

Newsletter May 2026

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



A reminder – on our next open day Monday 25th May we will be hosting a large group visit from the St George district. If you can assist us on that day that would be fantastic! The group will arrive at 1030am

We thought that readers may like to put a face to the name we wrote about last month. Please meet Marie Montgomery who's late husbands' pharmacy collection is at the museum. These are some additional items that Marie offered to us last month and some of them have now been mounted in a frame for your viewing pleasure! But you will have to come to the museum to see them! Just like you will have to come to sample the coffee from our new coffee machine, it was installed last Saturday, which turned out to be a busy day.

We had a very interesting visit to Callen Park last month. We were invited by James Rogan-Hall (NSW Health Heritage Remediation Project Manager) to view some artefacts that were being stored in a couple of buildings at Callen Park with a view to saving them (as part of the Department of Health's policy of preserving movable heritage).

May 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.



Marie Montgomery donating the collection of various tins last month and the lovely blue jar!



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.w.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.

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.

There were some very nice objects that may be accommodated in the limited space we have available. Others may be stored in the adjacent rooms near our tea room in building 5. James also hopes to reinstall some wooden bedroom cupboards from Callen Park that were similar to those that were removed from Gladesville upstairs in Building 5.



Last Saturday Helen and Henry visited the museum. Typical of the "walk-in" visitors we welcome to the museum they live locally and often walk in the lovely grounds of the hospital. They were excited to see us open and took the time to investigate.

Also last Saturday Kerry and Peter worked very hard to secure the newly framed stories of patients and staff of Gladesville, and also the story of Dr. Frederick Norton Manning. These items were previously mounted on cardboard and stuck to the walls, but kept falling off. Now they are displayed in lovely frames in Building 5 in the Gladesville room and in the tearoom.

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