



# St Vincent's Hospital Medical Alumni Association

## Welcome to the Winter 2018 e-newsletter of your association

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## **Please help us**

We have over a thousand alumni on our membership list for who we need email addresses. Some of these people are likely to be your friends and colleagues. Please do us a big favour by taking a few moments to pass this newsletter on to medical friends and suggest that they provide their email address to Sue Mabilia ([Susan.MABILIA@svha.org.au](mailto:Susan.MABILIA@svha.org.au)). Alternatively, if anyone is unsure about their membership, they can register with the Association on our web site at <http://stvincentsmedicalalumni.org.au/> Membership of the Association is free!

## **New President for the Alumni Association**

At the Association's Annual General Meeting in late February 2018, Dr Kerry Breen stepped down after eight years of service as President and in his place Dr Bernadette Hickey was elected. A Monash graduate, Dr Hickey is a physician trained in respiratory medicine and intensive care medicine and has been on the Senior Medical Staff in the ICU at St Vincent's Hospital since 1997. In 2015-2017 she served as Chairman of the Senior Medical Staff Association. She has played a number of other roles at St Vincent's Public Hospital and at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

## **Annual Cocktail Party and Historical Talk 2018**

Members of the Association are asked to note that the topic for the 2018 History Talk will be "John Cade: a notable physician-psychiatrist who used words well". The talk will be given by Dr Ann Westmore, co-author of the 2016 biography of Dr John Cade entitled "Finding Sanity, John Cade, lithium and the taming of bipolar disorder" published Allen & Unwin. The date for the talk and cocktail party is Sunday, July 29th 2018, from 4.30 pm. For more information and to register please contact Sue Mabilia ([Susan.MABILIA@svha.org.au](mailto:Susan.MABILIA@svha.org.au) or tel. 9231 2304).

## **Medical Alumni Association Annual Golf Day, 2018**

The St Vincent's Medical Alumni Association golf day was held in beautiful conditions on Friday 23 March. Numbers were up, with a field of 44 players, including 5 junior medical staff. The residents and registrars represent the future of this long-standing event, so we will continue to try to encourage their involvement. The Green Acres course was in great condition, and, as always, their staff looked after us very well both pre- and post-golf.

Congratulations to cardiac surgeon Michael Yii who won the individual Stableford competition with 41 points. Last year's winner, Michael Westmore, had kindly had the perpetual trophy polished, so it should make a fine addition to Mr Yii's mantelpiece for the next year. Aside from fame and glory, Michael also won a ClicGear golf cart. The runner-up was anaesthetist Andrew Wyss (on a count-back from retired gastroenterologist Kerry Breen) on 37 points.

The team competition was won by anaesthetists David Olive and Andrew Wyss, RMO Noni Harold and Peter Coleman from 3-Point Motors Mercedes who, between them, amassed 95 points.

The nearest-the-pin on the 9th was won by colorectal surgeon Jamie Keck, who took home a nice bottle of wine donated by DPM Financial Services. The NTP on the 11th was won by radiologist David Pryde, who won a "drive experience" at Sandown Racecourse, donated by 3-Point Motors Mercedes. The Straight Drive was won by cardiologist Nim Nadarajah who unleashed a 200m+ drive into a stiff wind that ended up only 6 inches off the line down the centre of the fairway. A business card draw sponsored by DPM was won by retired intensivist Ray Lanteri, who won a Garmin TruSwing analyser. We look forward to seeing the results of this trial when we collectively analyse Ray's swing next year.

As in past years, St. Vincent's administrative assistant Sue Mabilia was instrumental in the organising of the day, and our heartfelt thanks go out to her.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to our sponsors who allow us to offer complementary registration to junior doctors, as well as subsidising all other players. Our sponsors were Doquile Perrett Meade (DPM) Financial Services, St. Vincent's Pathology, 3-Point Motors Mercedes and Zouki Catering.

This wonderful historic day has been an annual fixture on the St. Vincent's Alumni calendar since 1935, aside from a few years during World War 11. We encourage all St. Vincent's medical alumni to come along. There is nothing like personal communication to engender interest, so we implore all players from this year's event to contact old friends and colleagues to get them along. In 2019, the golf day has been pencilled in for Friday 22 March. See you then, I hope!

**David Olive, Convenor**

### **Queen's Birthday Honours**

We congratulate the following St Vincent's Hospital Medical Alumni who were awarded Australian honours on Queen's Birthday, June 11, 2018:

**Professor Frank John VAJDA AO**

For distinguished service to medical education in the field of clinical pharmacology and the genetics of epilepsy, and to the promotion of humanitarian values.

