



From the Board...

It's 2013 and at QEII we're ready to have fun! Celebrations are joyous occasions and this year we have something to celebrate – QEII is turning 50!

Canberra's well known and respected QEII Family Centre was previously the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Mothers and Babies and prior to that the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Home for Mothers and Babies. For half a century, the hospital, now located in Curtin and often referred to as 'QE2' has been an acknowledged and valued part of the Canberra and district community.

Many people are associated with QEII. Thousands of families have been supported and QEII has adapted to change whilst maintaining its high standards of care.

QEII has, as its managing body, the Canberra Mothercraft Society (CMS), an organisation which has been operating for almost 90 years – a significant achievement in a city as young as Canberra. CMS has responded over those years to a variety of community needs and this year we'll be documenting and displaying our important history.

Now CMS is making plans for the 50th anniversary of QEII and we hope everyone will join in. **A date to keep is Saturday 25th May.** Please come along to the Gala Dinner at the Hellenic Club, Phillip. This will be 'a night of nights' so ask friends and others who have present and past associations with QEII to share an evening of fun and celebration.

We hope to raise funds to re-furbish the children's play area. For all those who wish to support CMS and its QEII Family Centre here is a great opportunity! Generous donations have already been received for which we are deeply appreciative.

Best wishes for 2013 and happy celebrating to all!

Jane Smyth, CMS President



50th Anniversary Activities...

Gala Dinner—Saturday 25th May 2013 at the Hellenic Club Woden. This will be a fabulous night with auctions and entertainment. More details soon. In the meantime, pop this date in your calendar.

Fundraising—Activities to raise funds for the refurbishment of QEII Family Centre's play area are being planned.

Artworks—The CMS has commissioned artworks for installation at the Centre.

QEII's part in Canberra's Centenary...

The Canberra Museum and Gallery will hold a 'Canberra Gold' Exhibition, as part of Canberra's Centenary Celebrations. The Canberra Mothercraft Society is one of the chosen community organisations to be featured in this exhibition that opens in February and runs until the end of May. The exhibition will include displays of QEII's memorabilia depicting its significant contribution towards healthy families in the ACT and region.

QEII 50TH ANNIVERSARY Newsletter

JAN 2013



50 YEARS AT A GLANCE

**Urgent Purpose
In Coronation
Gift Fund Appeal**

Supporting the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Trust Fund for Mothers and Children, Dr. Edith Clement said yesterday that the proposed mothercraft centre would fill a great need in Canberra.

Dr. Clement referred to three cases within recent months in which mothers were suddenly taken ill and their babies, under one month old had to be put in homes in Sydney or Melbourne.

Other mothers living in hostels had difficulty in preparing food for their babies after leaving hospital.

Mothers leaving hospital, particularly with a first child would be able to live in the centre for up to a fortnight to receive instruction in baby care and feeding.

The home would also cater for babies suffering from ailments which required observation and treatment, and premature babies needing special care.

Dr. Clement is hopeful that the home will later become a training centre for mothercraft nurses.

Latest donations to the appeal are:

The Forrest Group	£5.00
Canberra High School Union (pupils)	£10.00
The National Council of Women of A.C.T.	£40.00
The Victoria League in Canberra	£30.00
Proceeds from dance, 12.3.54	£57.36
Canberra Mothercraft Society	£25.00
W. J. Lane	£1.10
H. Barranger	£1.10
Total to date	£169.56

The Canberra Times 19/03/54



1963 The QEII Coronation Home for post-natal care was opened in Civic. The Matron was Miss B N Nicholson

1970s Day stay facilities at the QEII home expanded. The Matron's flat was converted to provide increased accommodation. Staff started logging the number of calls they had been receiving from parents seeking help and advice. Further delays in the proposed building of the new QEII home in Deakin.

1980s The 24 hour telephone enquiry service was established as part of the services offered at QEII. The Home's role as a resource and teaching centre for health care professionals continued to expand. The title "Matron" was changed to "Director of Nursing" in line with current trends.

1990s The new West Wing of QEII Civic opened. The name "Queen Elizabeth II Home for Mothers and Babies" changed to "Queen Elizabeth Hospital". Proposals regarding the sale of the QEII site and incorporation of the service into a general hospital service at Acton Peninsula were made and debated.

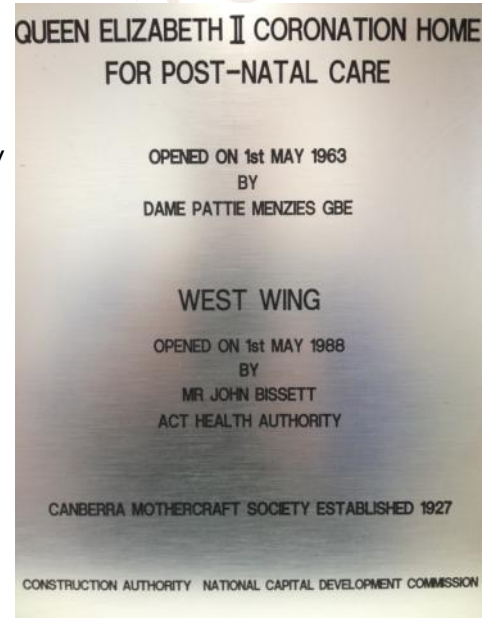
The combined position of Nursing and Chief Executive Officer was established. In 1997 the QEII Hospital in Civic closed its doors and the Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre opened for business in Curtin. The Day Stay program relocated and decentralised and was conducted by three QEII staff seconded to the ACT Government Child, Family and Youth Health Program.

