

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter March 2024

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



Last month's newsletter about the early 1955 Sigmamotor heart lung machine gained a wider audience and generated a great deal of interest. We thank Tim Cartmill AO for the donation of his excellent book "A children's cardiac surgeon reflects *Understanding Life Backwards*" It was a great read and will be available to view at the museum soon.

This month we exhibited again at the NSW OTA Conference held in Gosford. (Next year it will be in Penrith on 14 & 15th March 2025.)

We are very pleased to report that we joined up 8 new SPASM members at the conference and would like to give a warm welcome to those new members: Sharni Brown; Lauren Bradford; Shayley Lee; Rhonda Sneddon; Angela Jarkey; Katie McGill; Frederick Gagan & Chris Pickering.



March 24

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.



Understanding Life

Backwards



Tim Cartmill AO

The acquisition of the early heart lung motor caught the interest of a number of early practitioners. Resulting in a recent addition to our library and a very interesting read.



Angela Jarkey one of our new SPASM members. Angela is also the Education officer for ACORN.

On the left is Marion O'Farrell, Violet La Forrest, Ros Berryman and Val Coughlan who attended the SPASM stand at the recent 2 day NSW OTA Conference in Gosford.

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 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.spasmuseum.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:

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 and some straight jackets to view.

4. The small room outback has the large EEG machine and ECT machines on display along with 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, a large print photo of RNSH Thoracic Theatre Nurses C1954. **Plus our 2024 acquisition the Sigmamotor heart lung pump machine.**

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 2023 exhibit the C1920's Ritter-Biber X-ray 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 for group 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.

Once again we were approached to provide artefacts for a film.

This time a Curio film: "**The Narrow Road to the Deep North**".

Selecting artefacts for the film industry is a different and interesting aspect of the museum experience.

First the prop acquisition team contact us and describe their requirements. Noting their needs and the date that the movie is set in we consider what items we may have at the museum that fit that era. The team then visit the museum to see what we have that could be used to "dress" the scenes.

Having selected the pieces we catalog and remove all tags on instruments and artefacts, assess the value of each item for insurance purposes, and make up the invoice for the loan.

The smaller items are then carefully packed for collection. On return each item is re-tagged and restored to its original place in the museum.

It's great fun to watch a film and look out for items from the museum that really do help to set the scene!

We have loaned equipment for:
A Place to call home. (Channel 7)
Kill or Cure (NSW Library)
Wolverine.(with Hugh Jackman)
Pieces of Her (Netflix)
The Artful Dodger(Disney)
The Narrow Road (Curio)

The recent Disney production "**The Artful Dodger**" showed a number of items we loaned

Watch the movie "**Wolverine**" to see the operating table that Hugh Jackman lay on. That very same operating table is on display in our diathermy room.



The "Walker glass collection" a popular choice for displays.



The selectors for the NSW Library selecting and itemizing their choices.



Items packed and ready to go to Curio Film set.



"The Artful dodger" in an operating room scene set in early day Sydney.



A selection of knives borrowed for the Kill or cure exhibition

Corporate Members of SPASM

NSW OTA.

NSW Nurses Association

South Care Museum
SPASM