

***From the President***

Welcome to the first ACHHA Newsletter for 2010, and my first report as President. I thank members for allowing me to preside over this important committee.

The momentum generated by the excitement of the realisation of the dream of finally having the collection on permanent display is still with committee, as we now set about finalising the security of the displays, so that the building can be left unlocked and unattended during Village hours. It is expected to be June before this can happen.

In the meantime with members available to supervise, the building is open on Market Days. The displays have been very favourably received by the many visitors on these days. The next Market Day is the Mothers' Day Markets on the 9th May.

While the collection is a finished project in itself, there is still a lot to be done behind the scenes. Debbie and Lorraine have made progress in recording the names from staff files, and the documentation is available for the recording of all artefacts in the collection prior to these also being put into a database. Boxes of documents are to be sorted, and the history of the health services to be written.

While the library books are neatly on shelves these also need to be catalogued and entered onto data sheets for easy access during research. Volunteers welcome.

The decision was made to man the building not only on market days, but also during major tours. To date we have opened the building to three tours from schools. This has been an

experience both for the school children, and the ACHHA members who made themselves available. My thanks go to those members. If you are interested in being on a roster for tours, please let a member of the committee know.

2010 is a big year for the Nursing profession. 2010 is the International Year of the Nurse, and 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Florence Nightingale, and it is 60 years since the formation of the formidable Matrons' Association. The 12th May is International Nurses Day, and the ACHHA International Nurses' Day subcommittee has initiated the celebration of Nurses for this year and has set the ground for these celebrations. Representatives from the CQUni, the Hillcrest Hospital, the Base Hospital, and the Mater Hospital, together with ACHHA representatives Yvonne and myself have commenced meetings to ensure a successful function.

This year's function will have the theme:

*"See the Past, Feel the Present,
Know the Future".*

The '*Feel the Present*' will be in the form of a debate between two teams of three. The details of '*See the Past*', and '*Know the Future*' are still being finalised.

The function will be held at the CQ University nursing building from 5.30 pm on the 12th May 2010. Note the date in your diaries. I hope to see all members at this function which will start with a meet and greet light refreshments, followed by a presentation on the past, then a debate under the title of "Thanks Flo, but we need to move on".

The evening should both entertain and give insight into the future of the nursing profession. If interested in attending, for catering purposes, please let me know by the 6th May. Because of the work still to be done at the museum, the decision has been made to increase the membership of the Committee. If you are interested in being involved as a member of the committee, or in a support role, please let me know.

Norma West
April 2010

Notes on the 2009 Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Annual General Meeting was deferred until 08 December to allow Management Committee members and volunteers to devote all available time to the very large task of preparing the museum building and displays for the Official Opening on 21 November – a task which was completed very satisfactorily.

As many will know, long-serving President Yvonne Kelley did not stand for re-election as President so as to spend as much time as possible working on organising and documenting the Collection. Our new President, Norma West, comments on the magnitude of this task in her President's Report above. Yvonne has the most detailed knowledge of the Collection and the big task now is for her to work with all available volunteers to make sure that as much of this knowledge as possible is recorded to ensure the long-term value of the Collection to future Museum visitors and researchers. One of the other changes is that we have created a Management Committee position with the title Archivist to describe Yvonne's new role. Broadly, we can describe an Archivist as:

"A person responsible for acquiring, arranging, describing, and providing access to historical items and records of enduring value, and making recommendations on what portion of the information produced or collected by an organisation should be made part of an historical record or put on exhibition."

One paragraph in Yvonne's Annual Report to the AGM is worth repeating in full because it

very clearly states the task ahead:

"Next year (i.e. 2010) the organisation will move to a new phase in its development. Now that the basic displays have been established, the management committee can objectively evaluate, to improve and make all objects on display safe and secure. Some committee members will be concentrating on developing a system to sort, catalogue, digitize and store the vast amount of paper records in our care, for future researchers to access. This will take some years to accomplish."

I'm sure all members will join with me in thanking Yvonne for the work she did in the role of President which she held for 8 years, and in welcoming long-serving Vice-President, Norma West to her new role as President.

Another major change to the Management Committee is the loss of another stalwart, Dr John Learmonth, who decided not to stand for re-election after 12 years serving the organization. John served the Association in multiple ways and multiple roles. We will miss him and thank him sincerely for his untiring work.