**Dr John Charles HIBBERD AM**

For significant service to the performing arts through advisory roles, to theatre as a playwright, and through contributions to Australian cultural life.

### **Dr Paul Vincent DESMOND AM**

For significant service to medicine in the field of gastroenterology as a senior clinician and researcher, and to professional associations.

### **Dr Terence Francis AHERN OAM**

For service to medicine, particularly in the field of general practice.

### **Professor Margaret Rosemary ZACHARIN OAM**

For service to medicine, particularly to paediatric endocrinology.

In addition, the editor apologises for the omission in our last newsletter of the following award announced on Australia Day, 2018:

### **Professor Suzanne GARLAND AO**

For distinguished service to medicine in the field of clinical microbiology, particularly to infectious diseases in reproductive and neonatal health as a physician, administrator, researcher and author, and to professional medical organisations.

## **Obituary**

### **Dr James (Jim) Shaw MBBS, FRACS**

22/11/1931 – 21/11/2017

Jim Shaw was the principal thyroid surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital from the 1970's to the mid 1990's. He is remembered as a true gentleman with a cheeky wit, a methodical and careful surgeon, and a clear thinker.

There was tragedy early in Jim's life. When he was 4, his only sibling, Jack, aged 9, died from an accidental spearing. Jim was educated first at Catholic schools in South Melbourne and Clifton Hill but at the age of 13 was sent to board at St Patrick's College Ballarat where he excelled academically and had success in athletics, cricket and football. At school, he was introduced to model aircraft construction, a hobby that became an important pastime.

In 1950 Jim enrolled to study medicine at Melbourne University. Summer vacations were spent doing hard physical work at the South Melbourne Gas Works. Third year medicine was a challenge with too much time spent in the billiard room and the pub. The result was that he won the University Billiards Championship but failed third year. While Jim was repeating third year, his father aged only 57 died. Jim came to St Vincent's Clinical School in 1954, graduated in 1956 and began as a junior resident medical officer at St Vincent's in 1957, working under consultants including John Horan, Kevin Rush, Fred Connaughton and Jim McCoy.



*(Photograph provided by the St Vincent's Archives and Heritage Centre)*

In his second year as a resident, Jim developed tuberculosis and spent six months in Gresswell Sanatorium. On discharge early in 1959, he was advised to get a quiet 9 to 5 job so he joined the School Medical Service, a part of the Health Department of Victoria. However he really wanted to be a surgeon so in 1961 he returned to St. Vincent's as a surgical registrar. In the following year, he worked as a senior demonstrator in the Anatomy Department at the University of Melbourne. During that year he passed the first part FRACS exam and the first part Master of Surgery exam.

In 1963 he returned to St. Vincent's to complete surgical training and to sit for and pass the second part FRACS exam, working in Fred Connaughton's unit and then in John Clarebrough's thoracic surgical unit for 10 months. It was Fred Connaughton who advised Jim to think about specialising in thyroid surgery. Jim had enormous respect for Fred Connaughton and was delighted years later to be asked to undertake an elective cholecystectomy when Connaughton developed gallstones. The operation went well.

In 1964 Jim travelled to the UK with his wife, Gabrielle (née Duggan) and two young sons. There he worked first at St. George's Hospital in London under Victor Riddell, a thyroid specialist, and then at the Hillingdon Hospital with Gordon Duncan, who had a particular interest in surgery for peptic ulcer. The family returned to Melbourne in 1967 with Jim acting as the ship's doctor on the Fairsea, then used primarily for transporting migrants.

Back at St Vincent's, his initial appointments were as Casualty Surgeon and as Clinical Assistant in the University Department of Surgery working with Professor Dick Bennett and John Doyle. In 1968, he was made Assistant Outpatient Surgeon in Fred Connaughton's General Surgical Unit. He retained his links with the University Department of Surgery, being appointed as an Associate Surgeon and later a Senior Associate Surgeon. In 1970, he was invited by Professor Leslie Ray, Head of Anatomy at the University of Melbourne to take on

the position of part-time lecturer in the Department, a role he continued until 1974. In 1972, Jim was promoted to Surgeon to Outpatients at St Vincent's and continued in this role until taking over as head of the Unit in 1996. Although practising also as a general surgeon, Jim concentrated on thyroid surgery, working closely with endocrinologists, Don Chisolm and Frank Alford. By the 1980s he was performing the majority of the thyroid and parathyroid surgery at St Vincent's Hospital.

After his retirement from his surgical appointment at St Vincent's, Jim continued to serve the hospital through chairing the Human Research Ethics Committee, the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee and the Research Grants Committee. When he finally retired from these committees, he had completed an association with St. Vincent's Hospital that spanned 50 years.

