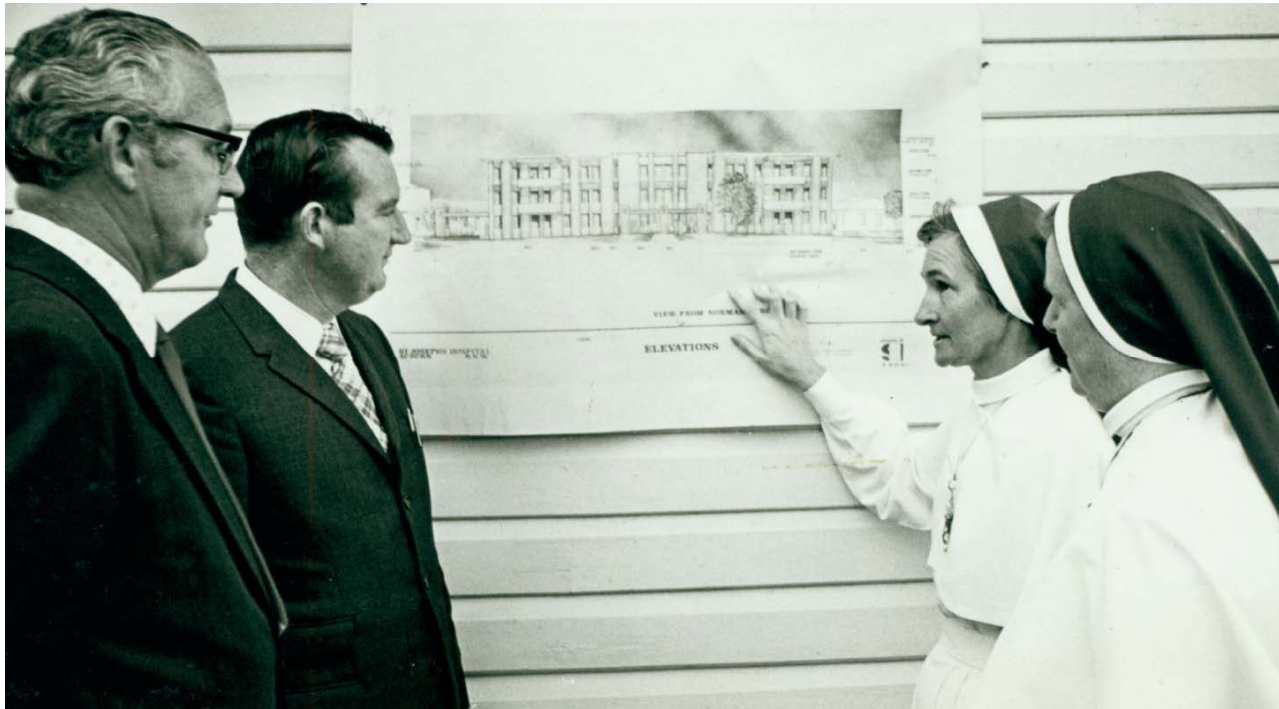


# Nuns at Work Celebrating 175 Years of the Sisters of Charity



# St Joseph's Hospital 1974

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Mother Rectress of St Joseph's Hospital Auburn, Sister Nola Riley indicates features of the projected new hospital wing to Mr Cox, Ald T.H. Keegan, Mayor of Auburn, and Sister Mary Freeman, assistant to the Superior General of the Sisters of Charity Order. After nearly thirty years of protracted negotiations the State Government had finally given approval to build a modern three storey hospital.

# Babworth House Tennis Party

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Babworth House, Darling Point was given to the Sisters of Charity as an after care unit. The tennis court in the grounds became available for the Sisters' recreation. This tennis party in January 1968 included the luxury of Devonshire tea.  
(Sister Anthea Groves RSC)

# St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney

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The beautiful stained glass windows of the Chapel in the Private Hospital frame Sisters Marie Therese Hesse and Leo Jones who lived and worked there in 1990. Not long afterwards the Sisters moved out of the small convent in the Private Hospital to make more room for patients and staff.



