

SPASM MUSE

Newsletter April 2024

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



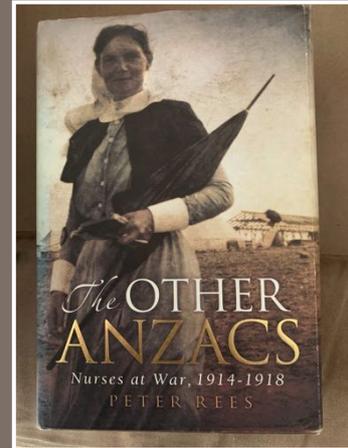
This month we need to thank SPASM Member *Jenny May* for her donation of the amazing book "The Other ANZACS" about the many nurses who served overseas during the First World War.

We also would like to acknowledge an earlier donation from SPASM Member *Sally Sutherland Frazer* of the Uniform replicas of those worn by the WWI Australian nurses. They make a wonderful addition to the display in the Museum.

The uniform donated was made especially for the film about the Anzac Nurses. The name of the nurse is written on the inside of the collar "Olive Haynes". She was a 25 year old nurse from Adelaide. You can read about her experiences in her biography <https://app.memories.net/memorials/olive-haynes-55565> The biography was sourced from records in the public domain held at the NAA and the AWM.

April 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.



The book "The Other ANZACS" donated by Jenny May



You can also watch a TAFE Film called "Angels of the Battlefield" about two other young women Sisters Nellie Morrice and Katherine "Kitty" Porter, both from NSW. Both were awarded the Royal Red Cross (Second class) for their courage and service. During WWI, 3000 civilian nurses served in the First World War, 25 were killed, and 388 were decorated, 8 received the Military Medal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WpocO-PE>



Above Sister Nellie Morrice and Sister Kitty Porter both depicted in the you tube video. Sister Olive Haynes in red cape on left.

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.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:

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.

Anzac day is soon to be commemorated so it is appropriate, given the recent donations, we give some thought to our WW display room, at the end of the corridor in Building 6.

It was a small wood lined room that holds an ancient washbasin. Since 1979 we had used it as a washroom and store room. However in June 2022 it was decided to use this room as a new display room.

Memorabilia and artifacts from the World Wars had been displayed in various areas throughout the museum. A number of larger items such as a portable operating table had formed part of the Melbourne Exhibition "Love and Sorrow." So they were absent from the museum for three years. Their return prompted re-consideration of their display.

The Previous washroom, now a WW Room, needed a photograph to focus ones attention. **The photograph chosen** was taken from the Australian War Memorial website, titled "**Lieutenant Colonel Fay McClure, AAMC performing surgery**" Others in the photograph were also identified as: Sergeant Haswell; Sister Murphy & Major Featonby. The date was 23rd. November 1917. The place: Nord Pas Calais Outtersteene in France, at the 1st. Australian Casualty Clearing Station. This photograph has been used in several publications about the WW1. And we wrote about it in the **June & July 2022 SPASM newsletters.**

<http://www.spasmmuseum.org.au/files/2022.06.pdf>

<http://www.spasmmuseum.org.au/files/2022.07.pdf>

A surgical team is standing in what appears to be a small wooden hut they are: the anaesthetist, a nurse, a surgeon and one other. The type of operating table, enamel bucket and equipment are similar to items we have in our museum. This scenario depicts the essential team required for surgery in a CCS during WW1. All four are intent on their duty.

We also have the set of dental instruments in their original chamois cover. Dr Thomas Conrad Reeves used these during WW1. They were donated to SPASM by his granddaughter Julie Hewson. They featured in the **March 2020 SPASM Newsletter.**

<http://www.spasmmuseum.org.au/files/2020.03.pdf>

Items also present in this room are 2 beautifully boxed sets of instruments used during WW2. One donated by Dr. Lochie Glen The other belonged to Dr. William Frederick James Cammack donated by his son Dr Reg. Cammack.

SO a special thanks go to all those who have donated items to enhance this room, and to those who continue to volunteer at the museum on our open days. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



A Beautiful painting (donated by Ros) covers the little window in what was once a wash room.



Dental instruments in their original chamois cover on display

Corporate Members of SPASM

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Health Care Museum
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