

## Newsletter February 2025

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



Our new year begins. Our first open day this year was busy. It involved day walkers and a visit by the prop team from the second series of "The Artful Dodger," a Disney film production. We are pleased to report that a number of interesting and unusual items were borrowed for the film and we look forward to, and recommend you watch the second series to see our artifacts in action again.

On another happy note, approval in principle has been given to utilize a different area at Gladesville for storage of our items not on display. The "Inner sanctum," an area that was closed to visitors and full to the rafters with items "not fit for display in their current state". It will soon be turned into a new viewing area adjacent to our "Anne Jaumees Operating Theatre".

Ros is keen to work with someone who may be interested in a project about "Medical Doctors' bags - their changing content over the years." **So, if you know of any budding medical or museum studies student** or someone who might be interested in exploring and writing about the content of the myriad doctors bags we currently have stored in various pillow cases within the inner sanctum, please ask them to contact her: [info@spasmmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@spasmmuseum.org.au)

Peter and Gary are eager to de-clutter the anaesthetic room and to reposition the ICU ventilators and other apparatus into the new area.

Last year Facilities repaired and repainted the anaesthetic room and the end results are excellent! Thanks also to Kerry and Peter who re-hung the pictures in the anaesthetic room. They look so nice in their new black frames.

## February 25

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 new recently renovated Anaesthetic room with our newly framed poster size photographs on display.



## 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 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, Kerry Moroney, John Murphy & Peter Hartigan

**Fire Warden:** Kerry Maroney.

Email : [info@spasmmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@spasmmuseum.org.au)

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 Ross Holland 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 Anne Jaumees 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 are 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 instrument sets used during both wars.

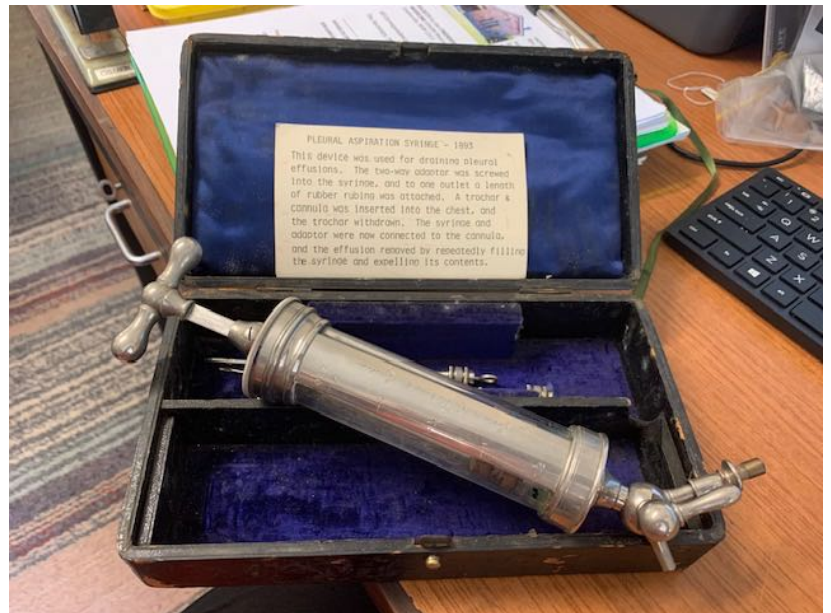
## Building 5

**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.



Particular thanks this month to Kerry and Peter as they organised the display of the newly framed photos in the Anaesthetic room.



*Our item of interest this month is a Pleural Aspiration Syringe C1893*  
This device (we are informed by the written label) was used for draining pleural effusions. The two-way adaptor was screwed into the syringe and to one outlet a length of rubber tubing was attached, A trocar and cannula was inserted into the chest and the trocar withdrawn. The syringe and adaptor were then connected to the cannula and the effusion removed by repeatedly filling the syringe and expelling its contents.

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NSW O.T.A.  
NSW Nurses Association

Health Care Museum  
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