

# SPASM MUSE

Newsletter July 2021



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



SPASM. Membership forms were sent prior to this newsletter. Thanks to those kind people who sent their **due memberships** before June 30 to the anxious treasurer. It was very much appreciated. The 11 members who did not, we hope you are well, and will send soon? The **AGM** will be held at the Museum on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August** (Covid rules permitting). We hope to have our normal lunchtime feast, so please RSVP then come along, join us for lunch and wine on the lawn behind Building 1 and see how we have changed the look of the museum during the Covid Months.

The early part of June was a very busy. We loaned a number of items to **Netflix** for the television production "Pieces of Her". They required an anaesthetic machine, operating theatre table, diathermy machine, stools, mayo stand, theatre trolley, suction device as well as multiple pieces of surgical and anaesthetic instrumentation. All items needed to be photographed and item numbers recorded, as their labels were all removed for use. The same labels needed to be reapplied on their return. Although they involve a lot of work, these loans provide a valuable financial incentive, as well as raising awareness of our museum to a wider audience through acknowledgement in the credits.

On Friday June 18 we enjoyed a visit from **Dundas Probus group** – more about them over the page.

On Monday June 28 we closed the museum due to Covid restrictions. But hope to be able to resume activity next month.

July 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.



Kate, Ros, Menna, Sandra and Peter who were delighted to receive the lovely feedback from the Dundas Probus Group.



Some of the folk from the Dundas Probus group who visited us last month. There were 18 in the group, who enjoyed the morning tea and their 2 hour visit to the museum.

## 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.spasmuseum.org.au](http://www.spasmuseum.org.au)

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SPASM1>

We also feature on the Hunters hill web page:

<https://www.facebook.com/discoverhh>

And the Museum and galleries of NSW website:

<https://mgns.org.au/organisations/spasm/>

# 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. Menzies 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, not yet completed.

**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, a display of ENT instrumentation, kindly donated by Dr. Jonathan Livesey, is now presented in this room. Three new large display cases allow us to put more surgical instruments on display 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. On the right we have new display cases. 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 library work area** is now a pleasant place to sit & relax take tea and work on cataloging the many artifacts we have that have not been entered into the computer. We also have to add new books & cabinets to the database.

**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. An optical collection has been added.

**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.



Also in June/July we are working with SPASM member Sally Sutherland Fraser for a **Webinar Educational program** sponsored by **Molnlycke** - being filmed at the Museum.

The program will explore in conversation, together with photographic displays and videos, (taken in the collection rooms of the SPASM Museum) the origins of some of the ‘artifacts of surgery, medicine & nursing’.

What can historical artifacts tell us about patient care and nursing practices of the past? Is it possible to understand present practice by looking back? The program will be offered to perioperative nurses in Australia and overseas so will hopefully be a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the items we have at the museum, and help promote the museum as a place to preserve the movable heritage of our profession.

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Some of the advantages of volunteering at the museum are the various opportunities it provides. Showing visitors around can be so very rewarding, as evidenced by the group who visited us last month. On Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>. 17 delightful ladies and 1 gentleman from the **DUNDAS Probus group** visited the museum and afterwards their organiser wrote us an email saying:

**“Thank you so much for a fantastic tour today. Thank you for organising those very knowledgeable and delightful volunteers and for morning tea as well. All of our members expressed this was one of the best tours we have done with our group.”**

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There are other surprising events too. The most beautiful flowers and chocolates were given to two of us as a thank you for agreeing, on very short notice, to **visit the Netflix studio** to show how the operating theatre and the equipment we provided could be set up. Great fun was had, but we

don’t know what the final scenes will look like because when we were there the walls were literally being built around us.

Corporate Members of SPASM  
NSW OTA.  
NSW Nurses Association



Founded by Professor Ross Holland AM 1928 - 2017