

50TH ANNIVERSARY  
Queen Elizabeth II  
Family Centre  
1963 - 2013



CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT  
Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre  
SOCIETY INC

## From the President...

We did it! We gathered in May for a Gala Dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the QEII Family Centre and we did much more than that—we had the BEST night!

Last year we began planning for QEII's big birthday. We decided to acknowledge, in proper style, the role 'QE' has played in the life of Canberra and district. So we focused on gathering the people who had participated in that. We remembered some we'd lost and welcomed those still with us. Together we acknowledged some of the major players and all the energy, work and skill that makes QEII such an effective organisation, responsive to change and so valued in the community.

We are delighted that the event was greatly enjoyed by so many. It was a reunion, an opportunity to remind ourselves of the purpose of CMS and its famous offspring QEII, a time to re-state the needs of families – especially very young children – and to attract political and media attention.

That our celebration resulted in such a successful event was due to many. The Gala Dinner Committee thanks the Hellenic Club, Woden, our major sponsor. Thanks, too, to the politicians, businesses and organisations who gave so generously and to Mary Kirk and members of staff at QEII who became multi-skilled event organisers while continuing in their designated roles.

Just as we were making final preparations came a warm letter from The Prime Minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard MP, who sent best wishes and acknowledged the 'remarkable achievements of the Canberra Mothercraft Society and QEII since the Centre's opening in 1963'. The Prime minister wrote 'QEII reflects Australian society at its best – putting mutual care and solidarity at the very heart of our community, as it should be'. We appreciated the PM's final words: 'to all who have sustained QEII with their generosity and support go the thanks of a grateful nation.'

Another pleasing aspect of the dinner was the amount raised: just over thirty-six thousand dollars will now be available to re-furbish two play areas and the children's examination room.

To all who helped and to all who joined in the fun, a BIG thank you. It was a night to remember as we continue the work.

Now it's business as usual for CMS and QEII. Here we go for the next half century!

Jane Smyth, CMS President



## Fundraising Report...

We are thrilled to report that 285 guests attended the dinner. With the fabulous array of items in the silent auction, there was fierce bidding that resulted in over \$5,000 being raised.

The main raffle included a varied and high quality array of items. This and the reasonably priced tickets, allowed for enthusiastic purchasing. The main raffle and "name Dolly" raffle combined, raised \$4,375.50!

Cash donations totalled just over \$10,000. Along with a donation of \$10,000 from the ACT Chief Minister's fund, \$5,000 from the Hellenic Club and profits from the ticket sales there is a surplus balance of \$36,218.14. This well exceeded the targeted amount of \$20,000!

With this result, we are very pleased to announce that the upgrading of the children's play area will go ahead, and with the additional funding received, the children's examination area will also be contemporised.

We are now in the process of engaging specialist architectural services in the hope that this can be provided pro-bono allowing the full value of the fundraising to go towards the overdue refurbishments. We will keep you posted.

