

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter June 2024

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



Normally at the museum we look back at instruments and wonder how they were used or who used them. This month we were looking forward and considering what might, one day, be the future of instrument manufacturing.

One unique instrument was unable to be sourced and the hospital wanted more. Unable to purchase another it was duplicated using a 3 D Printing machine! In the end it was decided not to continue with the polish and finishing to the duplicate 3 D printed stainless steel instrument as there was no clear assurance or evidence that it would be safe, effective or durable, but it was used as a useful prototype and sent overseas to be duplicated by the conventional drop forged stainless steel method.

SPASM Member Gordon Stenning kindly offered us the unique 3D printed stainless steel instrument and it now sits in pride of place in our curiosity cabinet alongside 2 other curious instruments (that we have no definite idea of what they are, or why they were manufactured). We have a multitude of catalogs that describe various strange and interesting items, but we now have one instrument (a 3D printed one) that will not be in any catalog past or present.



June 24

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.



Gordon Stenning talking to our volunteers about the 3D built instrument he recently donated to the museum



The Stainless Steel 3D printing machine

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 those days or 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, Carol Logie, Kerry Moroney, John Murphy & Peter Hartigan

REMINDER: AGM SAT 13/7/24 HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MUSEUM FOR LUNCH. RSVP

Email : info@spasmuseum.org.au

Contact SPASM by phone 0414993138

SPASM web sites at www.spasmuseum.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:

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 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 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 is 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 various 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.

We have not been having large group tours this year. The one that was planned for Tuesday, sadly did not eventuate due to a Covid outbreak. So the visit was cancelled.

This month on Saturday we began an interesting project at the museum, sharing with each other what we talk about when we guide. We started with the anaesthetic room in Building 1. Kerri, Gary and Peter each provided their unique take on this interesting room crammed full of anaesthetic apparatus.

A time line of the introduction of various machines, gasses and strategies to promote safety has been generated and this will soon be on display in that room.

If you haven't seen this excellent paper from the Brazilian Journal of Anesthesiology (English version) about the history of anaesthetic machines and apparatus you might like to view it. You will need to copy and paste these links into your browser.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0104001421000361>

This one below is about the inventor of the battlefield ambulances Dr. Dominique –Jean Larrey Chief Surgeon to the Imperial Guard. In 1805 he described how patients felt no pain when amputations were performed at 19degrees below zero!

<https://www.frenchempire.net/biographies/larrey/>

At last Monday's meeting we were the busiest we have been for many months. As well as individual groups visiting, we had the power point presentation by Gordon Stenning (from the Stenning instrument company).

We had a visit from the family of the late Dr. John Radford who donated his very well preserved GP bag.... It is now on display in the GP room in Building 6 along with some interesting photographs (one in New Guinea during WW2 and the other with Prince Phillip) as well as a short story about Dr. Radford's career.

Finally we had a group discussion in the "Surgical Pick room" i.e. Room 2 in building 6, Val lead this talk, describing the salient discussion points: the old surgical techniques of Neurosurgery and Urology; Orthopaedic surgery; the progression of instrument manufacturing from stainless steel (designed by physicians to unique specifications) to mass produced disposable instruments (which have radically changed surgical techniques); Sutures and the development of atraumatic sutures; blood transfusion & cupping equipment; then the development of cystoscopies. Following on from this discussion. Some internet browsing include my top 3 you might like to view.

Re sutures:

<https://www.kugener.com/en/humanmedizin-en/chirurgie/50-artikel/8285-thread-horse.html>

Re Cystoscopy:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK493180/>

Re the development of lithotomy

<https://wellcomecollection.org/articles/XXYtFBAACUACFmP>



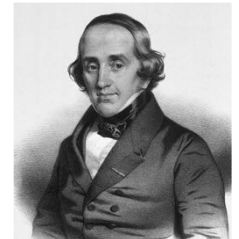
Replica of Morton's inhaler.



Hewitt's modification of Clover's portable Ether inhaler.



Doctor Dominique-Jean Larrey recorded definite clinical observations re the anaesthetic effects of cold



Doctor Jean Civiale and his instruments. (another Frenchman) the first to clinically use a lithotriteur



Horse hair sutures.

Corporate Members of SPASM

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NSW Nurses Association

Health Care Museum
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