



AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY HOSPITAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC
NEWSLETTER **JULY/AUGUST 2007**

President's Report

As members are aware, the Association is working towards the establishment of an outstanding museum in a building which was formerly the nurses' quarters at the Mt Morgan Hospital. The building, shown above, has now been transported to the Rockhampton Heritage Village with funding support provided by the Queensland State Government. It has been re-stumped and re-roofed and given new steps. The Rockhampton City Council has constructed a new ramp to provide access to the building.

We are still negotiating with the Commonwealth Government to obtain the finance to refurbish the building. The Regional Partnership office in Canberra has objected to the shifting of the building before they had made their final decision. We looked at shifting the building as one project and refurbishing as a separate project, the Government regards it as one project. The Executive committee is looking at alternative options.

Our secretary John Learmonth is not seeking re-election this year. We are looking for a replacement, if you would like to help out please contact me on 4928 5443. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the COIN office in East Street 5-6pm.

Hope to see you all at the AGM at 5pm on 25th September at the COIN office East Street.

Yvonne Kelley
President

Celebration of International Nurses' Day

The Association joined with Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital to celebrate International Nurses Day with a function in St Peter's Church at the Rockhampton Heritage Village on the afternoon of 19 May 2007. The ceremony, which was attended by about 60 people, commenced with an Ecumenical Service jointly conducted by Mrs Margaret Perkins, the Rockhampton Hospital Chaplain and The Venerable Dr Rob Philp. Participants were welcomed by Ms Tracey Wust, CEO of the Hillcrest Hospital and joined in a number of hymns and prayers which were appropriate to the celebration of the magnificent service provided by many generations of nurses. Ms Norma West, Vice-President of the Association, led the nurses in the congregation in reaffirming the Nightingale Pledge, the original version of which was prepared by a committee chaired by Lystra Gretter in 1893.

As shown in the photograph, many of the participants dressed in nurses' uniforms typical of the profession's earlier years.



At the conclusion of the formal Service, ACHHA Committee Chair, Mrs Yvonne Kelley, gave a brief overview of the Australian Country Hospital Collection Centre. This was followed by an outstanding afternoon tea provided by Hillcrest Hospital which enabled the participants to enjoy informal time with friends and colleagues.

Association members opened the museum building to allow interested people to view progress following its relocation from the Mt Morgan Hospital and to hear of the Association's plans for the development of the site as an outstanding museum 'dedicated to preserving the health service history of Central Queensland'.

Village staff added to the occasion by providing a shuttle service between the Village gates and the Church in one of their heritage buses (below).



Important notices

Rockhampton Heritage Village Events

Sunday 09 September
Jazz Markets

Sunday 25 November
Christmas Markets

Please take the opportunity to visit the Lakes Creek Cottage during these events. You will find our display is open with members of the Association in attendance.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25 September 2007
5:00 pm
COIN Building East Street

Please see further details and a nomination form enclosed with this Newsletter.

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities.

Membership subscriptions are now due for the financial year 2007-2008. If you have not yet renewed your membership for this period, or if you wish to join the Association, please contact the President, Yvonne Kelley, on 4928 5443 or post payments to ACHHA Inc, Box 4035, Rockhampton Qld 4700.

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.

Rocky Swap Report

Family, friends and some strangers responded to our appeal again this year for unwanted, preloved, unidentified and unusual items to grace our stall at the annual Rotary Rocky Swap held on the 4th August. The Rocky Swap stall being one of our major fund raising ventures. We are indebted to all who gave items, and appreciate that in some instances the decision to finally part with a particular item may have been hard. We thank all who contributed.

We were not disappointed with the response, and customers had a comprehensive range of items to select from. There were exercise bikes, clothes, books, jewellery, crockery, cutlery from a bygone era, kitchen equipment, air coolers, heaters, new camera, timber and conduit off cuts, a camel stool (which created a lot of interest), portable type writers (they do still exist for those not yet into computers), a collectors dream of a most unusual iron, and orchids and pot plants of many varieties. Plus much much more.

