

# SPASM MUSE

Newsletter August 2022



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



Our 2022 AGM scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> August (Covid permitting) is almost upon us and the lunch menu is coming along nicely. Thank you to all those who have already sent in their acceptances or apologies. Do please join us!

Following an issue raised at the the previous meeting, **Facilities have agreed to improve signage from Punt road entrance** to help visitors find us should they enter the grounds from that entrance rather than the Victoria Road entrance.

Below is the photograph of RNSH in 1954 in the Thoracic Theatres which is being made into a large fabric drop to go into the haemostasis room. Note that the operating table is the same style as the table we currently have in that room. Nurses are setting up for theatres using cheetle forceps and opening multiple items on the back trolleys,



this was all before the days of single set ups! Cheetle forceps and metal instrument trays will all be produced to replicate items depicted. Miss Nora Spence the Supervisor of Theatres was one of the founding sisters of the "OTA". The NSW OTA advocated single set ups for individual cases in the late 1950's according to the Oral History recorded by Sister Mary Gabriel (held in our Oral history folder), and as evidenced by minutes during 1957.

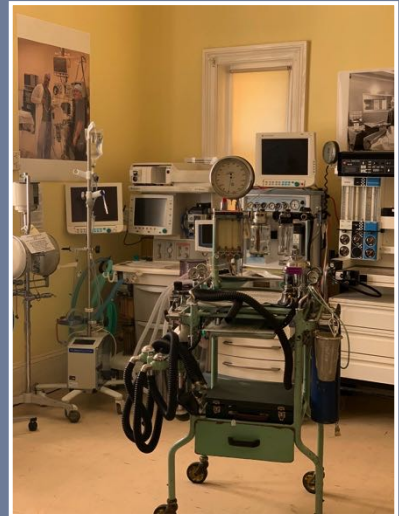
See over page for a glimpse of those meeting minutes .....

August 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 pew and organ have been moved to the tea room to allow more space for other exhibits in the "Gladesville room"



The new anaesthetic machine from Canterbury Hospital with the rapid infuser in the background corner of the anaesthetic room .

Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum are 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, Marion O'Farrell, John Murphy & Peter Hartigan

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>

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 evolutional 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 1930's operating table, and we now also have a swab rack and mayo table 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.

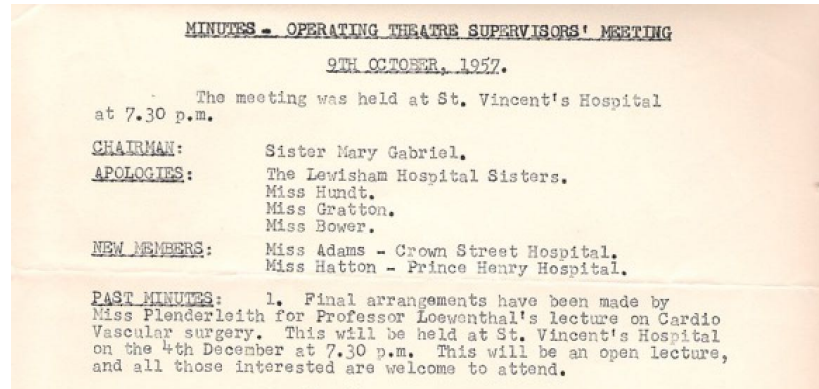
**The pharmacy room** shows beautiful jars, and bottles, household remedies and also some early dispensing records. An optical collection has been added.

**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, anaesthetic equipment, straight jackets and mittens, photographs and stories from patients and attendants, and religious artifacts used at Gladesville during services.

The Minutes of the Operating Theatre Supervisors' meeting (the Precursor to the NSW Operating Theatre Association) held on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1957 at St Vincents Hospital noted "that In addition to any particular subjects, debates will be organised on the following problems:-

- a) Procedure for gowning and gloving
- b) **The value of single or multiple sets of linen**
- c) Sterilisation packaging
- d) Nursing training – how to attract prospective nurses – how much theatre training is required- should theatre be a specialised course – what exactly is a nurse's work?
- e) The relative values for dry and wet sponges.
- f) General sponge handling - ref Alexander's text book. "



Glimpses into history such as this, truly allow us the opportunity to reflect on the past, contrast with the present and contemplate the future don't they?

The recent donation of Dr Leslie Bruce Johnson's (1936-2006) collection that we wrote about in May has now been moved into its new display case in the corridor of building 6. The biscuit tin that precious items were kept in for storage, the colorful stethoscope and the beautiful purple silk lining of the auroscope container are excellent examples of the sorts of items held by previous medical practitioners. Many thanks once again to the family for donating these items..... Also a special thank you to the kind donor of the new display case.....



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NSW OTA.

NSW Nurses Association

Molnlycke

South Coast Museum  
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