

case notes

1950s

Maurice Patrick Cleary OAM MBBS 1958

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Sydney in 1938, and in 1939-40 completed years I and II in the Faculty of Medicine.

I enlisted in 1940, in Australian Infantry Forces and served as Pharmaceutical Officer on 2/1 Hospital Ship "Manunda" entering numerous War Zones including Darwin, Middle East, New Guinea and the Pacific.

I was discharged in 1945 from the Services and resumed pre-war occupation as a self-employed Pharmacist. In 1952, I resumed studies in the Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1958 and engaging in Hospital and General Practice.

I was appointed General Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney serving in this capacity for 22 years. This appointment involved responsibility for the Hospital's Medical Services and other Clinical Services as well as the financial and numerous general supportive services that are essential for the maintenance of a large University Teaching Hospital. It involved also constant liaison with Ministers and Politicians and spirited lobbying to break through the entrenched bureaucracy of the Health Department to ensure improved funding. During this period, the first major building development program since pre World War 11 years was undertaken and, in the interest of undergraduate Medical Education in Sydney, St Vincent's acceded to the request from the Commonwealth and State Governments to sever its 40 years allegiance to the Medical School of the University of Sydney and transfer to the University of New South Wales to provide clinical facilities for its fledgling Medical School.

I retired from St Vincent's in 1983 and undertook part time work as a Medical Officer with Qantas Airways, with the RAAF at Richmond Air Base and the RAN at HMAS Nirimba.

In 1985, I was awarded Order of Australia Medal for service to the public hospital system, and I retired from Medical Practice in 2002 at the age of 84 years. Now, aged 91 years, I spend my time supervising or being supervised by three sons, two daughters-in-law, eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren

Outside of medicine, in 1973 I established and continued an orchard farm property at Somersby on the Central Coast of NSW.

I have also published "The Way It Was" – A Story of My Life through Eighty Years of the Twentieth Century and Thereafter; and "The Way They Were" – A Story of People, Prayers and Places at St Vincent's 1950 – 1980.

George Repin AM MBBS 1952



The references to the Alma Ata Conference on Primary Health Care in Professor Michael Kidd's paper in the Medical Journal of Australia, issue of 20 July, 2009 (devoted to General Practice), brought back many memories.

I attended this International Conference, organised by WHO and UNICEF, in September, 1978, as a member of the Australian Government delegation, led by Dr Cyril Evans, then Deputy Director

General of Health.

From my early days as a member of the Secretariat of the Australian Medical Association I had been receiving invitations from the Medical Workers' Union to visit the USSR to see the operation of their health care system. I refrained from accepting the invitations because, although I was born in Australia, my parents were Soviet citizens before leaving Russia in the early 1920s and, accordingly, under Soviet law I was technically a Soviet citizen.

However, the provision by the Soviet Government of diplomatic immunity to those attending the conference gave me the opportunity to accept the invitation from the union and at the conclusion of the meeting I travelled extensively through the country with a small group of other guests. In addition to Kazakhstan we visited Uzbekistan, Georgia, Latvia and Moscow. We were able to see facilities and services at all levels of the "referral chain" from the feldsher stations in sparsely populated areas where the people were nomads, through the regional and district hospital and health clinic levels to the major institutions in Moscow.

Needless to say I could recount many interesting personal experiences – and comments I overheard by my hosts in institutions we visited when they either did not know – or forgot – that I spoke Russian. I did not conceal my fluency but certainly did not flaunt it.

I did not return to Russia until 2005 – this time with my wife.



William (Bill) D. Walker MBBS 1954



After graduation in 1954, I worked at Cessnock Hospital where I met and married my wife Doris. We have two sons and eight grandchildren.

Further hospital experience was at Parramatta, at Princess Margaret Childrens and Royal Perth in WA, followed by solo GP in Tara in Queensland, after which I moved to UK for 6 years doing general surgery in Glasgow and plastic surgery in Glasgow and Manchester.

I returned to Newcastle NSW as its first plastic surgeon in 1968 until retirement in 1994. I now do medico-legal consulting one day a week.

I began overseas surgical trips with Interplast to Fiji in 1997/8 and then 8 self organized trips to Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Ghana following which I was awarded an OAM in 1999. I have now made over 30 trips to Pacific areas, PNG, Bangladesh, West Timor, Peru, China Philippines - about 2 per year and still going.