QEII 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
**Newsletter**

SEPT 2013





CITY NEWS

Dr Helen Wiles, Rhodanthe Lipsett,  
Dr Sue Packer and Mary Kirk



Dr Sue Packer, Annette Ellis,  
Jane Smyth, Chief Minister



Sue McNair (right)  
and her daughter



CITY NEWS

Margaret Reid and MLA Brendan Smyth



THE CANBERRA WEEKLY

Chin Wong, Annette Ellis, Jo Forrester



THE CANBERRA TIMES

Emma Baldock



Peta and Jim Gould



Nina Karouzou, Manuel and Jenny Notaras

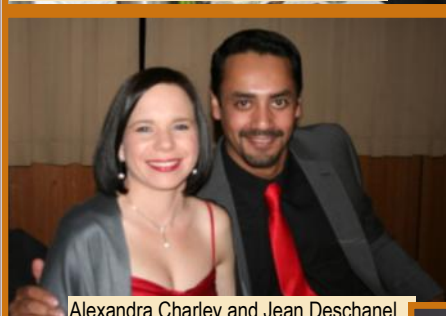


Louise Allison, Gabriella Heyges & Lynne Johnson



THE CANBERRA TIMES

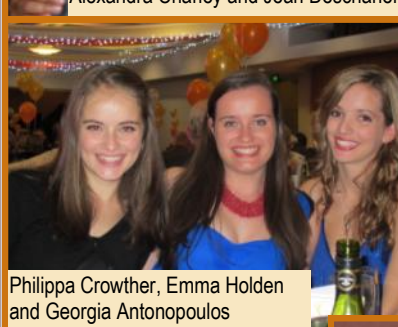
Simon & Kati Rolfe



Alexandra Charley and Jean Deschanel



Annie Schofield, Liz Pedley  
(who won a Fashion Award)  
and Vanessa Bakker



Philippa Crowther, Emma Holden  
and Georgia Antonopoulos

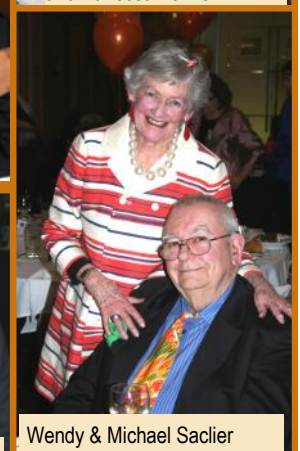


THE CANBERRA TIMES

Robina Johnston, Frosso Papadogiannis  
and Jane Smyth  
Cake by Jane McIntyre - I Want Sprinkles



Lorraine and Steve Fielding



Wendy & Michael Saclier



Jenny Brown and Adrian Kirk



John Convine, Debbie Tibbles,  
Liz Gardiner and Chris Laven

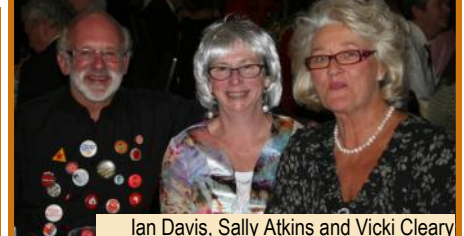


Bill Mildren, Norman Wilson (winner of the Maria  
Slater Travel prize)



Jacqui Ingarfield, Carole Thompson and Pat Moffatt

Do you have any  
photos from the Gala  
Dinner that you  
would like to share?  
Please email to  
Dorothy.Gosper  
@act.gov.au



Ian Davis, Sally Atkins and Vicki Cleary





Mary-Ellen Hirst, Annali Cadman, Julianne Nissen



Anna Kargazis, Anna Kotini, Xrysavgi Bezzos



Margaret McKinnon, Barbara Adams and Pauline Haldane



Adrienne and Duncan Morrison



Julien and Scott French with Anna Bromilow



David and Judy Taylor



Lois Calvert, Shuji and Alison Yamazaki



Rose Mason, Thea Howe, and Marie Fraser



Tania Stein and Susan Le



Jennifer and John Hanks



John Kalokerinos, Anastasia Dekantios, Viola and Matthew Kalokerinos



Margie Braithwaite and Jean Daly



Helen and Vicki Jackson



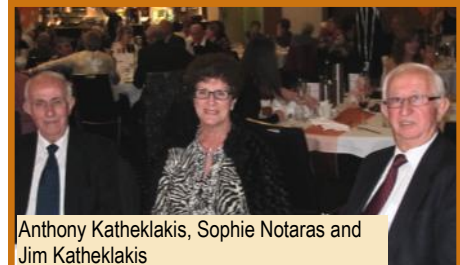
Fashion award winner, Irena Komar and DJ Gosper



Robyn Steele and Kathryn Forster



Katherine and Alex Philp, Rod, Kris Saclier and Elle Saclier



Anthony Katheklakis, Sophie Notaras and Jim Katheklakis



Jacqui Ingarfield, Carole Thompson, Pat Moffatt



Diana Lampe and Dorothy Dante



Barbara Taylor and Anne Greenwood



Dianna Budd, Gillian Macfarland and Beth Peedom





## Don't be a stranger be a HYDRANGEA...

An ongoing theme through this 50th Anniversary year has been about relevant traditions and connections from the past being part of the present and influencing the future of QEII and the families we serve. Staying connected and being able to appreciate and draw on the experience and wisdom of our former colleagues is an important part of this process.