Quality Improvement and Staff Development programs continued. The title of Director of Nursing was changed to Director of Nursing and Midwifery / Executive Officer to reflect current trends.

2000s Consolidation of the Primary Health model of care was complemented by the introduction of the research-based C-Frame as the platform for the delivery of care centre in the Curtin facility.

CMS began offering community development programs for grandparents and couples prior to having their babies.

2013 The QEII Family Centre celebrates it's 50th Anniversary.





Did you know...

1953—1963

This article includes some excerpts from 'The Mothering Years' by Helen Crisp and Loma Rudduck

Did you know that QEII was a gift to Canberra from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second? Well the story is a bit more complicated than that...

To set up a post-natal facility had been one of the Canberra Mothercraft Society's unachieved objectives for 24 years. The Society first put a proposal to the Government in 1929 but the reality of Canberra getting the post-natal

hospital the women advocated was a long time coming.

An opportunity came in 1953 with the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her visit to Australia with the Duke of Edinburgh the following year. It was an exciting time and there would have been few Australians who were not aware of the visit and the excitement that it generated.

Those very determined women of the CMS recognised an opportunity to fill an important need and quickly got to work, using their now well developed lobbying and organisational skills.

To commemorate the coronation of the Queen, an Australia-wide appeal to establish a fund to support appropriate projects had been set up. The ACT's share of this was £2000 and the proposal from the Society was selected to receive the ACT's share of the Queen's Coronation Gift Fund.

It was a great start but there was much planning and negotiating to be done. It took ten years in fact and eventually all was in place. In January 1963 the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Home for Mothers and Babies in Civic opened.

Fifty years later, the site of QEII and the people who work there have changed, but it remains a key service in the Territory and is much loved and highly respected in the Canberra community and further afield.



Pictured: Mrs Grace Willoughby from CMS invites Dame Pattie Menzies to open the QEII Coronation Home in 1963.

February features...

The "Did you know" articles continue in the next issue with feature stories on **Di Fernando** and **Dr Helen Wiles**, 2 women who have had a close and interesting involvement with CMS and QEII over many years.

History & Art Workshops...

As part of QEII's celebrations, current and former CMS members, QEII staff and community members met with Community Artist Gabriella Hegyes in September 2012. Gabriella had recently been appointed Artist in Residence at the Strathnairn Art Centre for Canberra's centenary year.



In the meetings it was highlighted that QEII Civic and later QEII Curtin has had an important role in the lives of many along with the values that underpin the important work done by the staff and volunteers.

Many of the treasured traditions and stories were identified along with the importance of documenting, recording and archiving them.

Gabriella conducted workshops where stories of QEII's history and connections were shared, many historical items were photographed and multi-media skills were learned and utilised to create some 50th Anniversary commemorative items.

As a result of the workshops, CMS commissioned Gabriella to create an artwork, 'Bonnet to Beanies' as part of the QEII 50th Anniversary celebrations.



We need your help...

Donations of goods/services are being sought from individuals / businesses for a Fundraising Auction to raise money to upgrade the QEII Family Centre's children's play area.

Donations of a minimum of \$50 value will be gratefully received and as a contributor, you / your business will be acknowledged at the Gala Dinner, on the CMS website, in the CMS 2012-13 Annual Report and in selected media opportunities.

Let's Create with Lynne...



Lynne Johnson (CMS Board Member, Community and Public Relations Committee Member and QEII 50th Anniversary Celebration Steering Group Member) is collating QEII history, images and stories and is actively involved in art projects connected to the Centre.

Call for tea cosies — Lynne invites you to contribute to a planned art project by Community Artist Gabriella Hegyes — a tea cosy made from tea cosies! A celebration of cups of tea and the cosies that are a part of our domestic heritage. If you would like to contribute a cosy of any make, model or vintage to the project, please get in touch with Lynne by email to ivanandlynne@me.com. After the celebrations it will be dismantled and the cosies returned to donors or be offered for sale at one of the CMS stalls.



Memorabilia?— Contributions in any form (personal stories, photographs, items, press clippings etc.) will be gratefully received to form a part of the rich tapestry of the CMS and QEII history.



Get in touch...

Dorothy-Jane 'DJ' Gosper is the Event Coordinator for QEII's 50th Anniversary. For all inquiries and contributions, please phone her on 6205-2322 or you can email Dorothy.Gosper@act.gov.au

Your contact details — If you have received this Newsletter by snail mail and would prefer to receive it by email, or if you would like to 'opt out', please let DJ know.

Looking forward to the next newsletter and an exciting year ahead!



GALA DINNER

Sat 25th May 2013

Hellenic Club, Woden ACT

More details soon

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TOWARDS HEALTHY FAMILIES