Outside medicine, Jim's great love was the Hawthorn Football Club. In 1969 Jim was asked by the club president, Phil Ryan, to join the club's medical team. He remembered coach John Kennedy as "a remarkable man, an unforgettable character. He never wished to influence any of the medical team's decisions regarding the fitness of any of the players." He left Hawthorn in 1983 (a premiership year) to become the medical officer to the Kew Amateurs where his two sons were playing. Jim Shaw leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Gabrielle, his sons, Michael and Paul, and five grandchildren.

*Contributed by Dr Stephen Farrell, an endocrine surgeon who has followed in Jim Shaw's footsteps. He holds appointments at St Vincent's Hospital and at the Austin Hospital .*

The Association notes with regret the death of **Dr Henry (Harry) V Crock AO,MD, MS,FRCS,FRACS** on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 2018. An obituary will appear in our next newsletter.

## **Book review\***

### **"Diamonds and Stones in an Era of Gold" by Dr Brian T Collopy**

*Published by Glass House Books, Brisbane, 2018. ISBN 978192523165 (paperback, \$33), 9781925231663 (eBook, \$17). Available through Readings or <http://bit.ly/IPStoreDS>*

*Reviewed by Dr John Gurry*

Brian Collopy is well known to St. Vincent's medical alumni as a former Director of the Department of Colo-Rectal Surgery at St. Vincent's Public Hospital, Melbourne. He has also had a long standing interest in the assessment of quality of care, was President of the Australian Council on Health Care Standards, and played a very important role in developing clinical performance measures, measures of surgical outcomes, and assessment of patient safety.

He has written a very interesting and entertaining account of the life and times of James Beaney, a surgeon practising in Melbourne during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when as a result of the Gold Rush and the Land Boom, the city became known as “Marvellous Melbourne”. He became a very wealthy man and a considerable philanthropist, leaving bequests when he died in 1891 to, among others, the University of Melbourne, where until recently a Beaney Prize was awarded to the top student in Surgery in Final Year, and to the top student in Pathology. There is now an award in his name to an outstanding surgical research graduate.

Born in England in 1828, James Beaney first visited Melbourne for a short stay in 1852. After completing his medical studies, he gained his Edinburgh Fellowship in surgery. Returning to Melbourne in 1858, he was first elected to the Melbourne Hospital as a Consultant Surgeon in 1860, and for a second time in 1875, a decade after losing the initial position. Of interest is the method of appointment to the Melbourne Hospital at that time when surgeons were elected to the post by the votes of subscribers to the hospital, in much the same way as politicians are elected to a seat in Parliament.

Collopy’s description of Melbourne at that time is both interesting and informative, contrasting the fine buildings and parks with the lack or inadequate disposal of sewage. He further paints a word picture of Melbourne at the time with vignettes of prominent Victorians and visitors to the city together with their comments on life at the time.

Beaney was known as “Diamond Jim” or “Champagne Jimmy” in reference to the jewellery he wore and the life he led. During his surgical career he was involved in a number of legal cases; one of the most notable concerned the death of a patient following the removal of a very large bladder stone. He was accused of negligence and faced a possible charge of manslaughter. Just over half the book is devoted to this inquest in 1875 with an excellent reconstruction of the proceedings in the Coroner’s Court, and in particular the role of Beaney’s defence council, James Purves. Purves was clearly an advocate of considerable ability, being able in a very short time to grasp the intricacies, risks, surgical techniques and options, and complications of the operation of lithotomy.

This book is a very easy read and a most enjoyable account of one of the early and more colourful surgeons in the colony of Victoria during that very interesting era in Melbourne’s history, encompassing as it does the Gold Rush, and the Land Boom and Bust. The book can be strongly recommended: altogether a very entertaining and good read.

*John Gurry is a St Vincent’s Hospital alumnus who is a past Head of the Vascular Surgery Unit at St Vincent’s and a past Chairman of the Board of St Vincent’s Health.*

*\*Our policy is to publish reviews of books written by members of the Alumni Association. We can only review books that we know about.*