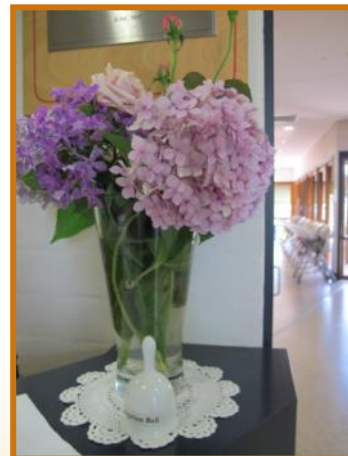
Following the 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner many QEII/CMS folk let us know that they would appreciate opportunities to stay in touch and a suggestion for an 'old girls' organisation was made.

Robyn Steele, Lynne Johnson and Mary Kirk met to run with the suggestion and came up with the name "The Hydrangeas" in memory of long term Board member Gwladys Cheel. Gwladys was much loved and known for the armfuls of hydrangeas she bought into and arranged at QEII in Civic. In the three years before her death Gwladys was part of the early craft group at QEII Curtin and the hydrangea garden at the front of QE is named for her. The idea of linking this gorgeous plant to a group that Gwladys would have been keen to be part of appealed to us and we hope it does to you!

There are plans for a morning tea in November where former and current QEII staff and CMS members can get together. Robyn Steele and Lynne Johnson are the coordinators of the group at this stage and will be working with the Board and QE about the arrangements for the first get together. As soon as we have definite dates and details we will let you know.

Do you know anyone who would like to attend the morning tea and/or be on our database? Perhaps someone who sat at your table at the gala dinner or a friend or a colleague who is not receiving our newsletters and would like to stay in touch?

Please contact [robysteele@grapevine.com.au](mailto:robysteele@grapevine.com.au) or [lynnejohnson@grapevine.com.au](mailto:lynnejohnson@grapevine.com.au) 02 6281 6771



## QEII Staff History Project...

QEII's Community Development Officer, Emma Baldock, is co-ordinating the QEII Staff History Project with oral historian, Mary Hutchison. As part of the QEII 50th Anniversary activities, stories from staff—past and present—are being gathered for the period 1963—2013. If you are a current or former staff member, with any stories, comments or memorabilia to share, please get in touch with Emma. Phone 6205-2311 or by email: [Emma.Baldock@act.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Baldock@act.gov.au)

## CMS Knitters...



Wednesday Knitter Barbara Adams and ex QEII staff member Peta Torpy admiring the QEII Cosy at the Mothers Day stall at the exhibition in May.

As often noted, our "QEII" shares the nickname with a cruise liner and it was in the early days of the volunteer group that became the Wednesday Knitters, that an amazing tea cosy was made in the shape of a ship featuring mothers and babies, thus bringing together both "QEII's".

Beryl Kelly crafted the cosy as an entry in our Tea Pot and Tea Cosy competition in the early 2000s. It won a prize on that occasion and was on display again in May this year at the Strathnairn Woolshed as part of the CMS Knitters 10th Anniversary Exhibition.

Several other tea cosies from the earlier event were featured again, this time as part of "SuperCosy" – a tea cosy made of tea cosies! Community Artist, Gabriella Hegyes, made the supporting structure of the installation and the knitters collected and made the cosies that featured in it. The variety of cosies were appreciated by visitors to the Exhibition as were the many crafted items on sale at the Mothers

Day stall held on the opening weekend of the display.

At the moment we are working on a knee rug project for Ronald MacDonald House. More news next Newsletter.



**SAVE PAPER & receive this newsletter by email.**  
Message 50th Anniversary Events Co-ordinator:  
[Dorothy.Gosper@act.gov.au](mailto:Dorothy.Gosper@act.gov.au)

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