

## Newsletter July /August 2025

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



The Annual General meeting of the society was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August in conjunction with an excellent luncheon of pizzas, sandwiches, sausage rolls, and delicious tasty treats! Thanks to those who provided these extras particularly as it had been advertised as a simple byo lunch this year.

The minutes of the meeting has been circulated to all members. Thanks to those of you who sent your apologies for the meeting. Our membership base of 56 is growing but still very small and we come from various regions of NSW and beyond. It is to be expected that those living interstate and overseas would not be attending, but it was so nice to hear from you and receive your best wishes for our meeting. Earlier this year one of our members Dr. John Dingley, from the UK sent a link to a video that you might like to view. This followed on from footage we had sent him of our East Radcliffe ventilator running. See page 2 for more information.

The new display area in Building 1 has commenced being set up and should be completed on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August in time for new group visits to be organised.

Potential visits from Probus groups and Stryder have been suggested so we are looking forward to be once again on show now that the 2 display rooms in Building One have been repainted and repaired. Our very grateful thanks to Alex and his staff at Facilities who have made this happen.

The second of our mystery objects has been identified See page two for a photo of what it would look like complete.

## July /August 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 future.



Bacon's Aural syringe without the rubber component has been a "Mystery object" for a number of years.

## 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 previous inner sanctum** will soon have 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.

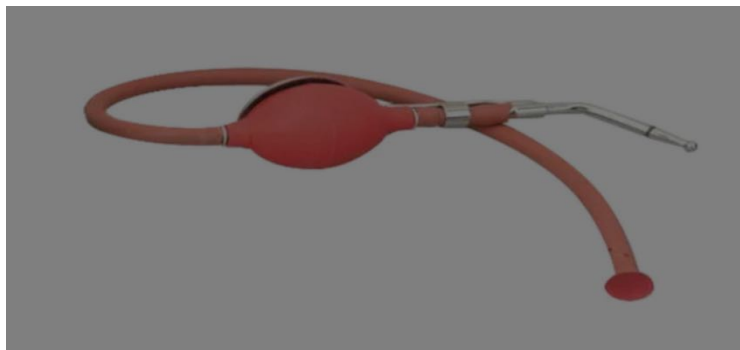
**The library work area** is now a pleasant place to sit & relax take tea and work on cataloging the many artifacts we have that have not been entered into the computer.

**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.



The Bacon Aural Syringe complete with rubber component. Used to enable syringing of the ear with one hand.



An extract from the film, showing our Peter demonstrating the use of the East Radcliffe ventilator sent to us from UK Member Dr. John Dingley.

John wrote

*"A long while ago you kindly sent me some footage of your East Radcliffe ventilator running as I was trying to make a documentary on emergency production of Covid ventilators very early on when it was thought that we would need thousands of machines and all international (parts) shipping had stopped. It (the film) is finally finished and here it is, see link below. Copy this link to paste into you tube*

<https://youtu.be/xi3Te1LSUt0>

**Editors Note** : It's a long film ¼ of the way through there is a snippet of the film we sent to John of Peter demonstrating the use of his favorite East Radcliffe ventilator. Is a very interesting film about early times of the Covid Pandemic in the UK - Watch, Learn lots and Enjoy.

*Corporate Members of SPASM*

*NSW O.T.A.*

*NSW Nurses Association*

*Health Care Museum*  
**SPASM**