# Karl Kulper Memorial

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Sisters Anthea Groves and Jacinta Fong hold a bronze plaque erected in the Burton Street bus shelter beside St Vincent's Hospital to provide a permanent memorial to a unique man. For 25 years, Karl Kulper lived in the shelter, becoming a local icon. A proud man he preferred his unorthodox and independent lifestyle but the staff of the hospital and Sisters of Charity kept an unobtrusive eye on his welfare. When in 2002 he died tributes poured in and his memorial service was held at the bus shelter.

# Garvan Birthday

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In 2013 the Garvan Institute celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday and held a celebratory morning tea for the Sisters of Charity. The Sisters with Professors John Mattick and Leslie Lazarus (rear).

# Garvan Institute

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In 1963 the Garvan Institute opened in a purpose built facility adjacent to the hospital. Dr John Hickie, cardiologist and Sister Martin de Porres (Helen Rooke) in one of the studies which provided facilities for planning, review and correlation of data.



# Hospital Kitchens

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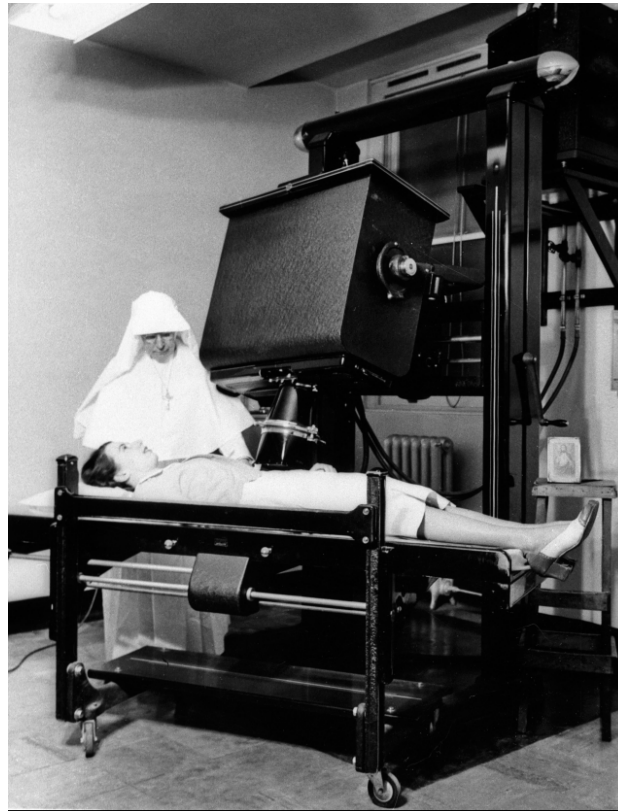


Hospital Kitchens – c.1953



# Technology

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As medical technology became more sophisticated the Sisters developed new areas of expertise. An x-ray machine was installed in 1905, a Radium Department established in 1913, followed by a Department of Radiotherapy in 1934 and a Clinical Photography Department in 1948.

# Nuns Run to Dubbo

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Harking back to the Sister's past as a 'walking ministry', in 2009 a dozen nuns led by Sisters Helen Clarke and Leone Wittmack embarked on a 400 km, 13-day walk from Dubbo to Darlinghurst raising more than \$200,00 for the Kinghorn Centre, a joint facility of the Garvan Institute and St Vincent's Hospital.

# Celebrations

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Sisters Trish McCarthy, Anthea Groves, and Margaret O'Brien serving breakfast to staff and visitors outside the Hospital on St Patrick's Day 1999, the menu included green sausages and muffins.

# Compassionate Care

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A Sister assists a patient in the Sacred Heart Hospice



# Sisters of Charity, St Vincent's Convent 1984

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Sisters of Charity gathered on the steps of the Convent for a last photo before it was demolished to make way for the Xavier building. From the top L to R: Sisters Noel Condén, Casimir Baptist, Antonius Keefe, Therese Kent, Mary Cooke, Ligouri Main, Teresa Kenny, Constance Barry, Carol Pedersen, Margaret Mines, Patricia Regan, Regis Burke, Anne Mary Reynolds, Ignatius Jenkins, Annette O'Connor, Consolata Cornell, Basil Hyland, Sesarina Bau, Margaret Lee, Claire Nolan.

