve months. There was discussion about new approaches for maintaining the programs which CMS has run so successfully for a number of years – *Relaxing into Parenting* and *Baby Makes Three*. The dollars may now be more difficult to find, but these important means of helping parents and young families must continue.

In 2014 we will refurbish the children's play areas and examination rooms – a fitting reward for the energetic fundraising of last year.

So, to all a big welcome. There's work to do in 2014 - let's get going!

Jane Smyth (CMS President)



CMS receives generous donation



The Canberra Mothercraft Society extends its heartfelt appreciation to Peter Blackshaw Real Estate's

Charitable Giving Program in conjunction with the Woden & Weston Creek office for their recent donation of \$6,500 towards improvements to the QEII Family Centre's play area. On Monday 17th March Brett Hayman, Principal/Director of Peter Blackshaw Real Estate Woden & Weston Creek, presented the cheque to the CMS President, Jane Smyth. Pictured L-R: Liz Gardiner (QEII Acting DON&M/Executive Officer); Rob Cappuccio (Peter Blackshaw Real Estate, who donated his part of a sales commission to QEII); Jane Smyth (CMS President); Jacqui Larkham (QEII Operations Manager); Brett Hayman (Principal, Peter Blackshaw Real Estate).

PETER BLACKSHAW
MARKETING QUALITY PROPERTY

Competition: Name the newsletter!

Our newsletter needs a name—something fitting for the wonderful services provided and work done by the CMS and QEII. Please email your suggestion/s and your contact details to Dorothy.Gosper@act.gov.au, or phone DJ on 6205 2322.

If your suggestion is selected, not only will you see the name on each seasonal edition of the newsletter, but there is a mystery prize on offer. The cut-off date for suggestions is close of business on 24th April 2014.

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Towards Healthy Families

Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari
Thriving Mothers, Thriving babies [Ngunnawal meaning]

Post Office Box 126
Curtin ACT 2605

E: info@cmsinc.org.au
W: www.cmsinc.org.au

The Hydrangeas

Don't be a stranger - be a Hydrangea!

Former staff and colleagues are invited to stay connected with QEII and CMS by joining The Hydrangeas. The first gathering of The Hydrangeas was held in November 2013 and another gathering in the form of morning tea is planned for



THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

10:30 - 12:30

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Floresco in the Gardens (near the Cafe)

RSVP by 11th April to QEII Reception 6205 2333

Many years of connection with QEII were shared by those lucky enough to have tea, coffee, scones and muffins together at the Botanic Gardens late last Spring. It was the first Hydrangeas Get Together and everyone was too busy chatting and laughing to remember to count. There were some good stories too. Robina Johnston's account of how she started at QEII was recorded and passed on to a historian writing up the stories of QEII staff. If you would like to get in touch with The Hydrangeas you can contact Robyn Steele by emailing robynsteele@grapevine.com.au or Lynne Johnson by emailing lynnejohnson@grapevine.com.au or telephone 62816771.



Rosemary Lee, Di Fernando, Rhodanthe Lipsett



Robyn Steele, Jean Roberts

Introducing CMS Member

Wendy Saclier

Wendy was a foundation member of the CMS Wednesday Knitters Group or the Crafts of Our Mothers group as it was known back then and she worked as a senior Speech Pathologist with ACT Health. From the early 1980s, Wendy had visited mothers and babies at QEII Civic as part of Health's early intervention program.

You won't be surprised perhaps to learn that Wendy was also a foundation member of the Canberra Quilters group in Canberra in the late 1970s. It was called the ACT Patchwork Group then - quite a small group originally who met in each others' homes - mostly in Curtin at the time. We used to laugh about Curtin being a hot bed of craft. Both she and another foundation member of the group, Margaret Rolfe, went on to become internationally recognised for their work as quilt makers.

When QEII Curtin was opened in 1997, Wendy and I decided to welcome the Centre to our suburb by running a Craft and Fine Item Auction in the Statesman Hotel at the shopping centre. It was a great success and CMS President, Sue Hamilton and the Board, along with DON&M/EO Mary Kirk and the staff were very supportive. Little did we know at the time just how flat out they all were back at the coalface - they had to get a new contract organised with ACT Health before the original one year lease ran out for CMS, but that is another story.

Both Wendy and I were invited to join the Board in subsequent years and both of us went on to become Presidents of CMS for our 3 year terms in the 2000s. We are still Board members. Since the setting up of the Wednesday Knitters Group following the bushfires in 2003, Wendy has been the mainstay of our Mothers Day and Christmas Stalls at the Curtin shops each year. If there was a prize going for Excellence in Raffling and organising stalls, she would definitely be in the Grand Final.

Again you won't be surprised to learn that Wendy is also a Council member (and Immediate Past President) of the National Council of Women, ACT.

Her family, her neighbours, her many friends, including work and community colleagues, all know her qualities and tireless enthusiasm well so I'm not going to attempt to list them. There is one secret though that I'm sure she won't mind me sharing. She doesn't know what she's talking about when she says that she's not a good knitter!

Lynne Johnson (CMS Board Member)



Seasonal editions of the QEII Family Centre/CMS Newsletters will be produced.

If you have any articles or photos please send them for consideration to include in upcoming editions to: Dorothy-Jane 'DJ' Gosper, Executive Assistant/Projects Officer.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, you can opt out by contacting DJ Gosper.

SAVE PAPER and receive this newsletter electronically. Email DJ at Dorothy.Gosper@act.gov.au or phone (02) 6205-2322.