

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 111

**THE NORTHERN FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
EVENTIDE HOME SOCIETY COLLECTION**

Nursing Homes, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

THE RECORDS

- 1. Minutes of Meetings*
- 2. Historical Records Book*

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Florence Nightingale Eventide Home Society had its origins in a meeting of combined nursing organisations and other trained nurses of Northern Tasmania at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Nurses' Home on 30 July 1957. The meeting decided that it was necessary to have a home for aged and incapacitated nurses in Northern Tasmania. A provisional committee was set up comprising 12 members, representing the LGH Ex-Trainees Association, College of Nursing Australia, Returned Sisters Association and Royal Australian Nursing Federation. At the first committee meeting held on 10 September 1957, the name for the proposed home was chosen to be The Florence Nightingale Eventide Home and in December 'Northern' was added to the home's name to avoid confusion with the south of the state. A constitution was compiled and copies handed to committee members in February 1959. At the first annual meeting on 17 August 1959, Dr John Morris spoke on care of the aged in the community. In financial statements and annual reports over the years, the word 'Home' and 'Homes' was variously used in the society's name.

The committee was vigorous with its fund raising activities and in 1966 the society was able to purchase two cottages from the Ainslie House Association at South Launceston. However it was concerned that chronically sick nurses under the age of 60 were not eligible to be admitted to this accommodation and during that year the society offered to help sick members to remain in their own homes as long as possible. The two cottages were occupied at the end of 1967, a third cottage was obtained in 1969 and a fourth in 1973. Florence Nightingale plaques were affixed to the cottages. Occupants were visited by committee members from time to time, various items of equipment, such as a television set and a new refrigerator, were supplied and improvements made to the units over the years. Retired nurses at home and in hospital were visited at Christmas time with gifts and cards.

An additional unit was acquired in 1978 and another in 1983. When the society was unable to find a tenant for one of the units in 1996, it was handed back to the Ainslie House Association Board, leaving the society with five units. In 2000 there was nobody on the waiting list, therefore two units were handed back to the Ainslie Association. By 2006 only two tenants remained.

In 1992 a sponsorship donation was made to St Luke's Anglican Church in Australia Association at "The Manor", Kings Meadows, where a sun/lounge room was named in honour of the society.

In 2007 the seven remaining members agreed that the organisation be wound up and all remaining funds donated to the University of Tasmania School of Nursing as a trust fund to be named The Northern Florence Nightingale Association Bursary for first year student nurses.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in August 2007.

1.Minutes of Meetings

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| 1/1 | Minute book of committee and annual meetings, 30 July 1957-16 August 1966. Pasted at the front: Florence Nightingale Eventide Home Constitution [1959] and By-Laws [1959] | 1957-1966 |
| 1/2 | Minute book of committee and annual meetings, 16 August 1966-20 February 1979 (includes waiting list and notes re cottage occupants to 1995 at end of book) | 1966-1979 |
| 1/3 | Minute book of committee and annual meetings, 21 August 1979-2 May 2007 | 1979-2007 |

2.Historical Records Book

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| 2/1 | 'The Northern Florence Nightingale Eventide Home Society' historical record book donated to the Society by Miss J M Ray, S.R.N., Assistant Matron L.G.H., November 1962 (includes the first annual report and a number of annual reports not included in the minute books, financial statements, constitution and by-laws, photographs and newspaper cuttings) | 1959-2006 |
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