

# HealthCare Museum SPASM MUSE

## Newsletter October 2023

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



September has been a quieter month, time to regroup after the busy days during August. Val and I spent part of our day at the museum peeling off the left over sticky from the walls of what was once “*The Gladesville room*” in Building 1. (The new Gladesville room has been set up in building 5).

We are beginning the set up for our proposed new “Modern” Operating theatre room, to be able to contrast older equipment in the museum with equipment from 1990’s-2000’s. This is made possible with donations of obsolete equipment that has been recently replaced in hospitals.

The plan is to set this room up with: A Datex Ohmeda S/5 Advance Anaesthetic machine - complete with its Desflurane vapouriser. We have included some information about the reasons why Desflurane and Nitrous Oxide are being phased out of modern anaesthesia. An interesting story.

We have the Steris 4085 Mechanical Operating table and mattress. The table has “*a narrow column and a four-section tabletop that contours to all patient postures.*”

We have included the Laparoscopic tower complete with Linvatec light source, a Weck insufflator & a little fiber optic bronchoscope, which is no longer fit for purpose, but will enhance our forthcoming display.

We would like to have a backdrop of a more modern theatre to set the scene and the proposed photo is shown here. If anyone has a photo of a similar era and would rather have it considered for inclusion please send it to our email address.

## October 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.



Datex Ohmeda S/5 Advance Anaesthetic machine.



Steris 4085  
Mechanical  
Operating  
Table



Proposed backdrop to our new display area.

## 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 those days or other days – depending on volunteer availability.

### Executive Members :

President: Sandra Solarz

Co Curators : Gary Klopfer & Peter Hartigan

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](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.org.au/organisations/spasm/>

# Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

## Building 1

**The Corridor** gives a time line of the Tarban Creek Asylum - Gladesville Hospital.

**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

**2. The Operating Theatre circa 2000** has a "new" op table, mayo stand, anaesthetic machine and endoscopic tower. All items were donated by Canterbury Hospital.

**3. The Pharmacy room** shows beautiful jars, and bottles, household remedies and also some early dispensing records, There is also an optical collection.

**4. The small room outback** has the large EEG machine and ECT machines on display along with straight jackets and additional anaesthetic instruments and equipment.

## 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 back. The 1936-2006 instruments of GP **Dr. Leslie Bruce Johnson** are also now in this room.

**Room 2. The surgical "pick room"** contains instrument cupboards with a display of surgical instruments, sutures and blood collecting apparatus.

**Room 3 The St Thomas Hospital Operating Theatre** has a display of receptacles used in the operating theatres as well as an early operating table, early surgical instruments as well as ENT, obstetric, and general instruments. A timeline is provided for innovations. The early challenges of pain, sepsis & blood loss is explained.

**Room 4 The haemostasis room** 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, a swab rack, 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. Our latest exhibit the C1920's Ritter-Biber Xray machine takes pride of place at the end of the Corridor.

**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.

**The World War I & II area** is now complete with its large photograph of Casualty Clearing Station Operating Theatre in France and various instrument sets used during both wars.

## Building 5

**The Tea Room** where you can have a cup of tea or coffee

**The Gladesville room** The staff bundy clock, and religious artifacts used at Gladesville during services: a very old bible; church organ & pew. There are photographs and some stories about past patients and attendants, as well as literature about the past history of the asylum.



**This Binocular Colposcope** above was recently donated by Canterbury Hospital and will soon be displayed next to our much earlier **Moller-Wedal German monocular model** (donated in 2011 by Hugh Patterson) that was said to be one the first two colposcopes imported into Australia from Germany.

Both these colposcopes items will form part of a display in the St Thomas room, to compliment our obstetric collection already on display.

The history of this important diagnostic tool would be a great addition to our museum. If there is anyone interested in creating a poster about that topic we would be very pleased to have assistance in preparing that display.

According to one source Hans Hinselmann from the Hamburg University and the technicians from the Leitz Company devised the first colposcope in 1920. Hinselmann published his first paper on colposcopy in 1925, and the first textbook of colposcopy in 1933. In USA Papanicolau's work on vaginal cytology was recognised. In Switzerland in 1936 Shiller introduced the use of iodine to demarcate abnormal areas. In 1938 Hinselmann used acetic acid for the delineation of cervical abnormality visible via colonoscopy. In 1939 Kraatz in Germany

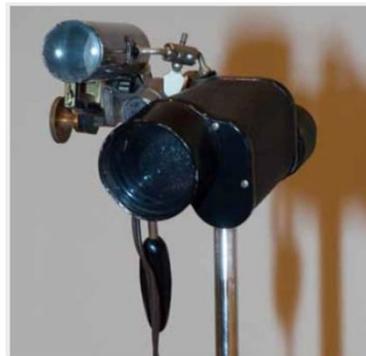


Figure 1. Colposcope 1970s from the RANZCOG Museum collection. Dr Mitchell used one half of a pair of field glasses and some ingenious welding techniques to create his unique instrument. Donation of Mrs Paul Mitchell, 1998.

devised the green filter which even more clearly demonstrated abnormal areas. In the UK in 1939 Shaw acquired a colposcope and began the practice of colposcopy. In 1956 Stallworthy at the Radcliffe in Oxford acquired a colposcope & Malcom Coppleson arrived from Sydney as a registrar and began his career as master of this technique. His first papers appeared in 1960 and he and Reid published a book in 1967 and another in 1971. Not everyone could afford to

purchase a fancy new colposcope. **Australian Paul Mitchell of Brisbane made his own** (pictured above) which is now part of the RANZCOG college collection\*

\*Reference <https://www.ogmagazine.org.au/14/1-14/ab-umbris-ad->

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