Other interests include: cello, which I leaned at age 40 yrs, and played in orchestras locally and with Australian Doctors Orchestra and chamber groups.

I joined Aussimasters swimming in 1999 and compete at national and international level, winning top 10 international medals in my age group at breaststroke and butterfly, and was voted Male NSW swimmer of the year in 2004 after breaking 7 national records. I am competing in the world masters games in Sydney in October.



THE NOT-SO-SMOOTH ROAD FOR AN EARLY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOHAMMAD HANAFI MBBS 1973

Mohammed Hanafi, or Han as he is called, graduated in January 1973. He was a Colombo Plan student who came to Australia from Surabaya, Indonesia. At the time there were very few international students at all – about 150 across the University – and no other medical students from Indonesia.

He graduated in 1973, did his residency at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital then began what was supposed to be one year at Royal Prince Alexandra Hospital for Children but ended after four months when he was called to return home.

While he was studying in Sydney, politics in Indonesia had changed dramatically. The country's (first) President Sukarno lost power following a failed coup in 1967 and was replaced by President Suharto.

"Indonesian new policy did not recognize my degree so I had to return to University for two years to do my clinical term. It was very frustrating moment," he said.

Eventually obtaining local qualifications, he was offered a fellowship for doctoral degree in biochemistry in the United States in 1978, but didn't complete it because of financial reasons.

Back in Indonesia, he was penalised by not being allowed to ascend in rank as a civil servant for three years.

He obtained his master's degree in 1985. Since then, his mornings have been spent working as a lecturer in biochemistry at the Department of Biochemistry in the Medical Faculty at Airlangga University. Until 1998, we worked afternoons as a medical officer (or GP) in a nail factory, and as a private GP in the evenings.

"I will retire as civil servant May next year, but in the evening I will be working as GP for many years to come," he says.

He has never been able to attend alumni reunions because there is no-one to replace him in his clinic – even closing for one night is a major event. As a devout Muslim, also, his obligation, if funds allow, is to undertake the pilgrimage to Mecca, then assist his wife and other family members to go.

But he recently rekindled ties with his old University, meeting the Dean, Bruce Robinson and Executive Officer Tom Rubin, who were in Surabaya to foster links with regional research institutes and universities.

Although his career progress has been anything but easy, he is not complaining.

"I have two daughters both of them married, and I have three grand children. I am very happy, enjoying my life, helping poor people in their health. My hobby is swimming and table tennis."

I joined Rotary in 1981 and have a Paul Harris fellowship with bar and a service above self and other awards and am involved with RAM (Rotarians Against Malaria) supplying preventative bed nets to needy countries .

I played field hockey until 49 yrs and then took up golf achieving a best handicap of 12 and play a reasonable game of social tennis.

Since 1981, I have been a committed Christian and a member of a local church group, and will continue Gods work overseas while I am still able.

James C Biggs AM MBBS 1955



I trained in Medicine and Pathology for 5 years after graduation at St Vincents' Hospital, Sydney obtaining post graduate degrees,

then travelled to Oxford to work as a Research Fellow in the Nuffield Dept of Clinical Medicine supported by an Adolph Basser grant (RACP) and later by the Wellcome Foundation. I obtained a D.Phil. and returned to Sydney as physician to St Vincents and the Mater Hospitals, and as Research Fellow in the newly opened Garvan Institute in 1963. Subsequently became Director of Haematology at SVH and A/Prof of Medicine at UNSW.

I established the first adult bone marrow transplant unit in Australasia in 1975 and the unit attracted many patients from inside and outside the country and continues to flourish today. Produced many publications and presentations here and abroad in the transplant area and in other areas of iron metabolism, thrombolysis, novel anti-cancer drugs and cell separation technology. Served on many committees here and overseas. Past President of HSA and TSANZ.

I was involved for many years with overseas aid projects and was Chairman of the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific for 17 years. That involved many trips to Asia and the Pacific on behalf of grass roots projects. I received an Order

of Australia (AM) in 1999 for contributions to medical research and overseas aid.

In 1955, I married Margaret Hayes who was a great support, partner and mother until she passed away in 1997 after a long illness. We have 5 children, including one who graduated in medicine and is a Neurosurgeon at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Since retiring, I have been teaching medical students at UNSW and enjoying it!! Im currently catching up on reading (novels, politics, climate change, science), attending concerts and plays, and spending some wonderful time with my children, 8 grandchildren, friends and my partner Elena.

