

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter July 2023

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



Our group booking scheduled by Helen Patterson and Maureen Copley from the Ryde Historical Society went very well on Saturday 8th July. We had over 60 people attend, there was standing room only in the expanded tea room.

Members from Ryde, Hunters Hill, & Ku-ring-gai Historical Societies attended as well as members of the public & descendants of previous attendants of the Hospital. Sue Ellen Douglas the Facilities Manager and Catherine Lourey Mental Health Commissioner also attended.

Our thanks must go to the 10 SPASM volunteers who each assisted at this exceptional event: Peter, John, Gary, Jill, Jenny, Sue, Marion, Judy & Margaret. Thanks also to our other members who could not be with us but wished us well.

In her welcome speech Ros said:

"Although we are predominantly an Anaesthetic/ Surgical Health Care museum we are very much aware of our surroundings and frequently meet people whose main interests are the hospital and the people who once lived or worked here (as one of my ancestors did as an attendant). Personally it was a great privilege to help Helen & Maureen find some of the missing names of those who may have been buried here at Gladesville. I worked through Hospital Quarterly returns from 1847 - 1858 published in Ancestry records. Those records are here today on display in our tea-room. We started out looking for 200 names and ended up finding many more but Helen Maureen & Janette will tell you more about that. On behalf of SPASM we would like to welcome you here today and thank you very much for coming."

July 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.



It was standing room only at the Book launch for "Gladesville Cemetery The forgotten cemetery the forgotten people" on Saturday 8/7/23



Two of our members Margaret and Judy who helped monitor the doors, directed traffic and served tea. Great work !

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 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.



Co Authors of the book "*Gladesville Hospital Cemetery The forgotten cemetery the forgotten people*" Helen Patterson and Maureen Copely (seated) who spoke about the help they received from various people at the Ryde Historical Society and the Ryde Library as well as research by Janette Pelosi Historian, SAG Vice President (standing) & Ros Berryman SPASM Museum. Books are available for \$25.00 from RHS.



Next Months events booked for the Museum

Sat 12th & Monday 28th August open days.

Sat 19 August the AGM & Annual lunch Please note the wrong date was recorded in last months newsletter.

As a member or friend of the SPASM Museum we would be delighted if you could attend the AGM to be held on Saturday 19th 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.

We now have over 60 members although we don't expect to have you all attend, as some members now live outside Sydney: in Mittagong; Macksville; Newcastle; Queensland & Victoria. RSVP prior to August 1 please.

New Donation News:

An older style manual operating table and Colposcope has been kindly donated to the museum from Canterbury Hospital organised by Jenny Cubitt. A new display area is planned to be set up in Building 1 to accommodate these and previously donated items.

Corporate Members of SPASM

NSW OTA.

NSW Nurses Association

Health Care Museum
SPASM