

# SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter May 2023

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



Our group booking scheduled by Roula at Community Wheels for the North Rocks View Club on 27<sup>th</sup> April went very well. The delightful and energetic group of 20 kept Menna, Gary, Kerry, John and Ros entertained for two and half hours as we toured the museum in small groups. Thank you so much to the participants of the Club who made this visit such a pleasure for the volunteers. The participants said they enjoyed it too!

Future booked group visits are: the **Liverpool U3A** on **Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> June**; the **Ryde Historical Society** on **Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July** in conjunction with the launch on their very special updated book relating to Tarban Creek Asylum Cemetery; the **AGM & Annual lunch on Sat 12 August**; then **Saturday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Nurses tour**.

The computer system was working well, thanks to Peter from CVCU computers and the good folks at Mosaic in WA. One last glitch to iron out. The final aim is to look up items on one computer while data is entered into the Mosaic data by Carol or Ros on the other.

A new display cabinet was purchased this month and expertly put together by Gary and John. The ophthalmic items that used to be hidden away in a back room will soon be proudly on display in the corridor along with the microscopes and glasses including some very old quaint designs. (PTO)

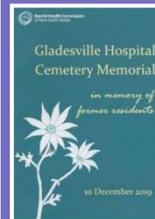
Members annual subscriptions are due by June 30, reminders will be coming out shortly. Thanks to those who have already paid, your receipts will be coming soon!

May 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.



The visit on 27<sup>th</sup> April from the lovely and lively North Rocks community women's group .



You may remember the Memorial for the Cemetery conducted in 2019.

**The launch of a new book** relating to death and burials at Tarban Creek Asylum is planned for **Sat July 8<sup>th</sup>**. There are now 555 extra possible names added to the original 900 names of 1,226 patients known to have been buried at this site. Please let us know if you would like to join us for this special occasion.

## 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.gov.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 evolutionsal 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 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.

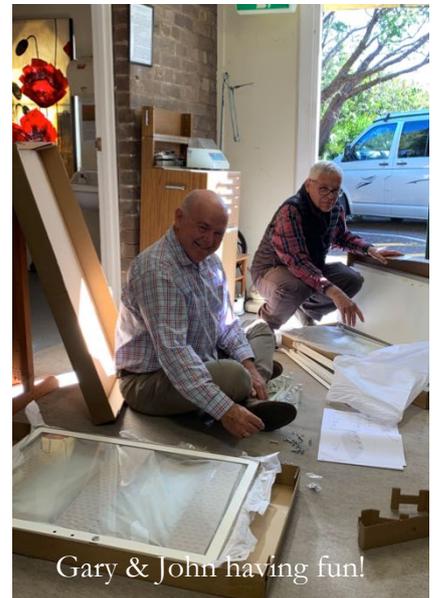
**The small room** now has the large EEG machine on display along with additional anaesthetic instruments.

**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.



## Some items for the ophthalmic cupboard.

1. Weiss London instruments with Ivory handles
2. An Elliot Trepphine an aluminium handle with chuck to hold the trephine blade. Used to cut a hole at the corneo-scleral junction in chronic glaucoma.
3. Collection of glassware, pipettes & eye undines.
4. A Lens set in wooden box with red silk lining.
5. In 1851 Herman Helmholtz invented the ophthalmoscope which allowed doctors to view the inner posterior part of the eye. This is a battery powered Ophthalmoscope Morton Type.
6. Cooper Vision Ocutome probe
7. Eye glasses and case.



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NSW OTA.  
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Health Care Museum  
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