

Newsletter February 2019

Spasm HealthCare Museum Building 6 Victoria Rd Gladesville
No 1 gate house at the Crown Street bus stop on Victoria Road Gladesville



As promised this year we have set a new focus on the collection, in order to showcase the changes to anaesthetic equipment that have resulted in safer anaesthesia.

A clean up day was carried out as planned and changes have been made to the GP room, with a beautiful desk and a re-purposed glass display cabinet. A baby weighing machine with woven basket adds to the feeling of authenticity of this room.

The very kind donation, from Hunters Hill Private Hospital of the Ulco Anaesthetic Machine now sits alongside the St George Public Hospital Boyles Machine, they take pride of place in "the anaesthetic room" which now has new shelving allowing the central area to be opened up to facilitate viewing by the larger groups. We have new enlarged photos that demonstrate the use of some of the machines that we have at the museum.

In February we welcome Dr. Purna Datta the previous Program Director at Gladesville 1984-1988. A local Seniors group is visiting in March, and Ros have been invited to present to the Lane Cove Rotary Club. A Probus group of 30-40 is organized for April, and another group for July. So we will be busy in the coming months and would welcome any member calling in on the open days.

February 2019



These are two photos taken at the Melbourne Museum at the recently closed exhibition re WWI. SPASM loaned instruments, a theatre table and other objects. They have been returned in January and will be on display in our museum again after being away for over 2.5 years .

Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum is 11 am – 3pm on the 2nd Saturday and 4th 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.

Contact SPASM by- Phone 0414 993 138

Executive Members :

President Sandra Solarz

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

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** and an impressive display of diathermy units. There is also 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 ether anaesthetic equipment. The table was 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.

The Anaesthetic Room. This months highlighted area: which showcases the changes in anaesthetic apparatus used by surgeons, dentists and anaesthetists over the years. Look for: **the ventilator, which has bicycle gears as part of its internal mechanism; the automatic hand; the Bird Mk7 ventilator and many others.**



STD during WW1 - treatment



RPA Hospital Campbell Ventilator



Westmead Hospital - setting up



St George Private Hospital - Checking.

Our loan items from Melbourne Museum display **"Love and sorrow WW1"** have been returned. The war time folding operating table is returned to the central sterilizing area. Photos taken at the Melbourne Museum have been added to the display depicting war time experiences, including the problem of STD in the days before penicillin.

RPA c1970s The Campbell Ventilator on a Boyles Anaesthetic machine. This photograph was taken from the RPA heritage News Volume 11 Issue 1 April 2011. There are so many things to notice about this historic photo, lack of monitors, only oxygen was piped, reusable black rubber tubes, reusable connectors.

Westmead hospital 1978. This photo was taken prior to opening showing the equipment of the day. Glass sucker bottles, paper drapes mixed with linen, plastic kidney dishes and jugs, Sisters wearing dresses not pant suits. Minimal monitoring.

St George Private Hospital 2004 Doctor checking an anaesthetic machine with the anaesthetic nurse standing by, this gives the opportunity to consider the role and importance of the anaesthetic nurse.

The anesthetic machine was an Ulco Elite. A paediatric circuit, a more modern Campbell ventilator, new disposable tubes & suction bottles made from plastics..... The disposable era has well and truly arrived.

These are just some of the photographs that have been enlarged for display at the museum. IF YOU have any photos that you believe are historic and would like us to display or feature them in the newsletter please contact me. RB

Off Health Care Museum
SPASM