

SPASM MUSE

Newsletter July 2019

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



Membership in 2019 is doing well! The presentation about our Museum for the History section of the ASA resulted in new memberships. Welcome to Dr. Richard Morris, Dr. Peter Isert and Dr. Phillip Hatch. Dr. Gary Klopfer joined as a Life Member this month and has been a great supporter of the Museum since he joined last year.

You will remember that **AGM** is being held on **Saturday 17th August** this year we do hope you have put that in your calendar and will be joining us for lunch this year. Please feel free to bring friends, colleagues or partner. However an **RSVP email is essential please** - so we can cater appropriately.

Some exciting news - we have been asked to provide a group **tour opportunity** next year in conjunction with the **National Perioperative Nurses ACORN Conference**. This will allow Interstate and overseas attendants at the ACORN Conference to visit the Museum on the Wednesday afternoon 27/5/2020 prior to the conference commencing. If members would like to be part of the **Volunteer Guide Team** preparing for this pre-conference excursion please come along to some open days prior to this event to orientate yourself with the collections.

July 2019

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.



This newsletter features the possibly unique 1930's IVOR LEWIS Anaesthetic APPARATUS we have on exhibition at the Museum, donated by Dr. Bryn Thomas .

Dr. Rajesh P. Haridas has kindly written an article about this artefact for our newsletter.

PTO to find more information.

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.

Executive Members : President Sandra Solarz

Secretary /Treasurer Ros Berryman

Volunteer Guides: Val Corcoran, Kate Paton, Margaret Warby, Gary Klopfer, Peter Hartigan & Michael Kelly.

Contact SPASM by- Phone 0414 993 138

Email : spasm@netspace.net.au

SPASM web sites at www.spasmmuseum.org.au

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

www.discoverhuntershill.com.au/whats-on

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Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

Room 1 takes us to a 1911 Consulting room: "**The consulting room of Dr. John Sand Smyth**" who practiced in Warwick Queensland. We have added items from the Five Dock GP Dr. Menzies collection to this room in a new display case.

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

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

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

The diathermy room is also home to: a collection of knives with ebony handles, a collection of laryngoscopes of various designs; and an impressive display of diathermy units.

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 is in this area.

The Gladesville Room has ECT machines, straight jackets, mittens and photographs and a "new" TMS machine.

The sterilizing area We have added the portable operating table, and world war instruments to this area. The small formaldehyde cupboards and dental equipment are still on display as well as the small sterilizing water baths.

The Anaesthetic Room. which showcases the changes in anaesthetic apparatus used by surgeons, dentists and anaesthetists over the years has had a total change in the display to allow better visualization of the improvements in safety and monitoring of the anaesthetised patients over the years.

Ivor Lewis apparatus by Rajesh P. Haridas

The Ivor Lewis anaesthesia apparatus, originally described in the Lancet in 1931, was a compact portable apparatus for the delivery of anaesthesia gases and vapours.¹

There is limited information on its inventor Ivor Nicholas Lewis, D.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Bryn Thomas, who donated the Ivor Lewis apparatus to the SPASM Museum, stated (incorrectly) in his book *The Development of Anaesthetic Apparatus* that Ivor Lewis died in 1932.²

Two obituaries of Ivor Lewis were found,³⁻⁴ the earliest of which was published in the *British Medical Journal* in December 1937.³ Ivor Lewis was born in 1905; he died in London in November 1937 at the age of 32. Ivor Lewis was listed in The Post Office London Directory for 1934 as "Lewis Ivor Nicholas, anaesthetist, 6 Bentinck st W.1-TN Welbeck 6761."⁵ He held appointments at several London hospitals, including St. George's Hospital, the Metropolitan Hospital and Brompton Hospital. Ivor Nicholas Lewis (1905-1937) should not be confused with the Welsh surgeon Ivor Lewis (1895-1982) who is known for the Ivor Lewis oesophagectomy operation.

The Ivor Lewis apparatus was manufactured by A. Charles King, Ltd., 34 Devonshire Street, London. The apparatus incorporates features of anaesthesia equipment designed by Francis Shipway and Ivan Magill in the 1920s. A hot-water chamber allowed for warming of ether. The apparatus had separate chambers for ether and chloroform, a manometer, and an attachment for a sparklet bulb containing carbon dioxide. The intricate design of the Ivor Lewis apparatus raises the question of whether it actually worked as expected by its designer. Was it safe to use? No independent accounts of its use have been found. The Ivor Lewis apparatus in the SPASM Museum might be the only known apparatus of this type in Australia*.

References

1. Lewis I. *Apparatus for anaesthesia*. Lancet 1931; 218(5650): 1304.
2. Thomas KB. *The Development of Anaesthetic Apparatus*. 1975, p. 198-199.
3. Obituary. Dr. Ivor Nicholas Lewis. *Br Med J* (4 December) 1937, 2(4013): 1146.
4. Obituary. *Br J Anaesthesia* 1938; 15(2): 84.

***Editors note: We would be interested if readers know of any other.**

