

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter June 2023

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



Our group booking scheduled by Rose for Liverpool U3A on Thurs 22nd June went very well. Rose wrote to us saying "The group has told me how much they really enjoyed their day. Thank you for looking after them all. Although the trip home was a bit of an adventure due to an accident in the city that affected their buses they still said that it was a great day." It really is responses such as this that make it a such pleasure to continue the group tours.

The computer system is now working well, thanks to Peter from CVCU computers and the good folks at Mosaic in WA. The last glitch is ironed out! We can now look up items make labels and do other things on one computer while data is entered into the Mosaic data by Carol or Ros on the other.

The new display cabinet purchased last month is now full of some of those items that were put away in the back room as photographed for last months newsletter. Now comes the task of cataloguing and labelling all these intricate little beauties!

Members annual subscriptions were due by June 30. Have you paid yours? Only 8 outstanding. Many thanks to those who have already paid, your receipts have been sent.

PTO for more information for upcoming tours in July, The AGM in August and the Nurses tour in September!

June 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.



John with The Liverpool U3A group who visited on 22nd June. Such a lovely, happy group of people! One was a biomed from Liverpool Hospital too So John and Ros were delighted to welcome him.



The new display cabinet now full of wonderful items relating to ophthalmology.

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

Email : info@spasmmuseum.org.au

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://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 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.

Upcoming Tours & events booked for the Museum

Sat 8th July The Ryde Historical Society

Our booking for the museum tour and launch of the new book "**Gladesville cemetery the forgotten cemetery – the forgotten people**" is now fully subscribed. We will be having afternoon tea for 61 people (counting our guides) at the book launching ceremony. Beforehand Ros, Maureen Helen and Janette will tell (briefly) how they set about finding over 500 names to add to the existing list of those 1,200 previously forgotten people who were buried at Gladesville hospital cemetery just outside Building 1.

Sat 12 August the AGM & Annual lunch

As a member or friend of the SPASM Museum we would be delighted if you could attend the AGM to be held on Saturday 12th August at 12 md at Building 5 tearoom. After the usually very brief AGM lunch will be served. We will open the Museum for tours beforehand for those who have not visited in a while. (you must come and admire the new display cabinets!)

We now have 60 members and although we don't expect to have you all attend, as some members now live outside Sydney: in Mittagong; Macksville; Newcastle; Queensland & Victoria. It would be good to challenge the record for the number of gatherers that Ryde historical Society set this month. RSVP prior to August 1

PS if anyone has stackable chairs they no longer need please contact Ros asap.)

Saturday Sept 9th The ACN Nurses tour.

Sally Sutherland Fraser has organised this tour with the History chapter of the Australian College of Nursing.

Numbers have been capped to 20 so that we can show the museum off to its advantage.

Prior to Covid a previous tour had been organised in association with ACN & ACORN however sadly that group visit had to be cancelled, so we look forward to this new tour and thanks to Sally for promoting the Museum.

The dripping tap in building 1 has been fixed by Sue Ellen at facilities. Previous plumbers were not able to service this lovely ancient tap. Tree roots have grown up the S bend in the pipes as discovered by Ros and John last month. Those too will be eradicated in the coming weeks. Our grateful thanks to the good folks at Facilities: Sue Ellen; Alex and Andy who continue to look after these ageing buildings (and their ageing tenants)



Corporate Members of SPASM

NSW OTA.

NSW Nurses Association

Health Care Museum
SPASM