## **From the Archives**

### **Fifty years ago\***

In 1968, St Vincent's Hospital had been in existence for seventy-five years. At that point, the hospital was continuing to see the benefits of the building of the Daly Wing and the progressive opening of its new wards during 1960 and 1961. The Daly Wing development doubled the size of the hospital, taking it from 260 to over 500 beds. The hospital was also benefitting from having university departments of medicine (opened in 1957) and surgery (opened in 1965). In 1968, Carl de Gruchy was in his sixth year as Professor of Medicine and his department occupied the entire fourth floor of the Daly wing. This included two wards each of twenty beds and ample office and laboratory space. Dick Bennett, the Foundation Professor of Surgery, was in his third year as head of department and had a ward one floor below. The hospital in 1968 employed 27 junior resident medical officers (JRMOs, later called interns and now HMO1s) one of whom was Marc Feldman, now Professor Sir Marc Feldmann AC, who spent three months on rotation in de Gruchy's medical wards. Also part of that new cohort of St Vincent's medical alumni were Professor Wayne Morrison, Dr Peter Stanley and the late Mr Jack Mackay. The Director of Medical Services (then called the Medical Superintendent) was Dr Bill Keane who served in that role from 1947 to 1982. St Vincent's was run by the Mother Rectress, assisted by a Medical Advisory Council: incorporation with a Board of Directors and a CEO was three decades in the future.

Although specialist surgical units with beds had existed for orthopaedics since 1934 and neurosurgery since 1936, the vast majority of inpatients in 1968 were cared for by six general medical units and six general surgical units. The senior staff of each medical and surgical unit were three in number, all honorary appointees: an inpatient physician or surgeon, an outpatient physician or surgeon and an assistant outpatient physician or surgeon in a rigid hierarchy. Outpatient physicians worked in outpatients, other than when the inpatient physician took leave. Inpatient and outpatient physicians were only expected to attend the hospital on two half days a week. Another rigid rule involved the pairing of inpatient medical and surgical units such that if a surgical consultation was required, the request had to be sent to the matching surgical unit (and vice versa if a surgical patient needed a medical opinion). As most of the inpatient general physicians and general surgeons by then had a special interest with additional skills, this was a recipe for a less than optimal standard of care in many instances.

There were the beginnings of medical specialisation with the allocation of inpatients beds. A small intensive care unit had been opened in 1962. A cardiac investigation unit, required particularly to support the practice of open heart surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass

which Mr John Clarebrough had pioneered from 1963, was established in 1965 with a full time salaried cardiologist, Dr Ian McDonald. The cardiac investigation unit had no beds but in 1967, a three bed coronary care unit was opened in a ward made available by Carl de Gruchy. Other medical specialties including gastroenterology, respiratory medicine and rheumatology had to wait a few more years before they were allocated beds and were staffed on a paid sessional or full time basis. Later specialties that emerged including oncology, infectious diseases and clinical immunology were not on St Vincent's horizon in 1968. Some medical specialties including dermatology, rheumatology and diabetes did have a presence in outpatients and referrals from the general medical outpatients clinics became a common practice. First and second year resident doctors helped to staff both general and specialist outpatient clinics, resulting at times in unusual experiences for patients who were referred from a general clinic to see a "specialist". Junior doctor rotations were usually of three months and it sometimes happened that the referred patient, on attending the specialist clinic, was surprised to be greeted by the very same doctor who had made the referral!

Most medical patients were admitted urgently via the Casualty Department (now the Emergency Department). Each medical unit had a day per week taking these admissions. When very busy, a junior resident might have patients spread among wards all over the two wings of the hospital, even overflowing into surgical wards. Inpatient physician ward rounds were held twice a week, and occupied most of half a day. Medical students accompanied the round, usually observing without receiving formal instruction. For most medical units, this was the only contact that junior medical staff had with their inpatient honorary physician as it was not an accepted practice to telephone an inpatient physician for advice or direction between ward rounds.

Post-graduate educational activities within the hospital were minimal. The Senior Medical Staff Association held quarterly evening clinical meetings with three topics presented by physicians and surgeons. The Medical Graduates Association (now the Medical Alumni Association) organised an annual "back to St Vincent's" or postgraduate educational week. These were funded through registration fees as this was a time before pharmaceutical companies became heavily involved in offering support. Medical grand rounds were not established until 1967. Regular educational meetings of individual hospital units were not held but commencing in the early 1960s in a small number of emerging specialties, joint clinical meetings of physicians and surgeons were held on a weekly basis, notably in cardiology and in gastroenterology. There was no formal preparation offered for junior medical staff planning to sit College examinations; this did not begin until the late 1970s. It was a different world to the St Vincent's of 2018.

*\*Some of the information in this article is drawn from "Ways of a Hospital: St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne 1890s – 1990s" by Dr Bryan Egan, published by Allen & Unwin in 1993.*

## News from St Vincent's Hospital

This year, St Vincent's Hospital is celebrating 125 years of service to the community. Information about the various activities planned for the celebration can be found at <https://www.svhm.org.au/125years>. General hospital news is available on the St Vincent's website <https://www.svhm.org.au/>.

***PS If you have read this far, please don't forget to send this newsletter to a colleague and tell that person about free membership of the Association as well as about our website (<http://stvincentsmedicalalumni.org.au/wp/>).***