Bargain hunters were at our stall on the Friday afternoon as we attempted to set up our treasures, and long before we were ready to trade. But we traded anyway.

Saturday trading started at 6am with three brave members volunteering for the early shift. We thank Ashley, Kay and Lorraine for this commitment. Trading commenced at a brisk pace, and continued in waves throughout the day with the early risers joined by Carol, Bill, Errol, Yvonne, John, Tom, Chris, Norma G., Joe, and Norma W. The number of helpers allowing workers to take time to inspect other aspects of the rocky swap, or to come and go. Many thanks for a good effort, particularly as our financial goal was met.

Again this year we were sustained throughout the day with tea and coffee and Anzac biscuits supplied by Bill and Carol.

Thanks are also extended to Mathew and Lindy, Rob and Steve, Julie and Ray for their part in transporting the merchandise to the swap and taking away unsold items.

Some unsold items have been put in storage, for the next garage sale, while pot plants have gone back to the garden. Other items such as books and clothes went to charities. Yvonne can help anyone looking for orchids or pot plants and Norma can help anyone needing a typewriter in good order.

Special thanks are extended to all who assisted in any way, including but not least of all those who by taking the opportunity to purchase from our stall, contributed to realising the vision of preserving the before technology history of Health Care in Central Queensland.

Norma West

Rocky Swap Stall Coordinator.

For Sale

Portable Typewriter in very good condition.

Enquiries to Norma on 4927 7259.

Input for the Newsletter

The Association plans to continue its practice of producing at least three newsletters each year in order to keep members informed of activities and to share information about the development of the Museum. The success of the Newsletter depends significantly on the input provided by members.

As Editor of the Newsletter, I welcome your input either in hardcopy or by electronic means such as fax (07 4922 3315) or email (ejpayne@bigpond.net.au). Suggestions for items to be covered will also be welcome.

Errol Payne

Managing the collection with Mosaic

While the Association has a number of items from its historical collection on display in the Lakes Creek Cottage at the Rockhampton Heritage Village, by far the majority is still in storage. In order to manage and document the overall collection, the Association will use Information Services Technology Pty Ltd's software program Collections Mosaic Plus.

Lorraine Antonello advises that she and Debbie Richards recently attended a two day workshop on the Mosaic Plus program for collections at Intermediate and Advanced levels.

Lorraine writes that Mosaic Plus is designed specifically for historical collections and to comply with the Australian Standard for collections. The program is designed to:

- Provide visitor access to data;
- Administer contacts and sources;
- Associate subjects with items and other subjects;
- Perform advanced searching;
- Select, define and produce reports;
- Export to external files, other applications and the internet;
- Manage advanced data;

- Enable system maintenance.

Lorraine says that "*Debbie and I meet every two weeks to enhance our skills in the use of the program. We have entered data on the live system and when the new building is in operation we will both be experts at entering data which will allow the Curator, staff and visitors access to information*".

Safeguarding our photographs

Among its collection, the ACHHA has a large number of important historical photographs. As we all know from our own experience, caring for these when everyone would love to pick them up and have a closer look is quite a challenge.

Earlier this year, several members of the Committee attended a workshop on encapsulating photos in Mylar. The session was facilitated by Ms Zoe Scott, the Regional Museums Development Officer.

Mylar is the plastic from which oven bags are made. In the grade used for encapsulating photos, it will not harm the photo and leaves it fully enclosed in a protective film which it is safe to handle. As well as learning the skills, members used the opportunity provided by the workshop to encapsulate some photos from the collection.

Association contact details:

Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.
PO Box 4035 Rockhampton Qld 4700
[Incorporation Number: IA20217]

Elected Office Bearers

President: Yvonne Kelley
Vice-President: Norma West
Secretary: John Learmonth
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Committee Members

Tom Dewar
 Carol McIver
 Bill McIver
 Jocelyn Philp
 Lorraine Antonello
 Errol Payne