

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter March 2023

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



The decision was made this year to attend the NSW OTA State conference and to give back to the organisation who has supported us as a corporate sponsor for so many years. They also allow us a trade display at their Annual conference at no cost. So the SPASM executive decided, rather than pay money to hire a fancy glass display, this year, we would instead give 2 lucky door prizes to sponsor a one year combined OTA and SPASM membership payment for a member and also for a non member colleague.

The lucky winner was Ben Wright. Ben is an Anaesthetic / Recovery nurse from the Hawkesbury District Health Service. He chose a colleague Katherine Jones who, he said, was keen to join the OTA. We congratulate them and also look forward to perhaps welcoming them to the museum in the near future. Many thanks to Kate and Val for attending the conference on our behalf. Many thanks also to the OTA members who came up to us at the stand and chatted especially to Kate S, Joan C, Debbie D, Liz T, Chloe S, Melanie W, Judith M, Kate McG, Denise W, Justine R, Jenny C, Lee L, Jodie F-C, Bianca D, Robyn McE, Czarina M, Rebecca F, and Krystal W. to name a few. We were sorry we could not give out more rewards but thank you so much for your interest and we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

The artefacts that we loaned to the NSW Library were returned recently. We gained more than we lent! Some of the lovely displays were no longer needed by the Library so they offered them to us FOC. We now have two lovely cloth banners adorning our walls as well as some very impressive wall posters. One is pictured over the page. Some of the larger beautiful black information labels were also offered to us. They make our exhibit area look so professional! Thank you so much to Elise Edmonds and the staff at the Library.

March 2023

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.



This month SPASM representatives attended the NSW OTA Conference at Penrith.



Ben Wright with Ros and Angela Coleman President of NSW OTA

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 Sauer, Carol Logie, Kerry Moroney, John Murphy & Peter Hartigan

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Contact SPASM by phone 0414993138

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://mgnsw.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 1930's operating table, and we now also have a swab rack, mayo table and a large print photo of RNSH Thoracic Theatre Nurses C1954.

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.



7. One of the illustrations donated by the Library states "The corner of a towel drawn through a safety pin, as recommended by Sir Joseph Lister also makes an excellent little mask" & "The Inestimable blessing of Chloroform – Queen Victoria 1859"

We have highlighted more of the items on display in the GP Consulting Room and just one of the recent donations from the library.

1. Clinical Thermometer JIntan Japan, C 1950 . this stubby ended thermometer marked 36-42C in an aluminium carry case would have been used to take body temperature either in the axilla, groin or rectum.

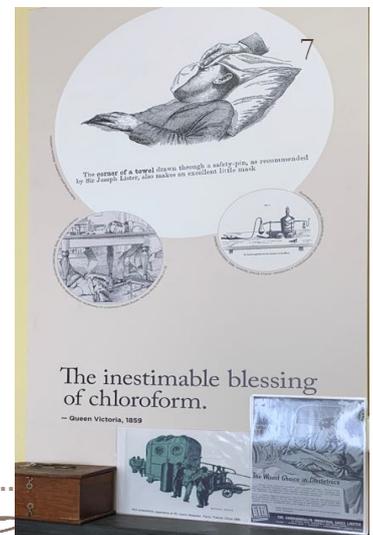
2. Glass Spirit Lamp Allen & Hanbury Ltd London C 1900, For producing heat for test tubes sterilising lancets etc.

3. Syringe Case and contents, Allen & Hanbury's Ltd London UK C1920. This insulin syringe is designed for portable home use. Many nurses were presented with such cases on graduation.

4. Practitioner's Pocket Analytical set. 2 bottles of reagents to detect sugar in urine, a spirit lamp 2 test tubes a test tube holder litmus paper , pipette and spring braced lancet for pricking the finger.

5. Snake Bite Lancet designed by Lauder Brunton Elliotts DHA Sydney 1930's The small wooden vial contains a lancet at one end and a black powder residue at the opposite end for sterilisation of the wound .

6. Percussion Hammer Allen & Hanbury C 1900 made of wood.



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