

## Newsletter March 2025

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



It's been a busy month in March as we needed to move all the items including the shelving and cabinets from the inner sanctum into the new storage area adjacent to the PABX system.

The job was too big for us volunteers, so we called in two men (without the truck) for the open day on Saturday as well as the following open day on Monday. Moving the double "back to back" shelving system was a huge task. Many thanks to those excellent two men, as well as Peter, Kerry, John and Gary who helped move the mountain of "stuff." Items were taken off each shelf and laid out systematically so, as much as possible, they were put back on the same shelf – all be it - in a different location.

The old inner sanctum is being repaired by the wonderful folk at facilities, first the roof which was leaking and then the ceiling. A hole in the ceiling had poured dirty water onto a lovely old-fashioned wooden basinet we had stored there. Hopefully that will be on display in the new room – along with ECT machines & ICU equipment. It will be an eclectic and interesting room to visit.

March was a busy and exciting time for Val and Kate too, as they attended the NSW OTA Conference in Olympic Park and manned the SPASM exhibition stand. We heard that they had multiple comments about how interesting the stand was with their carefully chosen artifacts representing the Conference theme "*From Cradle to Grave*" Those who know us can guess what items they took!

We are very grateful to the OTA for allowing SPASM to continue to attend in the trade exhibition area, and for Val and Kate to attend on SPASM's behalf.

## March 2025

Attendance at a Health Care Museum such as SPASM allows visitors to reflect on the past, to contrast with the present and contemplate the



Peter and Gary inspecting a fascinating find in the old inner sanctum. See photo on page two.



Kate setting up the SPASM Stand at the OTA Conference this year. Photo by Val.

## 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.



*Our item of interest this month is this **CIG Portable Anaesthetic machine**. A Water level gauge indicates the level of gas delivered. This is a duplicate of the one already on display in the Anaesthetic room.*



*Stage one of the move from the inner sanctum to the PABX room. So many interesting items within each numbered box. Doctors bags are protected in pillow-cases. There are ECG machines, Mini-Microscopes and all manner of Anaesthetic and Medical devices which are duplicated on the shelves.*

*Corporate Members of SPASM*

*NSW O.T.A.*

*NSW Nurses Association*

*Health Care Museum*  
**SPASM**