

# SPASM MUSE

Newsletter April 2023

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



The articles loaned by us to the Disney Company for the filming of "The Artful Dodger" were returned this month, along with a delightful note from Maddy Worthington who wrote **"They were so great as dressings on set and really helped the sets come to life so thank you again."** From our point of view the money that was donated by the company allowed us to upgrade our very old computer program so our grateful thanks to the Disney crew for using some of our artefacts. In the October Muse we conjectured on what the company might like to use. Pictured in this newsletter are what the company actually chose - who would have thought! So if you get to watch this upcoming film do look out for some of these items went you.

This Monday we spent time returning items to their proper place and re-attaching all the labels that were removed from the instruments, a time consuming task, but well worth it. We were also kept busy preparing the museum for the upcoming tour next Thursday. Thanks to Kerry John and Peter for sweeping up months of cobwebs and debris and preparing the tea room, and to Carol for vacuuming building 6 in preparation for our visitors. We also decanted a whole box of eye instruments in preparation for a new display cabinet – the men seem to be looking forward to building yet another cabinet!

We have upcoming group bookings scheduled for: Roula at Community Wheels on for 27<sup>th</sup> April (next Thursday); for the Liverpool U3A on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and a very special ACN tour on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. So if any members were wanting to visit the museum we will be open on those days as well as the normal 4<sup>th</sup> Monday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. The AGM & Annual Lunch will be on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> August so we hope to catch up with you all then if not before.

April 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.



A urinalysis set, thermometer set and a wooden Pinard monitor .



Ointment jars, Ear trumpet, aural stethoscope, brass syringes.



Some pharmacy items including the lovely bottle collection donated only last year by Susan Walker.

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

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

Contact SPASM by phone 0414993138

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 an 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 instruments 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 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 (one pictured on this page) 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. As well as an updated optical collection.

**The small room** now has the large 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, as well as some anaesthetic hand held instruments.



These were also some of the items borrowed for the film set.

1. home medicine chest
2. the humble enamel bucket that usually graces the Anzac military display
3. mortar /pestle and inhalers.
4. Bandage winder
5. brass microscope.
6. Beautiful boxed set of surgical instruments including an impressive saw.
7. There is a bit of a theme here with the Allen & Hanbury Hudson Brace, The De Vilbiss Skull Rongeur & the Victor Horsley Trepphine set.



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