We welcome Ashley Reid to the Management Committee. Ashley has been a volunteer for a number of tasks and we now welcome her to a more formal role.

All members of the 2009/2010 Management Committee are identified in the box at the end of this Newsletter.

In her Annual Report, Yvonne briefly summarised the events of the year, making particular mention of a despondent start when we were having no success in finding the funds necessary to refurbish the Museum building through to a triumphal conclusion with the Official Opening by our strong supporter, Hon Robert Schwarten. She particularly acknowledged the excellent work done by the very cooperative team from QBuild.

In addition, Yvonne acknowledged other organisations which had supported us during the year including the Rockhampton Regional Council and the Heritage Village, Hillcrest Hospital, the Mater, the Rockhampton Hospital and the AFS Pharmacies Group.

Errol Payne

From the Archives**The First Trained Nurse in Central Queensland - Mary Jane Hood**

There are many stories which are part of our collection which we plan to share with you in future Newsletters. This one about the first trained nurse in Central Queensland is an excellent example, originally written by Yvonne Kelley in 1987.

Miss Mary Jane Hood was born in Belfast, Ireland and came to Australia as a young girl. She worked at the Rockhampton Children's Hospital from January 1884 to March 1885 and then commenced nurse training at Rockhampton Hospital (then known as The Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital) and graduated in March 1888. This was eight months before the first nurse graduated from The Royal Brisbane Hospital. In April 1888, Miss Hood became the Matron, a position held until 1906. An extract from the bulletin which appeared in "The Australian Trained Nurses Association Journal", December, 15th, 1906 states:

"Miss Hood from Rockhampton held the position of Matron for 20 years during which time she has proved herself to be a most patient and zealous worker for the care of the sick. Two hundred people were present at a farewell party on the Hospital lawns. Miss Hood was farewelled with the wish of everyone for her future success and a pleasant holiday in New Zealand".

After private nursing in Brisbane, Miss Hood journeyed to New Zealand. "The Australian Training Nurses Association Journal" in January 1909, printed an extract from a letter received from Miss Hood.

"I take over the Trained Nurses Home, 137 Salisbury Street, Christchurch from 1st January and I hope to maintain its high standard and influence its usefulness, so as to be able to supply the Medical Profession and the public with well trained nurses in every branch of their profession and to give the nurses as much home-life as possible. Nurses in Christchurch have joined a Trained Nurses Association".

Miss Hood was a foundation member of the New Zealand Trained Nurses Association and

President of the Canterbury Branch for many years.

In 1924, Miss Hood was one of a deputation of three trained nurses to the Home Science Committee of the Otago University. Their purpose was to ask the University Council to support the proposed Diploma Course for nurses and they urged the Committee to do all that was possible in pushing forward the proposal so that students may begin the course at the commencement of the New Year i.e. 1925 and that University recognition would place the nursing occupation in line with other professions.

Extracts from her obituary published in "The New Zealand Nursing Journal" in November state:

"It is with very great regret that we record the death of Miss Mary Jane Hood which took place at Napier on September 28th 1930. She received her nursing training at Rockhampton Hospital, Queensland and was later Matron of that institution from 1888-1906.

Miss Hood was a woman of staunch character and of a very kindly nature. Her help was ever ready for those in need, particularly for members of her own profession, and her memory will live by her kindly deeds and personality".

Research is continuing to obtain more information about this remarkable forward-thinking and caring woman who pioneered and laid the foundations of nursing practice in Rockhampton.

This photograph from 1890 shows Matron Mary Jane Hood with fellow staff at the Rockhampton Hospital.



Miss Hood's vision for a Diploma Course for Nurses in Tertiary institutions became a reality in Central Queensland in 1990, seventy years after her involvement in the deputation to the Otago University.

Yvonne Kelley
ACHHA Archivist

Official Opening of the Museum

It seems a little strange to be writing a Newsletter article on the Official Opening of the Country Hospital Museum five months after it occurred. However, the extra work associated with the development of the building has meant that the newsletter has been "on the backburner". Nevertheless, we should cover the event which was a huge success and a tremendous milestone for those who had worked to achieve their dream of a dedicated Country Hospital Museum for so many years.

