

# SPASM MUSE

## Newsletter January 2021

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



It's a New Year and perhaps we will all be thinking about what our New Year's resolutions should be? Perhaps you will be considering a new exercise regime? If you are, then we at SPASM have an interesting item you might like to consider. It's called an **IRON BOOT**. We found it late last year in our clean up and not knowing what it was - as it had not been cataloged or numbered - a bit of detective work was needed. The first thing we have been taught to do, when identifying an artifact, is look for manufacturing markings - and there it was: "Iron Boot" forged into the design. It wasn't in any of our catalogs of course, so we gave Mr. Google a try and found these lovely illustrations. The Iron Boot was first described in the 1900's and continued in use in the 1970's according to an article on Google. If any of our members, or friends, know more about this interesting item we would be happy to hear from you.

We hope to be able to open the museum in February with Covid precautions in place, ie Hand Wash at the front door, recording of names, social distancing etc. The layout at the museum has been changed to facilitate one-way traffic in cottage 6. We have printed information posters to highlight the contents of each room. And provided easily cleaned laminated handouts in each room to make viewing the exhibits more informed.

We hope to be able to invite all our members and friends (Reservation essential) to join us one 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday for a (self catered) picnic lunch with suitable social distancing rules to apply. Fluid refreshments will be provided. The month we choose will be subject to Covid conditions of course, but it would be good to be able to meet up again. February might be too soon, perhaps March or April? More information will come in the February newsletter.

Page 2 This month contains information re kind donation of ENT instruments by Dr. Jonathan Livesey and more about the visit by Dr. Gayle Burr - both events occurring in November 2020.

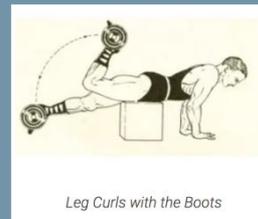
## January 2021

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.



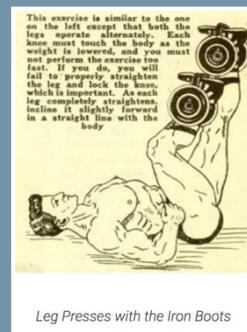
A Young Frank Zane Advertising the Boots

Joe Weider pictured here said in this advertisement "you will never find a better or faster way to slim and trim your waist hips and legs in the privacy of your own home."



Leg Curls with the Boots

IRON BOOTS excellent for developing quads, hamstrings and abs.



Leg Presses with the Iron Boots

Some Iron Boots, (like the one we have at the museum) allow extra weights to be attached to increase the work effort.

## 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 small 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, Kerry Moroney & Peter Hartigan

Contact SPASM by- Phone 0414 993 138

Email : [spasm@netspace.net.au](mailto:spasm@netspace.net.au)

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

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

# 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. Also The Five Dock GP "**Dr. Menzie's collection**" is in the large display case at the back of the room.

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

**Room 3 The St Thomas Hospital Operating Theatre Room** hosts an evolutional display of receptacles used in the operating theatres. An early operating table, early surgical & anaesthetic apparatus as well as **a new display of ENT instrumentation kindly donated by Dr. Jonathan Livesay is now presented in this room**

**Room 4 The haemostasis room** is also home to: an impressive display of diathermy units as well as other methods used to prevent bleeding during operations. Tourniquets, clamps, suturing material, bone wax, and more. Then there is the operating table, which was loaned for the filming of "**Wolverine**"

**The corridor to the exit** takes you past a display of hearing trumpets, tracheostomy tubes and other historical equipment. There are small formaldehyde sterilising cupboards, sterilizing drums, as well as small water bath sterilizers used at the South pole and during war time. The dental section shows 4 types of dental drills, including **a very old treadle drill, used between 1890s and 1930's.**



**The new library work area** is now a pleasant place to sit relax take tea, and work on cataloging them many artifacts we have that have not been entered into the computer.

## Building 1

**The Anaesthetic Room.** 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 pharmacy room** shows beautiful jars, household remedies and also some early dispensing records. **A new optical collection has been added recently.**

**The Corridor and Gladesville Room** gives a time line of the Tarban Creek Asylum- Gladesville Hospital. There are ECT machines, straight jackets and mittens, photographs and stories from patients and attendants, **as well as religious artifacts used at Gladesville during services held at the hospital.**



## DONATION OF ENT INSTRUMENTS

This photograph is of Dr. Jonathan Livesay who visited the museum recently and donated a number of items from his father's collection of ENT instrumentation. There are also 2 otoscopes in their beautiful velvet cases, a doctor's bag, as well as a wonderful set of anatomical stereoscopic cards complete with their stereoscopic glasses. Jonathan's father - Dr. Brian Livesay was an ENT Surgeon & Major General in the British army, who worked at the British Military Hospital in Berlin in the 1960s.



Another item which Jonathan donated is the delightful small set of micro ear instruments, (which Jonathan is holding) which belonged to General Alexander Drummond from the British Army, He was also an ENT surgeon and it is understood that this pocket set of instruments was used by him during the Second World War. It was made by Downs Surgical Company Eng. These items are currently on display in the cabinet in the St Thomas room. **Thank you Jonathan for taking the time with us to record the history of all the items you so kindly donated.**

## RECORDING OF REFLECTIONS

As mentioned in the last newsletter Dr. Gayle Burr who was our last member to join in 2020, visited the museum with 2 friends. Gayle has kindly allowed us to keep a copy of our discussion preserved in our reflection folder. This has contributed to the stories nurses tell, prompted by a visit to the museum as they reflect on their past and their experiences. Our folder contains stories by Sisters: Val Corcoran, Marg Troy, Pat Solomon (first President NSW OTA), Brenda Bentley (Second President NSW OTA) & Pauline Walker (Past Editor ACORN). **If you would like to contribute your thoughts or stories to these reflections please contact us.**

2019 was our most successful recruitment drive as we had 16 new members join us that year. We had hoped to increase our membership in 2020 when we were due to host a preconference tour for the ACORN National Operating Room Nurses' Conference. Sadly the whole conference and our tour were cancelled due to COVID. Although the museum was virtually shut from March 2020 until now, we still managed to recruit 4 new members in 2020. **Thanks also to all of our existing members who maintained their support for the museum. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.**

Health Care Museum  
**SPASM**

SPASM Founded by Professor Ross Holland AM 1928 - 2017