

# reunion reports

1946



1946

The 1946 Graduates 65th year Medical Alumni Reunion Lunch took place in the Anderson Stuart Graduates Room, 23rd September 2011.

The beautiful Gothic building "The Old Medical School" was shining brightly in the warm spring sunshine. Twenty one graduates together with their partners making thirty two, joined for drinks and canapes in the Anderson Stuart Courtyard. Most of us had not visited the building since our preclinical years which commenced in 1941. It was a very special occasion and we were delighted to visit the Dissecting Room and the Wilson Museum with its world class prosections, including some from the members of our year.

We were joined at lunch by the Dean, Professor Bruce Robinson. After a welcome by Jack Blackman, Professor Robinson outlined the changes and diversity of the medical curriculum and spoke with great passion and understanding of the medical students' conditions and opportunities of today.

During lunch, Peter Rogers spoke of our special year, the many awards and those who distinguished themselves both within and outside the profession. He spoke of our gratitude to our teachers, especially Professor Harold Dew. He also mentioned Ruth Godden, the Editor and the Editorial Committee of our Senior Year Book. We then drank a toast to "absent friends."

There was a fine display listing those still with us, and those who have died since our previous reunion together with letters from those unable to attend, other apologies and pictures of our preclinical teachers.

Alan Young pointed out that 37% of our year are alive, quite a remarkable figure. He also thought that the 65 years of combined wisdom and experience of our group should be used in a positive fashion to complement the incredible progress in medical knowledge over this time.

Ewen Sussman spoke of the great contribution of Cath Nicholson (Hamlin) in her work with fistula patients both in the ground-breaking operations at "The Hospital by the River" in Ethiopia and her counselling skills with patients.

The great enjoyment of this occasion made for a lot of happy chatter although sometimes it was difficult for all to hear the jokes and anecdotes.

Nev Newman told some stories as did Kev White. Joy Tibbetts (Parry) was in good form, John Austin, John Allsop, Thea Robilliard, Don Dunlop, Roger Davidson and Grosvenor Burfitt-Williams also contributed to the occasion. Bill Gilmour from Perth had to cancel at the last minute and sent his best wishes.

We all felt this was a very special nostalgic occasion. Victor Bear, our financial manager, Roger Davidson, Alan Young, and I had many meetings with the Medical Alumni Association and would like them for their support. Our thanks also go to the University for allowing us to use such a memorable venue.

*Jack Blackman*

1947

A luncheon meeting at the Royal Automobile Club on 24th September 2011 hosted the Class of 47 at its biennial celebration.

Getting together for drinks an hour before lunch, classmates, spouses, partners and guests seemed to lose their sense of time as past memories, incidents and experiences set the scene for an enjoyable lunch. This has been the low-key pattern of 47, with conversation, discussion and laughter through lunch and later.

There were, as usual, no formal speeches, Kevin Byrne and Peter Crowe our meticulous Convenors made the special announcements and noted the unhappy roll of deaths, which unfortunately we have come to expect as a continuing reality.

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Twenty three members of the class sat down to luncheon, there were twenty three apologies and members welcomed five widows of deceased members as guests. While the average age is eighty seven, we still have a strong representation and strong friendships remain.

Those present were pleased to hear again from the Class of '47 Poet, Len Green. His views on Medical Meetings, was both amusing and interesting.

June Fitzhenry treated all present to two choral items; one immortalizes Jim Egan and the other will assure that the Class of 47 remembers "The Wearing of the Green".

Future meetings were discussed and it was decided that time, tide and level of remaining interest would be reviewed within the next two years and a decision taken.

Peter Crowe and Kevin Byrne the long term Convenors were given full thanks for having us come together to make our sixty fourth Reunion so meaningful & so enjoyable.

The Class of '47 has made a donation to The Medical Benevolent Fund.

1961

On Sunday August 28th 2011 seventy-five alumni from the graduating Class of 1961 gathered for our 50 year Reunion at the Australian Golf Club in Sydney. Graduates came from far afield, Don Wilson making his usual pilgrimage from California and others came from Western Australia, Victoria, ACT, Queensland as well as rural New South Wales. Over the preceding months Bryan Yeo had compiled a booklet with photographs and a brief resume from those on our mailing list and had posted these out prior to the meeting, thus making it much easier to recognise colleagues and to hear of their activities. Many were still working, both part-time and full-time, some had retired and followed a different career path



and some had retired into leisure activities in which family and grandchildren figured prominently.

After prelaunch drinks in the function rooms, with their floor to ceiling glass windows affording panoramic views of the magnificent Australian Golf Course layout, the group was marshalled outside for the traditional group photo and then enjoyed a superb buffet luncheon, complimented with fine wines. Mal Stuart carried on his traditional role of Emcee at these Reunions and kept the group in order and the proceedings according to schedule.

It had been decided that this was to be a very informal gathering with plenty of time for get-together and reminiscing, and in keeping with this there were two brief toasts at the beginning of the luncheon, one to the University and then to "absent friends". The passing of several of our colleagues since the last Reunion was noted as was the fact that distance and, in some cases infirmity, prevented many from overseas from joining us. We hope to see them at the 55th.

During the luncheon Susi Freeman proposed a toast to the group, mentioning some experiences (that she "survived") over the years that would have been common to many of us, and Frank Stening then responded on behalf of the group with some very well chosen and appropriate comments. He concluded by suggesting that there were undoubtedly many experiences in the group that should be compiled and possibly published. As yet there have been no volunteers for this task!

At the conclusion of the luncheon we continued to mingle in small groups, looking both backward and forward, and with that in mind it was announced that Rob McGuinness would be the convener of the 55 Year Reunion in 2016.

*David Brender*



#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1992

When: Saturday 25 February 2012  
Where: The Great Hall – University of Sydney  
Time: 6.30pm  
Contact: John - drjfk@bigpond.com  
Silvia: Angusandsilvia@optusnet.com.au

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1962

When: Saturday 10 March 2012  
Contact: Barbara Slater bblslate@bigpond.net.au or  
Shailendra Sinha sinhasklw@gmail.com

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1950

When: Tuesday 13 March 2012 Time: 12pm  
Where: Concord Golf Club  
Contact: Brian Pollard bpoll79@bigpond.net.au

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1967

When: Saturday 17 March 2012 Time: 6.30pm  
Where: Crowne Plaza Coogee (NB Rooms have been reserved in the hotel and can be booked separately)  
Cost: TBC  
Contact: Steve Andersen stea@ozemail.com.au

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1952

When: Friday 23 March 2012  
Time: 12pm  
Where: Holme Building, The University of Sydney  
Contact: Monica Bullen monicabullen@bigpond.com

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1955

When: Saturday 21 April 2012  
Time: 11.30am – 3.30pm  
Where: The Royal Sydney Golf Club  
Contact: John Wright rebjohj@netspace.net.au

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1972

When: Weekend of Saturday 29 September 2012  
Where: Canberra Time: 7pm  
Contact: Harry Merkur - hmerkur@bigpond.net.au

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1977

When: Saturday 3 November 2012  
Venue: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney  
Contact: Tony Joseph tjoseph@med.usyd.edu.au

#### GRADUATING YEAR OF 1973

When: Saturday 6 April 2013 Time: Dinner  
Where: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney  
Contact: Phil Cocks pcocks@ozemail.com.au

Does your graduating year have an important anniversary in 2011-2012? Let us help you contact your fellow graduates, issue invitations and promote your event. Please contact your alumni reunion manager, Diana Lovegrove, on 02 9114 1163 or by email at [diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au](mailto:diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au).