Other Passions?

Radius will be running regular stories on "other passions". If you have particular interests outside health and medicine, let us know. We will also continue with regular Case Notes, and hope alumni will still keep us up-to-date with news of their career, family and other developments.

radiuseditor@med.usyd.edu.au

Nell Muirden (née Cruikshank) MBBS 1955



Following a 2 year "locum" as Acting Medical Superintendent of the Paton Memorial Hospital, Vila, Vanuatu (1956-7), I married John Muirden, a Melbourne medical graduate (physician, then radiologist) and together we spent 15 years with the Health Department at several locations in Papua New Guinea. My positions included obstetrics at Mt Hagen Hospital, Western Highlands for two years and at Port Moresby in charge of the PNG Family Planning Program for six years. We greatly enjoyed our time in PNG and value the many friends we made, both local and expatriate, during PNG's "best years".

Returning to Melbourne, I worked at the Peter MacCallum Cancer

Institute (1980-1998) first in the Pain Control Clinic, then as Head of the Palliative Care Unit for 11 years.

After retiring, I spent 10 years as a senior fellow (distance learning coordinator) with the Melbourne University Centre for Palliative Care, which conducted a Post Graduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine and a Graduate Diploma of Psycho-oncology.

My other retirement interest has been to promote Palliative Care in PNG, beginning in 2001 with a traveling fellowship from the International Association for Hospice Palliative Care. I have also returned one or more times per year to conduct workshops, present papers at the annual Medical Society Symposium and produce (together with the PNG Chief Anaesthetist and Professor of Paediatrics) a "Pain Management Guidelines" for pain in cancer and AIDS. John and I were both awarded "Independence Medals" and made life members of the PNG Medical Society.

We are happily married and have three sons (one a medical graduate) and four grandsons. jmuirden@melbpc.org.au

1960s

David Gibb
MBBS 1964

I would like to report a hobby which I developed during the fourth year of my medical course. During pathology lectures I wrote a number of songs related to the topic of the lecture. One of these, The Nutmeg Liver, was written in 1960 and sung to the tune of "On Yonder Hill There Lives a Maiden".

THE NUTMEG LIVER

*Why little liver look you mottled ?
Why your nutmeg nom-de-plum
And why is it that you are bottled
In the morbid musee-um
And in the morbid musee-um
He looked at me with gaze suprising
His swollen sinusoids were red
I saw his hyperaemia rising
He mopped his portal tracts and said
He mopped his portal tracts and said
Ten times today I'm sure no fewer
Have I been asked that silly question
Why don't you go and look at Muir
It's on page five - venous congestion!
It's on page five - venous congestion!*

1970s

Tom Ruut
MBBS 1972



My lifetime consuming passion is building and flying radio-controlled model aeroplanes. When I was 7 years old I was confined to bed with a rheumatic fever and one of the activities which occupied my time was plane building. The planes were sticks of balsa wood and covered with tissue paper. A large rubber band in the fuselage drove a wooden propeller. The flights in our back yard in Oatley were not long but enough to motivate me to go further and take the next step which was power.

Then we began flying control line planes in a circle; you could go up and down and even do loops. The engines were tiny 1.5cc diesels. The fuel was a mixture of kerosene, castor oil and ether which I used to knock off from dad's surgery [he was a GP]. We had many hours of fun flying our little planes in the local parks. If there was a major prang, the planes were ceremoniously incinerated on the ground. Radio-control in those days was beyond our wildest dreams due to the expense.

Then from those teenage days the passion lay dormant till my forties when I took up model boating in a small creek in Monterey in Sydney's southern suburbs. One of my friends there, Ken Postill, thought that boating was pretty much one dimensional and suggested that we took up flying.

We learnt on a small plane called a Hepcat on the rifle range at Malabar. Then we joined up with the Blacktown Model Aero Club, where I flew till I moved to Canberra 4 years ago. The hobby is so absorbing .I always can't wait to get home and do more work to complete a project. I always wondered what people do in their spare time when they don't have a hobby or other consuming passion.

I fly 3 days a week if the weather is good, for about 3 hours. I belong to the Canberra Model Aero Club on the Monaro Highway leading out of Canberra. You get to meet a very broad spectrum of people by going the fun flies and competitions. I haven't met too many docs though.