More than 130 guests turned out for the opening by the Honorable Robert Swarten MLA who had provided great assistance to the Association when it came to the problems of raising funds for relocation of the building and then its full refurbishment. While many individuals and companies made very important contributions to development of the museum and collection over many years, the large amounts of funding involved in the move and the refurbishment proved difficult to raise. We must also acknowledge that the Government donated the former Mt Morgan Hospital Nurses' Quarters.

Many of you will have seen the article in The Morning Bulletin on Saturday 26 December 2009. The full story and all the photographs are also available on our website at <http://www.achha.org.au/news-opening.php>.

In this Newsletter we include a few photographs not printed in The Morning Bulletin.

Thanks to the work of Heritage Village staff-member Dieter Irving and his colleagues the grounds were beautifully presented for the opening. One particular point worth noting is that, instead of having a new plaque made for the Opening, the original Foundation Stone for the Rockhampton Hospital in Canning Street

Important notices

International Nurses' Day 12 May 2010

You are invited to participate in a celebration of International Nurses' Day to be held at the Nursing Building (Building 18) at Central Queensland University at 5:30 pm on Wednesday 12th May 2010.

Theme: "See the Past, Feel the Present, Know the Future".

Forthcoming 2010 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events

Sunday 09 May 2010

Mothers' Day Markets

Sunday 30 May 2010

Multi-Cultural Day

Sunday 11 July 2010

Winter Markets

Sunday 25 July 2010

Emergency Services day

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. The Association operates on a normal financial year, so that any new members joining in May or June will have their subscriptions credited against the 2010-2011 Financial Year.

If you wish to join the Association, please contact the secretary, Errol Payne, by phone on 4922 3314, by email at:

secretary@achha.org.au or post payments to ACHHA Inc, Box 4035, Rockhampton Qld 4700. Of course any member of our management committee outlined on the final page will be pleased to assist you to join.

Membership Fees

Annual

Individual	\$20.00
Couple	\$30.00

Life

Individual	\$200.00
Couple	\$300.00

Please make cheques payable to: Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

Newsletter

If you have ideas for the newsletter, please contact me by phone or mail at the address above or by email to secretary@achha.org.au.

has been relocated in front of the building. It was originally unveiled by the then Mayor of Rockhampton, Captain R. M. Hunter in 1867.



While we could illustrate the interior of the building with many photographs, it is definitely necessary to visit the Museum to gain a proper appreciation of how well it has turned out. However, this display set up in the pharmacy room by Barry Bryant and colleagues rates a particular mention. The excellent large fully-enclosed display cabinet was made possible by a donation of \$7,827 from the Friendly Societies Pharmacies.



This photograph of part of the operating theatre display also illustrates the quality of the collection.



The photographs below show just a few of those who attended the Official Opening.

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Former Rockhampton Hospital Board Member Jack Livingstone, his wife Dawn with ACHHA Committee Member Lorraine Antonello in the Westwood display room.



Mrs Olga Evans (left) with Mrs Thelma Salmond and Mrs Mary Provan.



Dr Joe Putman with Ms Adele Rogers and Mrs Chris Putman (right).



Dr Lynn Jamieson with ACHHA President Mrs Yvonne Kelley.



The Rev Claire Dewar who performed the Blessing of the Museum during the Opening Ceremony is seen here with Mrs Ngaire Kane and Mrs Cecily Primmer.



Dr Don Kane makes a point to ACHHA Patron Dr Con Primmer and ACHHA President, Mrs Yvonne Kelley.



Keeping track of the records

Several mentions have been made of the task of recording items in the Collection. Debra Richards and Lorraine Antonello have been taking the lead here by entering information into the professional museum management software program Mosaic. At last report Lorraine had entered information for 1200 individuals into Mosaic. Mosaic links all the separate "pieces" of information which we have about an individual or object so that we will have a list of all information at our fingertips, so to speak.

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Website: www.achha.org.au
Email: enquiries@achha.org.au

Patron: Dr Con Primmer OAM

Elected Office Bearers

President: Norma West
Secretary: Errol Payne
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Archivist: Yvonne Kelley

Committee Members

Lorraine Antonello
 Tom Dewar
 Del Leitgeb
 Carol McIver
 Bill McIver
 Jocelyn Philp
 Ashley Reid
 Debra Richards