

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter FEBRUARY 2020

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



We started off the New Year with a crash and a bang. A small part of the ceiling in the St Thomas Room fell down a couple of days before our official opening on Feb 8th. We were booked with a tour of 20 from the St Ives Church group. Fortunately, the wonderful staff of "facilities" headed by Alex and Andy, had the roof mended, the area cleaned and they moved most of the exhibits to the room opposite. The area was examined for asbestos and pronounced safe. The room itself was off limits until the ceiling can be repaired in time for our March Open day. After discussion with Heather Lakiss, the organiser of the February planned visit, it was decided to continue with the planned tour, as all the other areas were unaffected. The visitors all agreed that they were glad that the tour was not cancelled as they (and we) thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Next Saturday March 14th is the Special workshop "**Putting your best foot forward**" with Megan Hicks. Please join us 1030-1330 to consider "**How best to develop Historical Displays**". Rather than using the "Gladesville Memorabilia", as previously advertised, we will focus on "Perioperative Artifacts".

Welcome to a new member - Sister Judy Mutton who joined us on Saturday. Also Mr. Les Watton called in to organise a tour of 20 for the second Saturday in May. Les is a St John Ambulance Volunteer and a Vintage and Veteran Car enthusiast. So **Saturday 9th May is sure to be a special day.** Then of course, there is the afternoon tour on **Wednesday 27th May with 40 folk coming on an ACORN Pre-Conference tour of the Museum.**

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
Curator Gary Klopfer
Secretary /Treasurer Ros Berryman
Volunteer Guides: Val Corcoran, Kate Paton, Margaret Warby, 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

Like us on Facebook: [Society for the Preservation of Artefacts of surgery and medicine SPASM](https://www.facebook.com/SocietyforthePreservationofArtefactsofsurgeryandmedicineSPASM)

February 2020



View of damage to the ceiling in building 6



No lasting damage done to the exhibits

Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

BUILDING 6

Room 1 takes us to a 1911 Consulting room: "**The consulting room of Dr. John Sand Smyth**" who practiced in Warwick Queensland. PLUS added items from the Five Dock GP Dr. Menzies collection to this room in a large 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 haemostasis room is home to: a collection of diathermy machines & knives with ebony handles, a collection of laryngoscopes of various designs.

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 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.

BUILDING 1

The Anaesthetic Room which showcases the changes in anaesthetic apparatus used by surgeons, dentists and anaesthetists over the years displaying improvements in safety and monitoring of the anaesthetised patients over the years.

The Corridor gives a time line of the Tarban Creek Asylum - Gladesville Hospital

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

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



The New Gladesville room has been reconfigured since the Memorial last year. It now has the ECT machines, and other artifacts, previously displayed in the smaller back room.



We are currently preparing some poster presentations **reflecting on items that were previously used by perioperative nurses**. If you would like to reflect on past experiences, please contact the Secretary Ros. Include your thoughts in this multifaceted presentation. These will hopefully provide a lasting display to enhance the tearoom area. More information about this will be part of the

group workshop to be facilitated by Megan Hicks on Saturday 14th March 1030-1330. "Putting your best foot forward" Please come along to this event - Free to members, Non-members \$20, Students \$10, which includes membership for 1 year. RSVP essential.

OTHER REGIONAL MUSEUMS OF INTEREST:



WANTING TO SUPPORT THE SOUTH COAST? These 2 photos were taken at the fascinating Heritage Museum in Berry. Well worth a visit at 135 Queen street BERRY 2535 Phone 02 4464 3097

South Coast Museum
SPASM

SPASM Founded by Professor Ross Holland AM 1928 -2017