## Sisters of Charity of St Vincent's Hospital with Mother Francis McGuigan, Mother Superior in 1895

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This small group of Sisters of Charity included not only the current Mother Rectresses of St Vincent's Hospital, Mother Xavier Cunningham and the Sacred Heart Hospice, Mother Cecilia Bruton, but another six women who in the future were to serve as Rectresses of St Vincent's Hospital, St Joseph's Hospital Auburn and the Sacred Heart Hospice.

**Front:** left to right: Sisters Aloysius Murphy, Gabriel Burke, Francis McGuigan, Xavier Cunningham, Gonzaga Russell and Ignatius D'Arcy

**Middle:** left to right: Sisters Fidelus Hogan, Margaret Ennis, Dominic Poppenhagen, Brendan Lynch, de Sales Cleary, Leonard O'Beirne, Cecilia Bruton and Agnes Shortall

**Back:** left to right: Sisters Rodriguez Jones, Clement Stapleton, Gertrude Healy, Frances Teresa Lockington, Laurentia Jaguers, Alexis O'Gorman, Fachnan Sheehy and Benedict O'Brien



# Preliminary Training School

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Student nurses from the 1965 Preliminary Training School outside the Xavier Nurses home with Mother Rectress, Bernice Elphick (centre front row). A new school for nursing had just opened on the top floor of Notre Dame Nurses Home and in December 1965 there were 422 student nurses in training.



## Sisters of Charity working in the Sacred Heart Hospice

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Sisters Del Cotrell-Dormer, Victoire Pearson, Regina Jones and Padua Hughes (c.1990)



# St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney

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Sisters Annette O'Connor and Brigid Hussey, Director of Nursing oversee the comfort of a patient in the newly opened St Vincent's Private Hospital. Making the bed is Sister Liz Griffith.

## Small Side Ward

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1953 – Photographer: Max Dupain

# Nightingale Ward

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1953 – Photographer: Max Dupain

# Sacred Heart Hospice

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Sister Liguori Main reading the instructions to Mother Dorothea Devine, when they first received pagers for use in the Sacred Heart Hospice. (1965)



# Accident and Emergency

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Based in the inner city the Casualty Department is always busy. However this is a staged photograph. Sister Luke O'Donoghue, Dr Bernard Carew, Nurse Pam King, Superintendent Dr George Hickman (at the drip), on the table Dr Mark Shanahan. (1957)

# Outreach

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Domiciliary visits enabled elderly patients to remain in their own homes. On this visit in June 1963 Sister Brian Clampett assists podiatrist Kath Delaney.

# A Lifetime of Service

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Sister Vianney Byrne, in the chapel of the convent at Potts Point in 1987 aged 93, on the seventieth anniversary of her profession as a Sister of Charity. A trained nurse she served at most of the Sisters of Charity facilities, but the longest period, 27 years, was at the Sacred Heart Hospice. One of the memorable moments in her long career was chatting to an escapee from Darlinghurst Court Lockup who took refuge in the Hospice, allowing time for the police to arrive. Confined to a wheelchair in her later years she continued to work for the Hospice making handicrafts for sale and undertaking many small administrative tasks.

## Supervising the Wards 1978

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For many years every ward was overseen by a Sister of Charity. Sister Annette O'Connor worked at St Vincent's for over twenty years and at various times had responsibility for Ward 14, the Male Medical Ward and Accident and Emergency. Here Sister O'Connor supervises Nurse Denise Needs.



# Drug & Alcohol Services

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Sister Carol Pedersen began her career as a nurse and was one of the first to work in the Intensive care Unit in 1963. She then decided to become involved in prevention and early intervention, graduating in Social Work in 1974. Sister Carol specialised in Drug and Alcohol services, and is seen here in 1988 conducting outreach in Kings Cross.

