



THE MEDICO-LEGAL
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

'In Love and War: Nursing Heroes'

will be presented by Dr Liz Byrski

A General Meeting of the Society will be held on Friday 16th November 2018

Melbourne Club, 36 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Drinks served 6.30 pm, Presentation 7.00 pm, followed by Dinner

Dress: Lounge Suit

In World War II, at a small RAF hospital, plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe performed surgery on servicemen suffering disfiguring facial burns. McIndoe, faced the monumental task of restoring not only skin but flesh, and bone structures, and rebuilding his patient's self-esteem and will to live. He developed a ground breaking approach to rehabilitation, creating a therapeutic community in the hospital, and its town of East Grinstead. Convinced that the affection of women was essential to the men's recovery he recruited nurses who were beautiful and humourful. The men named themselves McIndoe's (surgical) 'guinea pigs' and formed the now world famous Guinea Pig Club.

As a child growing up in East Grinstead, Dr Byrski was terrified by the appearance of the Guinea Pigs. Decades later, she returned to learn more about McIndoe's patients, his nurses and their life in the town. *In Love and War: Nursing Heroes* is the story of that journey and of the people Dr Byrski met along the way.

Dr Byrski is the author of ten best-selling novels including *The Woman Next Door*, *Family Secrets*, and *Gang of Four*, and more than a dozen non-fiction books including *Getting On: Some Thoughts on Women and Ageing*. Her books and articles have been published internationally. She also holds a PhD from Curtin University where she is an Associate Professor in the in the School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry and the Director of the China Australia Writing Centre. She has also worked as a journalist, an ABC broadcaster and was a Senior Policy Advisor to a Minister in the Western Australian Government and a former President of the WA Women's Advisory Council to the Premier.

Members may bring guests who need not be legal or medical practitioners.

Acceptances close Monday 12th November.

No acceptances or refunds will be available after this date.

Members and their guests are reminded of the dress requirements. Mobile telephones may not be used inside Melbourne Club. Urgent calls may be made to the Club (9650 4941) and a message will be conveyed by Club staff.

The Committee reminds Members that the Dining Room is to be vacated by 11.30 pm.

Host Members: Dr Glenn Howlett and Mr Darren Bracken

**Mr Ian Rose, Hon. Legal Secretary
Tel: (03) 9645 1597 or 0419 551 362**

**Dr Raphael Kuhn, Hon. Medical Secretary
Tel: 0419 399 719**