

Newsletter March 2026

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



At the end of March the Lane Cove Rotary Club conducted an evening tour of the Museum led by their President Jenny May and Kerri Moroney. Both Jenny and Kerri are also long time members and supporters of SPASM. More about the evening and the Lane Cove Rotary is on page 2.

Our next big tour has been organised for Monday May 25. We will be hosting over 28 people from the St George Community Transport Group. So this is a call out for support to host this event please. Morning tea to commence at 1030 am so it's an early start for us to be ready.....



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 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

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:

<https://mgns.org.au/organisations/spasm/>

March 2026

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.

It's almost impossible to get the St George Community Individual Transport team in the same place at the same time - so we asked AI to help bring a few of them together... See more



The photo above is from the St George Community face book page – This group does a great deal for the local community and we are pleased to provide a venue for their upcoming tour of SPASM on 25th May.

The photo opposite was taken at the District conference in Newcastle on 21st March (from Lane Cove Rotary's facebook page)

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.

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 New 2025 Display area has the large EEG machine and multiple ECT machines on display along with historical ECG equipment. Also a Special tribute to the SA Both Bros who invented early ECG equipment.

Building 6

Room 1 is set up as 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 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, including the Ryde Historical book about the burial site at the museum.

Lane Cove Rotary is a fantastic organisation and we were pleased for them to hold their meeting and tour of the museum in the evening. Unfortunately although efforts were made to rectify the problem of lights not working in building 5 prior to the event, that work was not done in time. However in spite of a couple of difficulties – such as no lights in the tea room, and the alarm going off in Building 6 - from the comments received all had a good time. Over \$200 was raised for the SPASM and we would like to very much thank all the club members attending, Jenny and Kerri for their support of the museum. Lane Cove Rotary is currently raising money for the Lane Cove Delvena Women's Refuge so please consider hopping on line to support that worthy cause. To search their website copy and paste this address into your browser.

<https://www.facebook.com/lanecoverotary/>

Following discussions with the executive last year, the decision was made to purchase a coffee dispenser for the museum kitchen in building 6. This will enable us to offer coffee for workers and for the walkers who visit the museum from time to time. Walkers often talk about the lack of refreshment facilities in the grounds, and we all miss the local café that used to be at the Gladesville site. It was suggested setting up a table and chairs on the verandah of building 6 may encourage walkers to stop and visit the museum. The cost of the machine will be defrayed from tax-deductible contributions. To date \$500 has been donated towards the \$970 cost. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause donations are tax deductible. ... 😊 😊

Corporate Members of SPASM

NSW O.T.A.

NSW Nurses Association

Health Care Museum
SPASM