These days putting a plane together is much faster as they are already built and covered. All you have to do is install the engine, fuel tank and radio-control gear. You can put a plane together in a few nights. Model flying is great fun. Come and try it one day.

Diana Weston
MBBS 1979



I have been working in general practice in Manly part time, now reduced to only 3 morning sessions, in order to pursue my passion for music. I remain committed to my present practice without wanting to increase it. My patients know of, and often share as audience members, my musical interests.

This year I completed a Masters in Music Research with a thesis on styles of harpsichord accompaniment in the baroque period. In 2008 I founded and direct a baroque ensemble called Thorough Bass consisting of countertenor, recorder, cello and harpsichord. We regularly draw upon other musicians of the highest standards. We have a regular concert series performing every 2nd month in Mosman, as well as at festivals, art galleries, regional centres and other events. As a harpsichordist I also take part in larger orchestral events, and partner another harpsichordist as a duo ensemble.

My medical skills don't go to waste in music as organisation and people management are all part of it. In my practice, I love to hear of other people's passions and encourage everyone to foster an interest that excites them, as I believe this is one of the best ways to stay mentally well and intellectually stimulated.

1980s

Tony James Chu
MBBS 1986



After graduation, I trained at St Vincent's Hospital & Sydney Children's Hospital, and am currently working as a part-time paediatric registrar at Wollongong Hospital while also acting & filmmaking.

As an Actor, I have appeared on stage, TV and film including guest appearances on TV shows: 'Packed To The Rafters', 'All Saints' and 'White Collar Blue'.

As a Film Producer, I have produced more than 30 short films [directing 20+] and also co-produced one feature. My comedy short film 'General Practice in 2012' won the RACGP Best Fiction in 2007 and I intend to direct & produce his first feature film soon.

I founded NAFA (Networking Action for Filmmakers & Actors) in 2002 and convene their monthly networking meetings (Choc Tops), short film festival (Show-Fest) and monthly script workshops.

I also founded the AMA (NSW) Creative Doctors Network (CDN) in 2007. The CDN welcomes all doctors, inclusive of whatever their creative interests, for the purposes of networking, showcasing their artistic work and collaborating on new projects. Their gatherings revolve around four themed nights: Films, Visual Arts, Readings and Performing Arts. The CDN also organize a yearly DOC ART Festival and monthly Creative Doctors writing group. More info: tonycdn@gmail.com

2000s

Scott Stanners
PhD in Medicine 2008



Following completion of my PhD under Professor Carol Pollock at the Kolling Institute of Medical Research (USyd Department of Molecular Medicine, Royal North Shore Hospital), I moved to Vancouver, Canada in March 2008 and undertook consulting contracts in the biomedical sector, completing a feasibility study for a stem cell business opportunity in addition to a market assessment for a synthetic genomics organization.

The Graduate Certificate course in Innovation and Enterprise at Sydney Uni gave me a foundation in the commercialisation of biotechnology which can be effectively applied to the bioenergy industry. Fortuitously, I accepted a contract with a bioenergy funding organization called the British Columbia Bioenergy Network, and then assumed a full-time role as the Director of Research. I am currently assembling an advisory board involving the four research intensive universities in the province in addition to a technology institute. Facilitating and funding collaboration between academia and industry stakeholders is one of our strategies to accelerate the

development of a greener future.

Outside of work, I have been training for the Vancouver Triathlon and adjusting to ocean swimming in a much cooler part of the Pacific. I remember swimming in speedos at the Noosa triathlon, whereas a full wetsuit is highly recommended here. I proposed to my partner Cindy while on Fraser Island and then we married in May this year at St Augustine's Church followed by a reception at a historic house on University of British Columbia campus. Cindy and I are looking forward to spending 3 weeks in Australia later this year, to catch up with friends and then spend two weeks honeymooning around WA.

Leanne Michelle Poulos Master of Public Health (Honours) 2008

At the moment I am the Project Manager at the Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring (ACAM), which is based at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Glebe. The purpose of ACAM is to produce asthma information for public health purposes, including monitoring trends and identifying

target risk groups. My current role involves managing population health information, interpreting and analysing data and producing reports to guide activities in asthma throughout Australia and I've found it to be both challenging and rewarding.

