

A History of the Mary Latimore Study Scholarship.

(Compiled from information located in Pat Walls' archives and with contribution from Ros Probert and Elaine Lambie, January 2022)

In memory of Mary Latimore, the Queensland Branch of the AASTN offers an annual scholarship to assist with the costs of a Queensland Registered Nurse undertaking a recognised Stomal Therapy Nursing Education Program.

Mary's husband, Ray Latimore, donated \$500 in 2000 to promote Stomal Therapy Nursing Education. The Queensland branch committee elected to continue funding this initiative in subsequent years as a scholarship in Mary's name.

The following excerpt celebrating Mary's retirement is from the *Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia*, December 1999, written by Stomal Therapy Nurse Val Wright (Royal Brisbane Hospital)

Mary Latimore completed her general nursing training at the Ipswich Hospital in Queensland in 1961, and then midwifery at the King George V Hospital in Sydney. She remained in Sydney until 1973. When she returned to Ipswich, she married Ray and settled down to work in the Ipswich Hospital's accident and emergency department for almost 7 years (she was nicknamed 'Go-fer' for the manner in which she delegated duties!). In 1981 Mary branched out and joined the Blue Nursing Service. During this period of community nursing, she decided she needed greater expertise, to better support some of her patients (those who required more specialised care). It was this that prompted her, in 1985, to do her stomal therapy training course, co-ordinated by Pat Blackley at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. Having successfully completed the course she was welcomed back to the Ipswich Blue Nursing Service as "Our Stomal therapist".

In 1991 Mary went to the USA with the Australian/American Nurses Exchange Program. The trip included visits to Washington DC and South Carolina, with Mary presenting papers on her role as a domiciliary nurse to staff at Greenwood University and the Spartanburg Hospital.

Highlights of Mary's career include her trip to Jerusalem for the World Council of Enterostomal Therapy conference,

where her poster presentation was recognised by her peers. Mary filled many roles between 1981 and 1997; those of field nurse, supervisor and clinical nurse consultant and she also started the Ipswich stoma support group. In 1997 Mary left the Blue Nursing Service for the Department of Community Services, as the community liaison nurse for the Ipswich Hospital. She retired from nursing in 1999.

Over all this time Mary has driven many miles to come to Brisbane and attend AASTN branch meetings as often as possible. She has presented some memorable case histories and wonderful slides at our seminar days and we are missing her lively presence already. We wish her a very happy and contented retirement.

An Obituary notice was reported in the *Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia*, September 2000.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Mary Latimore on July 6th after a battle with cancer during the last year of her life. Mary's clinical judgement was held in high regard and her advice was often sought by her peers. Her wonderful sense of humour endeared her to those fortunate enough to know her.

RIP Mary.



Mary Latimore (1940 - 2000)

Scholarship Recipients:

(Records of the early recipients are unavailable and so this list is potentially incomplete)

- 2002 Helleen Purdy and Marion Strong
- 2005 Lucy Daniels (St Luke's Community Services, Southside, Brisbane)
- 2007 Colleen Pope (Wesley Hospital, Brisbane)
- 2008 Louise Walker (Mater Private Hospital, Brisbane)
- 2009 Kara Tornay (Gold Coast)
- 2010 Nil applicants
- 2011 Phil Geldard
- 2012 Nil applicants
- 2013 Nil applicants
- 2014 Erin Koenig (Wesley Hospital)
- 2015 Nil applicants
- 2016 Andrea Melling (Logan Hospital)
- 2016 Serena Louis (Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital)
- 2017 Lucy Schmiede (Princess Alexandra Hospital)
- 2018 Pamila Finch and Roshny Poomangalam (Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital)
- 2019 Cherie Phipps (Princess Alexandra Hospital)
- 2020 Nil applicants
- 2021 Melissa McInnes (Logan Hospital) and Tracey Aldis (Logan Hospital)