

## Newsletter September 2018

Spasm HealthCare Museum Building 6 Victoria Rd Gladesville  
Situating at the Crown Street bus stop on Victoria Road Gladesville



Its officially Springtime and SPASM is enjoying the benefits of renewed enthusiasm since Linda Morris was kind enough to visit the Museum and "write us up" in the Sunday Herald. That publicity has been enough to carry us to a new level of activity. Open days are now full of visitors. We have group booking till the end of the year.

Welcome to new members Rhonda Sneddon, Emma Farley, Sharon and Jeremy LEES, Drs. Rajesh Haridas & Gary Klopfer.

THE AGM this year was a spirited affair, with a number of visitors joining us for the first time, brought along by members to showcase the museum and the spirit of enthusiasm that the volunteers maintain to continue the work of the museum.

The Constitution was changed at the AGM. The main change is that membership of the Governing Board is now to be decided and voted by the members. The aims are the same: To acquire by gift, bequest, purchase, exchange or loan literature and objects of historical significance. To conserve, restore, house and/or display those materials in premises suitable for the purpose.

The Society is certainly blessed that the museum is housed in the 1870's Heritage listed sandstone buildings on the old Tarban Creek / Gladesville Hospital site.

The Museum is easily reached, on Victoria road near the Gladesville Bridge. If travelling by public transport the Crown street bus stop on Victoria Road is conveniently directly in front of the museum.

### September 2018

Attendance at a Health Care Museum such as SPASM allows visitors to reflect on the past, to contrast with the present and contemplate the future.



So often items in a museum might be considered as a simple object. However each is an artefact an object shaped by human workmanship, used by someone in the past for a specific function. They hold historical or archaeological interest. For example consider this **small water bath steriliser**. What possible story might it tell if it could? **Who owned it and what was their story?** PTO to find out more>>>>

## Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum is 11 am – 3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month - February to November. Prior arrangements for Group visits may also be arranged on these days, or other days - depending on volunteer availability.

Executive Members  
President Sandra Solarz  
Secretary Treasurer Ros Berryman  
Committee Members Val Corcoran, Kate Paton, Margaret Warby & Peter Hartigen

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SPASM web sites at [www.spasmmuseum.org.au](http://www.spasmmuseum.org.au)

<https://ehive.com/account/5547>

[www.discoverhuntershill.com.au/whats-on](http://www.discoverhuntershill.com.au/whats-on)

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# Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

Entry to Room 1 takes us to a 1911 Consulting room: "The consulting room of Dr. John Sand Smyth" who practiced in Warwick Queensland.

Room 2. The surgical "pick room" contains instrument cupboards with a large display of surgical instruments, blood collecting apparatus and interesting items.

The corridor to the library area takes you past a display of hearing trumpets, tracheostomy tubes and other historical equipment.

The pharmacy room shows beautiful jars, household remedies and also have some early dispensing records.

The diathermy collection area is also home to: a collection of knives with ebony handles, a collection of laryngoscopes of various designs. A display of early syringes. There is an impressive display of diathermy units. Then there is of course the operating table, which was loaned for the filming of "Wolverine"

The St Thomas Hospital Operating Theatre Room hosts an evolutionary display of receptacles used in the operating theatres. An early operating table as well as an early Boyles anaesthetic machine were both previously loaned to Channel 9 for the TV Series "Love Child"

A room dedicated to Gladesville memorabilia - ECT machines, straight jackets, mittens and photographs. Some of this equipment has been used in the Channel 7 TV series "A place to call home."

A sterilizing area is where small formaldehyde cupboards and dental equipment are on display. There is also a display of small sterilizing water baths - One of which was taken on an early expedition to the Antarctic by Dr. Sydney Evan Jones.

**Below is a Photograph taken by one of our members Dr. Peter Hales on a recent trip to Antarctica where, he explains, the conditions he experienced were comparatively luxurious, compared with those earlier expeditions.**

Describing the photo Peter writes: "The photo is of **Point Wild**, named after the heroic member (Frank Wild) of the Shackleton Endurance Expedition of 1914-1916, where the surviving members of the Shackleton Expedition spent 4 months, in winter, under up-turned lifeboats for shelter waiting to be rescued, Shackleton having sailed 800 miles in an open boat to South Georgia to get help. They all survived and were rescued from Point Wild on 30 August 1916 by the Chilean ship the Yelcho. Point Wild is a very isolated place on Elephant Island in the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica and it is almost impossible to land there because of the big seas, however a few of us had the good fortune to get ashore there last year in November and that photo is taken there onshore."



Dr. Sydney Evan Jones One of "Mawson's Men" on the Antarctic Expedition c 1911. Source: National Library of Australia



Dr. Jones in camp at the Antarctic with a photo of his fiancé Olive Booth above him. Source: State Library of NSW.



An early example of animal assisted therapy in a ward of the Parramatta Asylum of the insane early 1900's. Source: City of Parramatta Local studies ref LSP00060

**Sydney Evan Jones** was only 23 years old and a RMO at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1911. when he was chosen by Douglas Mawson to be one of three medical Officers for his Australian Antarctic Expedition (AAE). The Senior Medical Officer was **Archibald Lang Mc Lean**, who after the expedition worked at **The Gladesville Hospital for the Insane**.

**Burroughs Wellcome Medical Chests and Allen and Hanbury surgical instruments and the water bath steriliser pictured on the first page were part of fifty five boxes of medical supplies** that were provided for the group, as well as medical supplies for their dogs.

**Dr. Sydney Evan Jones**, was reported to be a most effective Medical officer at the Western Base of the Shackleton Ice Shelf. His duties were not only medical he was plumber, brazier, tinsmith and cook. He took part in many exploratory expeditions and he led an 11 week sledging trip and charted 643 km of the coastline.

The doctor's reports stated that "the health of the the expedition were remarkably good" Influenza, skin infections, frostbite, minor casualties, snowblindness, dystentry and haemorrhoids were common. There were also two tragic deaths and one psychosis to be dealt with by McLean.

Jones was said to be reticent during his time in Antarcica, after his Antartic experience he went on to specialise in psychiatry, working at Parramatta, Rydalmere & Callan Park. He **founded the first psychiatric clinic for voluntary patients in Sydney at Callen Park**. He created gardens and a zoo in the Hospital for the patients' therapy.

Since that expedition more than 500 medical doctors have joined the Australian Antarctic Program.

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/magazine/2011-2015/issue-22-2012/antarctic-medicine/in-the-footsteps-of-mclean,-jones-and-whetter-100-years-of-australian-antarctic-medical-practice>.

Next issue: Who was Bessie Simpson?

*St Francis Care Museum*  
**SPASM**



SPASM Founded by Professor Ross Holland AM 1928 -2017