Alex Rosewell Master of International Public Health 2004



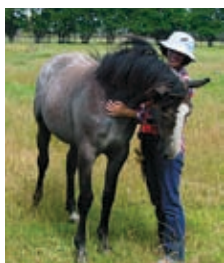
I'm working as an epidemiologist for the World Health Organisation in Papua New Guinea. The MIPH course gave me a good grounding in public health and the epidemiology and biostatistics components were particularly beneficial. I still keep in contact with many of my former classmates who are now living and working all around

the world in Spain, Switzerland, Canada, Lesotho, Belize, Democratic Republic of Congo and more."

Jason Lee Master of International Public Health 2006



I'm now working in the Timor Leste Ministry of Health as the HIV research and surveillance advisor. Some of my main responsibilities include: designing and conducting the integrated behavioural surveillance surveys and other research studies to assess sexual practices and drug taking behaviour in sub-populations considered at risk for HIV; implementing the sentinel surveillance for HIV; and facilitating the development of the national strategic plan for HIV.



LINDA CRISTINA MAYER MBBS 1989

I have been working in Emergency Medicine as a CMO for approximately 17 years interspersed with short periods in General Practice. I have recently commenced work with Defence and will undertake the 5 week fulltime Aviation Medicine course in August (I love flying). On my return, I will also be tutoring for The University of Wollongong Medical School.

Before I studied Medicine, my passion was horses, specifically purpose bred Olympic quality show jumping horses. I rode and bred show jumping horses.

In the past, Australia relied on reject racehorses for their show jumping horses. There was the occasional chance variation that was capable of competing at international standard but in general our results were poor and unpredictable. The Germans, with their precision and disciplined approach were breeding horses specifically for the Olympic disciplines. Government controlled, they could monitor everything from feed efficiency to jumping traits.

To obtain these genetics, I imported frozen semen from some of worlds best show jumping sires in 1996. As I lived in a small country town and there was no local vet with the necessary equine reproduction skills to utilize frozen semen, I set about training myself. I purchased an Aloka 630 SSD ultrasound. It took about 2 years to fine tune my skills however, I caught the "veterinary bug" and, with dwindling supplies left of the original semen, was one of the first to utilize low dose deep horn AI as a routine practice.

My passion grew and my interest extended into neonatal equine medicine (very similar to human neonatal medicine) and soon I was treating and saving ill equine neonates. I sought the expertise of human medical

specialists (including pathologists), read copious amounts of human related and equine related literature.

I am especially proud of a recent successful case of field management of a grade one mid shaft oblique compound fracture of the near hind metatarsal in a neonatal Warmblood filly. Warmbloods are very large horses and this filly was huge. This case was managed by an all medical team, and after 5 weeks, 3 anaesthetics and minimal use of antibiotics, we deemed it a success. This project has shown that it may be feasible to manage such a case without the need for a tertiary institution (or a gun.)

I have had many other equine (and a few bovine) projects that were successfully managed with a good mix of human and veterinary medicine. I usually seek the expertise of my medical colleagues who generally find my projects an interesting (and amusing) interlude. For example, I have managed and performed minor surgery on a severe eye injury with the telephone help of a specialist ophthalmologist and prior to any recent publications, I initiated a dry mare to lactate, successfully raising an orphan foal. For this project I sought the help from a pharmacist friend and Dr. Angus Mckinnon, a specialist equine vet.

I believe that my medical training along with my life long history with horses has given me an eclectic advantage in diagnosing and solving problems. In the emergency department, a huge advantage is how I manage children. I do not use restraint but approach them with the same momentum, timing and body language as I do with horses. I rarely have a non-compliant child.

When I was a medical student, I was unable to indulge my horse passion and in a fit of sensory deprivation took up motorbike riding, including racing, until graduation. After having my daughter (who has counted equine sperm under a microscope since age 5 and who now helps with the stud reproduction), I had a yearning (or mid life crisis) for another bike. From a Ducati 900 SS, to a 748R and now an 848, I have my first track day in 6 years coming up.

10 YEARS ON

ORGANISERS OF THE 1999 REUNION REFLECT ON THE DECADE



PHILIP ROME

Visiting Medical Officer in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Concord and RPAH, with a private practice in the city. Work includes major post-oncological reconstruction, trauma reconstruction, hand surgery, breast reconstruction and cosmetic surgery.