## Orthopaedic Ward 1953

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Photographer: Max Dupain c. 1953

# Art Unions

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Watched by Sister Marie Haren, Sister Administrator of St Vincent's Hospital and Dr Maurice Cleary, Chief Executive Officer, Miss Dolly McKelvey, a long time volunteer for the Sisters at Darlington' draws a Little Art Union. Proceeds from the Art Unions enabled the Hospital to fund equipment and facilities beyond the budget.

# Building

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From 1857 the Mother Rectresses of St Vincent's Hospital oversaw a never ending program of building, and expansion. Based largely on faith in God and the support of the general public they achieved extraordinary development. Sister Constance Barry, Dorothea Devine, Mother Rectress and Dr Maurice Cleary signing the contract for the Cameron Wing Bridge. The high level bridge linking the Cameron Wing to all the other hospital buildings was completed in 1975.



## Sisters of Charity working on the St Vincent's Campus 1995

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Front row L to R: Sisters Sesarina Bau, Claire Nolan, Angela Burke.  
Back row L to R: Anthea Groves, Anne Mary Reynolds, Jacinta Fong, St Therese Kent.

# Fundraising

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Sisters Peter Joseph, Leo Jones, Luke Wheeler, Eileen Terrill, and Irene Crockett 'Walking to Save Lives' in the 1978 Walkathon from St Vincent's in Victoria Street to Bronte to raise money for refurbishment of the Cameron Wing.

# Distinguished Visitors

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During her visit to Australia in 1996 Diana, Princess of Wales visited St Vincent's Hospital with the aim of meeting as many cardiac and transplant patients as possible. After her visit, Princess Diana was farewelled by Regional Board Chairman, Mr Peter Joseph, Sister Maria Cunningham and Dr Spratt.

# Friends and Supporters

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Every Christmas, patients at St Vincent's Hospital benefit from the 'present run' by local bikies. Randall Nelson OAM, better known as 'Animal', persuaded Sister Annette Cunliffe, Congregational Leader, to pose with him on his customised motor cycle. (1998)



# The Inaugural Sisters of Charity NSW Health Management Team 1988

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Sisters Margaret Lee, Paulina Pilkington, Patricia Grantham and Maria Cunningham.  
The Health Management Team was introduced in late 1988 to replace individual Sister Administrators and was responsible for all aspects of management at St Vincent's Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospice and St Joseph's Hospital Auburn.

# Accreditation

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Sister Patricia Mary Ryan RSC and Sister Michelle Megson taking part in a mock Accreditation survey observed by Sister Isobel Green, Sister T. Downey, Sister L. Bristow and Sister K. Magee. (1988)

# St Vincent's Clinic

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Sister Bernice Elphick, Sister Administrator of St Vincent's Private Hospital showing Minister for Health, Peter Collins the architectural model for the proposed St Vincent's Clinic in 1989.

# Intensive Care

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The first Intensive Care Unit at St Vincent's 'St Camillus' ward was established in 1963 as a result of the efforts of Dr Brian Dwyer, Director of Anaesthesia and Sister Mary Anthony, Sister in Charge of the operating theatres. Located on Level 5 of the de Lacey building by 1968 when this photo was taken it included an Intensive Care Unit, recovery room and an adjacent Coronary Care Unit.



## Source of Joy

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Sr Victoire Pearce with hospice patient at the Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying in 1967. Sister Victoire's incredible optimism and sense of humour made her 'the main source of joy at the hospice'.

# Training Nurses

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A presentation is made to Sister St Therese Kent by Nurse Rosemary Brosnan, on behalf of the last class of nurses to graduate in 1987. Sister St. Therese was the confidante of generations of nurses from 1962 until the closure of the nurses' home in 1994.

# Nurse Education

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Sister Paulina Pilkington with a group of graduate nurses about 1965. Sister Paulina Pilkington was Tutor Sister at St Vincent's School of Nursing, and one of the first Sisters of Charity to undertake post-graduate studies in nursing and taking up an external position as the Director of Nursing, Australian Department of Health in Canberra. A former pupil recalls: Sister Paulina was an excellent role model in that she continued her education for the benefit of students. She understood that well-educated nurses provide better service for those to whom they care. Her example inspired others to follow her.