

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter May 2022



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



Our visitors have kept us busy last month. **The Antique and Classic Motor Club** visited. As well as the joy of 23 delightful attendees, Les Wattton, club President, presented us with a donation of a very old spirometer (see more about the group and their gift over the page). The new tea room has been especially good in this very rainy weather. The entrance area also allowed a place to congregate for a group photo.

Special thanks to Gary and Kerry for setting up the new display area in the washroom in building 6. The enlarged WW1 photograph is excellent

This month is our postponed 2021 AGM LUNCH on Saturday 14th May RSVP

On Monday 23rd May the Castle Hill Photography club will be visiting at 1-3pm.



May 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.

In April we welcomed a lovely group of visitors from the Antique and Classic Motor Club to the museum.



Gary and Kerry setting up the new photo wall hanging in the new WW display area.

Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum are 11 am – 3pm on the 2nd Saturday and 4th 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, Marion O'Farrell, & Peter Hartigan

Contact SPASM by- Phone 0414 993 138

Email : info@spasmmuseum.org.au

SPASM web sites at 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>

And the Museum and galleries of NSW website:

<https://mgns.w.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, sutures and blood collecting apparatus. There's also a new orthopaedic display cupboard.

Room 3 The St Thomas Hospital Operating Theatre Room hosts an evolutionary display of receptacles used in the operating theatres. An early operating table, early surgical & anaesthetic apparatus are displayed as well as ENT, obstetric, and general instruments. The notice board provides a time line for innovations, photos and the story of 3 early surgical challenges: pain, sepsis & blood loss.

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" We also have a swab rack too!

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. 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.

The World War I & II area, once our store room and wash up area, is now complete with its large photograph of Casualty Clearing Station Operating Theatre in France and various instrument sets used by different surgeons during both wars.

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.

A small room now has the EEG machine on display along with additional anaesthetic instruments.

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.

The antique and Classic Motor Club was founded in 1959 by a small group of dedicated enthusiasts who "wanted to preserve early examples of vehicles, to save them for their historic value, and ensure they survived in a roadworthy condition. The club is a New South Wales organisation for owners of Veteran Cars up to 1919, Vintage Cars up to 1931 and Classic cars older than 30 years. There are club branches in Cootamundra, Cooma and Tamworth. Members can attend monthly club runs. Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at 8pm" President is Pat Watton 0414865034. During the SPASM tour Pat presented the museum with a donation of a **Vitalograph - a spirometer in its original case with paperwork.** This unit will be on display at the museum. For those interested in how this instrument works: "It detects instantaneous expired respiratory air with a Fleisch pneumotachograph type flowhead. Inside the flowhead is a resistance: a series of small parallel tubes which maintain laminar flow in the air passing through it. This creates a differential pressure proportional to air flow rate which is monitored by a differential pressure transducer inside the instrument enclosure. The output voltage from the ultra low range pressure transducer is converted into a frequency which is sampled at 1/100 sec. intervals during testing. The microprocessor integrates these signals and displays the results on the large crystal display."



Another recent donation was made by the family of the late Dr Leslie Bruce Johnson 1936-2006. The biscuit tins that precious items are kept in for storage are a frequent feature of



such collections. The small reusable mercury thermometers, glass syringes and needles tell a story of bygone eras. Items that are now considered specialty items such as ENT & Curette equipment often form part of a GP collection. (see also, for example, part of the Menzies collection). "Graduating from Queensland University Dr Johnson worked at the hospital before going to the UK to study ENT. He worked extensively as a GP during his time in the UK. He worked as a ship doctor to secure his passage to the UK and did the same on his return, working in Queensland NSW, Tasmania and New Zealand. He then worked with the Australia embassy in Athens Greece as Chief Medical Officer. On return to Australia he continued working for the Federal Government. Moving back into general practice he studied occupational medicine working for well known companies: Ford, Myer and QEC." This collection will soon be found in the corridor of building 6 in the latest display cabinet. It is preserved in entirety as an excellent example of the sorts of items held by previous medical practitioners. Many thanks to the family for donating these items.



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A lovey green Tower complete with Laparoscopic and Orthopaedic equipment was kindly donated by Canterbury Hospital, facilitated by long time member Jenny Cubitt. This tower holds a number of consoles, used in mixed operating theatres. Thanks to Kerry for helping to load & unload the tower at museum.



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