TIM SHORTUS

Working as a GP in an inner suburban practice in Sydney, doing some research and teaching in primary health care at the University of NSW, and caring for my 11 month old daughter. Otherwise my wife and I are busy renovating our house, and cooking – my most recent obsession is sourdough bread-baking.



PAUL NICOLARAKIS

Working as a health informatics/health services design consultant, most recently on a project using technology to improve the way medical care is delivered to residents in nursing homes.



CAROLYN SEIN or NORTHEILASSA

Working part-time in general practice in Sydney and studying Masters of International Public Health – back at Sydney Uni part-time – I just couldn't stay away!

What have been the highs and the lows of the decade since graduation?

PR: The highs have included a relatively painless progression from internship to a career that I love and would do again lovingly – even if I had my time over. Accompanying this has been the spectacular digital and Internet revolution – it has meant that I can always be 10 seconds away from finding an answer to any question, or reviewing a patient's CT scan emailed to me by the registrar. Without sounding too sombre, the lows of the decade include the mobile phone (a corollary of the above) and email, and with them the expectation of always being contactable. Other lows include the slow attrition of friends from university days as we all chose our own separate adventures. Also lost was the innocence and optimism of being a student.

TS: The past ten years have been varied and interesting, with few professional lows. The worst moments have been when bad things have happened to patients. My highs are not related to making particularly clever diagnoses or delivering successful treatments, it is simply the realisation that I have found a job that provides a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment, while allowing me the flexibility to pursue many other interests. And finishing my PhD. That was a very good moment.

PN: Compared to most of my medical peers, my career path has laid at the less travelled end of the spectrum. I left clinical medicine after completing internship at RPA and was recruited into an eHealth start up which provided a fantastic introduction to entrepreneurship and set me on course for where I am today in health informatics. Along the way, I've also worked in various managerial roles across the entertainment, medical indemnity and mobile technology industries.

CS: There have been pockets where "clouds heaped upon clouds and life darkened". I was caught alone in Colombo with nowhere to stay on my first night in Sri Lanka – I ended up spending the night in a brothel. From a self preservation and safety perspective

this was certainly a distressing experience. On a broader platform, as an independent self supporting woman – witnessing the issues of global gender impoverishment firsthand in that damp squalid place really punctuated the start of my trip. The rest of my month there however was utterly magnificent.

Bathurst Island a few years ago – in the short time I had there I encountered some of the worst and most complex and challenging health outcomes, my waning optimism was buoyed by the dedication of the elder women and the two nurses that I had the privilege of working closely with.

Special moments include travelling to Eastern Turkey's border with Armenia to pay homage to the oldest squatting toilet discovered to date – I come from a long line of squatters and this was a humbling encounter of the baby steps involved in civilisation. It really took me back to my yearly school holidays travelling to the refugee camps on the border of Burma-Thailand – sit down toilets were not a luxury – they weren't even available.

In 1999 what was your dream career and what is it now?

PR: In 1999 my dream career was to be a provider of superb health care to the sick and needy, so long as it could be done in a 40-hour week. These dreams were partially shattered by the sheer drudgery of internship but returned soon in residency. My skills were in Surgery, and with Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, I could help with all parts of the body, both form and function, and with all ages and demographics. Volunteer work was also possible to some of the neediest communities on earth. My current career involves all this but my dream career now, is quite frankly, retirement with the occasional charity Plastic Surgery trip and frequent courses at university to learn all the other things I missed being taught around the university as I sat in Bosch lecture theatres day after day...

TS: I left medical school intending to become a GP, thinking this would be the best way of developing a broad and varied clinical practice, and allowing me to provide continuing, whole-

of-life care. I feel like I'm where I wanted to be, and I'm relieved to discover that I actually enjoy doing it. I have no clear picture now of what I will be doing in ten years – I think I'll always work as a GP, as I still think general practice is the best job in medicine, but I'm hoping that my work and life will continue to provide new opportunities within and around that. I'm a little older now and excited by my life in general, not only my work in particular.

PN: I have always been interested in technology but in 1999 health information technology was a relatively fringe area of interest, particularly in Australia. As the sector has developed, so have the opportunities. It is an exciting place to be as our understanding of Health IT's ability to improve safety, efficiency and efficacy of health care delivery continues to evolve.

