

# SPASM MUSEUM

## Newsletter March 2022



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



The presentation at the ACORN Virtual conference discussed in last months Muse went well, and the video of the presentation is available to view at the museum.

Our Postponed 2021 AGM Lunch is now planned for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, please join us on this day for a very short AGM, and a lovely lunch in or near the tea room at Building 5. Your support and attendance on this day would be very much appreciated.

An Executive meeting in February was attended by Ros, Gary, Sandra and Kerry, Discussion revolved around the future directions of the museum, how to maximise the viewing experience of visitors, how to increase viewing areas and how to better advertise the museum to potential members and volunteers. Suggestions for advertising in local paper, new signage, contact universities and museums re student visiting were discussed. In the meantime the need to get in order the displays, upkeep the current display areas and improve aesthetics..

It was agreed that the new display cabinets have improved the look of the museum immensely. We believe that the Doctors Surgery, Surgical Pick room & St Thomas room in Building 1 are successful areas as they evoke a particular theme and exhibits in each area continue that theme. So in a similar fashion other areas in the museum will utilize large murals to set different themes. The murals chosen are WW1 for the wash room area in building 1 (previously a store room) and Surgery of 1950s for the haemostasis room.

A request to Facilities to utilise the small room adjacent to the tea room area in building 5 has not yet been granted. We remain only faintly hopeful .....

## March 2022

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.



The focus of the new display for the wash room area in building 6 will evoke the cramped confines of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing stations of WW1.



The print planned to be used in the haemostasis room in Building 6 depicts 3 nurses preparing operating theatres and anaesthetic equipment at the hospital in 1954.

## 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 -

### Executive Members :

President: Sandra Solarz

Curator : Gary Klopfer

Secretary /Treasurer: Ros Berryman

**Volunteer Guides:** Val Corcoran, Kate Paton, Kerry Moroney, Jenny May & Peter Hartigan

depending on volunteer availability.

Contact SPASM by- Phone 0414 993 138

Email : [info@spasmmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@spasmmuseum.org.au)

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

# Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

However we were still able to update the wash room at the end of building 6 into a WW1 operating theatre exhibit. Ros Kerry and Peter did this on Saturday. (Kerry also managed to give a great tour of the museum to a lovely young family, who were very appreciative.) In this area we will be utilising a large print developed from a high resolution image purchased from the AWM. This image portrays 4 Australians stationed in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1917. They were members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing station when it was stationed at Nord Pas de Calais, Outtersteene France. They are Sergeant Haswell, Lt Col Fay McClure (AAMC) (Surgeon) Sister Murphy, and Major Henry Featonby (Anaesthetist)

The photo opposite gives an indication of what the display will look like when it is completed, although the picture will be a little larger than depicted in this composite photo.

Exhibits in this area include information folders, the portable operating table, as well as 3 sets of Surgical instruments. These instruments were individually owned and used both in Field hospitals and on the battlefield.

**One set: Box item number 4797.** is a World War One **Operation instrument set distributed by Arnold & Sons London in 1916.** This British field army doctor's set is contained within a velvet lined polished mahogany wood box with brass reinforced corners. It has a hinged lid, lift out central tray, hook & eye locking clip on either side and key lock in the front. This set was donated to SPASM in 2014 by Dr Reg Cammack son of Dr William Frederick James Cammack MB BS Syd 1940. The set was reputed to have been used during WWII.

**The second set** of instruments in a similar wooden box was manufactured by **S Maw Son & Sons** in the early 1900's. **Box Item number 3547.** This kit was donated to SPASM in 2007 by Dr Lochie Glen MB BS Syd 1955 FRCS 1963 MS Syd Uni 1978 FACS 1980.

**The third set of instruments Item number 3508** is a large oblong stainless steel box with lift off lid containing 2 custom designed lift out trays of a collection of various assorted surgical instruments for use by the French Regimental Service. Marking on the lid "Con. H.M." "BOITE No 15" "Service Regimentaire" The donor of this Box No15 was unfortunately not recorded in our records. One can't help wondering what the other Boxes 1 – 14 might have contained.

**The Dental exhibits**, such as an integral part of an Army doctor's instrument set, are also included near this display area. **The set of dental instruments, preserved in their original chamois wrap, used by Dr Thomas Conrad Reeves** (written up the March 2020 Newsletter) who trained at St Thomas's Hospital London, qualifying in 1911 will also be included in this area. A Captain in the Royal Medical Corp. Dr Reeves served in France during WW1. He immigrated to Australia with his wife in 1926. These instruments were kindly donated to SPASM by his granddaughter Julie Hewson in 2020.

**The Haemostasis room** is also planned to be updated, hopefully next month, with a beautiful print depicting operating theatres at RNSH in 1954. In this photograph depicted on page 1, two nurses are using cheetle forceps to prepare the sterile set up in operating theatre. Whilst the third nurse at the anaesthetic machine appears to be inflating the cuff of the endotracheal tube in preparation for the impending anaesthetic.

**Finally the tea room makeover has been completed with lovely new curtains.** This has been made ready for our first group tour of 2022. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, when 22 people from the Drummoyne Probus Club have booked to view the museum. It is bookings like this which allow us the opportunity to show the museum to a number of people. On days like this we normally serve morning tea, talk a little about how and who started the museum, then break in to small groups for an escorted tour of the museum. **We really could do with some assistance so if you are free 10am to 1pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March**



Concept of new WW display area



Dr Cammack Donation No 4794



Dr Glen Donation No 3547



Boite No 15 French Regimentaire No 3508



Corporate Members of SPASM

NSW OTA.

NSW Nurses Association

Molnlycke

Health Care Museum  
**SPASM**

Founded by Professor Ross Holland