CS: In 1999 my "dream job" did not exist. I was probably sub clinically depressed and totally overwhelmed by the degrading effects of the hours undertaken by interns. There was no "dream career" just survival. My perception of a "dream job" is always evolving but the common motifs have always been: a part time clinical component, flexibility, creativity and the ability to develop personally. Through continuing education I have met incredible people involved in health both locally and in the international arena. Personally I am working towards working in developing countries and being involved in humanitarian work – focusing on women's health in particular. I would love to head back to Burma/Myanmar in this capacity – watch this space!

Your best memories of medical school?

PR: Easily - the people. From my fellow students who endured all manner of lectures, prac classes and subsequent practical jokes in prac class to the stoic and unwavering lecturers who battled-on under such adverse circumstances. The administration staff who kept things running smoothly at all times except when things weren't running smoothly, and the clinical

tutors, some of whom are now my esteemed colleagues. Memories of great moments always involve the great people that made them so.

TS: Perhaps it's because ten years have passed that I have sufficient distance to feel overwhelmingly positive about my time in medical school. It's hard to remember how tedious or grueling much of it was – instead I feel ridiculously sentimental about Bosch lecture theatres, chemistry pracs, brutal exam periods, the Med Revue band, surgical tutes, heart murmurs, writing discharge summaries, free lunches at grand rounds – the works.

PN: Medical School was amazing time. Being exposed to the full gamut of human experience and scientific advancement through a degree of such breadth is a rare privilege. To have shared this with so many fantastic teachers and fellow students over six formative years made it a life changing experience. These feelings have only been reinforced by recent involvement in the belated production of our cohort's Senior Year Book ahead of our 10 year reunion in October.

CS: Much of medical school was a blur. The memorable moments for me – were the moments discovering that there was more to medicine than medicine!

Looking back - I now realise what a privilege and incredible opportunity it was to have studied medicine - at Sydney University. Not only has it provided the chance to be involved in a plethora of challenging roles - it has really provided the means to embrace a vocation which is personally rewarding and enriching. Having seen first hand the poverty of opportunities and education which the majority of young people in developing countries face - I think having a safe environment to form friendships, develop mentorships and to learn - is something all of us I'm sure appreciate deeply. *radius*

reunions 2009 - 10

Does your graduating year have an important anniversary in 2009 and 2010? Let us help you contact your fellow graduates, issue invitations and promote your event.

Please contact your alumni reunion manager, Diana Lovegrove, on (02) 9036 3375 or by email at d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au.

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1946

When: Friday, 25 September 2009
Where: Concord Golf Club, Majors Bay Road Concord NSW
Time: 11am for 12noon
Cost: \$75
Contact: alanyoun@bigpond.com

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1970

When: Saturday 20 February 2010
Where: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney
Time: 6pm
Cost: TBA
Contact: d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1948

When: Friday, 25 September 2009
Where: University Art Gallery followed by lunch in the Withdrawing Room, Holme Building, University of Sydney
Time: Art Gallery from 11am, lunch from 12.30
Cost: \$85

Contacts: Harding Burns fhardingburns@bigpond.com.au or 02 9328 5707. Peter Harvey hpbharve@tpg.com.au. Judy Weaver 02 6331 5074 Tom Nash 02 9247 4950

GRADUATING YEARS OF 1990 AND 1991

NOTE DATE CORRECTION
When: Saturday 27 February 2010
Where: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney
Time: 6pm
Cost: TBA
Contact: reunion1990@live.com

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1960

When: Saturday 13 March 2010
Where: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney
Time: 6pm
Cost: TBA
Contacts: Ann Sefton and Steven Kovacs (via) d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1965

When: 30 January 2010
Where: The Taronga Centre, Taronga Park Zoo
Time: 11am
Cost: Further details available in Oct/Nov by email. Send contact details to r.wines@hcn.net.au

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1955

When: Saturday 10 April 2010
Where: The Royal Sydney Golf Club
Time: 11:30am
Cost: TBA
Contact: John Wright rebjohj@netspace.net.au

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1999

When: Saturday 24 October 2009
Where: The Anderson Stuart Courtyard
Time: 5pm
Cost: TBA
Contact: d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au

GRADUATING YEARS OF 1980

When: Saturday 1st May 2010
Where: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney
Time: 6pm
Cost: TBA
Contact: d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au

GRADUATING YEAR OF 1964

When: Saturday 24 October 2009
Where: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney
Time: 6:30 pm
Cost: \$130
Contact: d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au