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## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

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### *From the President*

Our most heartfelt thanks to you all for giving so generously towards the last phase of our museum project. The final set of blinds will be installed next week and are very effective in reducing the UV light and heat level.

The refurbishment by QBuild was completed in June and the floor coverings in July. We were very happy to meet with so many of you at the function organised to show you the magnificence of the building. Robert Schwarten apologised for being late and missing some of you. As promised, Alistair Sleeman has supplied the carpet mats for each landing.

The Lakes Creek Cottage displays are now closed. Committee members and other volunteers have been packing up and transferring items to the new building and Gormans have donated their services to move the last of the large items such as the iron lung. We have been having a ton of fun rummaging through all the stuff stored in the RRC igloo at Parkhurst and have transferred four trailer loads already. We work at the museum each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am-2 pm or later if enough volunteers are present and want to continue. Come and join us if you can.

The MOSIAC training course went well and Debbie and Lorraine are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new updated version to continue with the data processing.

The Heritage Village Manager has asked that the 40ft storage container be left in its present position and not shifted next to the museum. The committee has agreed to this request.

The committee has decided that the building will be named "Country Hospital Museum" and we plan to have a grand morning opening sometime in November this year. I don't think some of us ever thought we would live to see the day when our vision became a reality.

The AGM will be held in December this year to enable the committee to concentrate on setting up the museum displays. The committee is also examining the management structure of the organisation with a view to streamlining the way we do business for the next phase of our operations. There will be some vacancies on the management committee for next year. Let me know if you are interested.

*Yvonne Kelley*

### *Museum commended in ABC Regional Museums Award*

We entered our museum in the ABC Radio National's Regional Museums Award this year. There were 77 entries. The judges chose a finalist from each state and then one finalist as overall winner which was the North Stradbroke Island Historical Society Museum. They have quite a story to tell because that was the entry to Brisbane for early shipping, and had operations such as the quarantine station which had to deal with such major crises as bubonic plague.

The judges commended five other entries, ours from Queensland, two from New South Wales and one from Western Australia. Since we were beaten by the entry which won the national award, that is a good result. We are still listed on the ABC website along with the State finalists and the other commended entries.

Accompanying our certificate was a letter from Jane Connors, Manager of ABC Radio National which stated, in part: "*You should be justifiably proud of reaching this stage in the Awards which proved more difficult to judge than I imagined. Standards of collections, conservation and community involvement were very high and, in reaching this point, the Country Hospital Museum exhibited the additional, elusive 'something' that elevated you above your competition*".

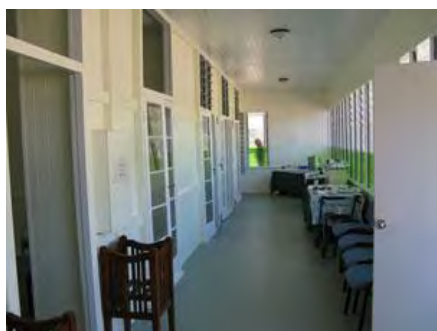
### *The “new” museum building*

We are pleased to be able to provide another update on developments in the now fully refurbished former Mt Morgan Hospital Nurses’ quarters. This view, courtesy of Dr Lynn Zelmer, shows the overall appearance of the front exterior of the building.



Heritage Village staff-members and volunteers are about to establish gardens and build a front fence. Several foundation stones and plaques from previous hospital buildings in Rockhampton will be placed in the garden area.

This photograph of the front veranda, also courtesy of Dr Lynn Zelmer, provides an excellent view of the welcoming front entrance to the museum. The iron lung will be placed at the far end of the veranda. This was often the practice in hospitals of the time because it kept the noise of the pump away from the ward area. By the way, if you ever wondered whether the iron lung still works, it has been thoroughly checked and rewired and was in operation during our International Nurses’ Day function. This image also gives an impression of the quality refurbishment carried out by QBuild and the impact of the new vinyl floor placed throughout the building.



An interesting and very attractive feature of the entrance to the museum proper is a series of three printed glass panels placed above the central veranda doors. These have been designed, prepared and donated by Dr Tom Dewar. This photograph shows the central panel, incorporating the Association logo, being installed by vol-

unteer Mark Carpenter under Tom’s watchful eyes. The other panels include images representing other health professionals including nurses, midwives, surgeons, and pharmacists.



The major task now underway is establishment of the new displays in preparation for the opening. This is being undertaken by members of the management committee supported by volunteers both from within the Association and from the Heritage Village. Multiple tasks are being undertaken. The office and research area has been set up with the bookshelves and files in place. The cataloguing is continuing.

Here are just four photographs showing some of the volunteers at work. In the first Errol Payne looks on as Nancy Crapp sets up the operating theatre. The photograph shows the theatre light which was installed by QBuild staff.



The second photograph also shows Nancy working on the instrument collection with the aid of Debbie Richards. Debbie and Lorraine Antonello are playing a major role in our work by cataloguing and documenting the collection in the specialist museum software Mosaic.



The third photograph shows the serious business of unpacking and cleaning the book collection which has been in storage for some years. Safety guidelines require that those doing the dusting and cleaning wear masks to protect themselves from the dust and possible 'nasties' such as mould spores. Behind the masks (and smiling!) are Norma West, Yvonne Kelley, Lynnette Wall and Carol McIver.



Finally we see Bill McIver and Errol Payne reassembling book cases in the library area.



**Important notices**

**Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on 08 December 2009 at 1:00 pm in the Regional Partnerships Meeting Room on the corner of East and Fitzroy Street.

**Forthcoming 2009 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events**

**Sunday 13 September 2009**

Jazz markets

**Sunday 29 November 2009**

Christmas Markets

As noted elsewhere in this Newsletter, our display in the Lakes Creek Cottage is now closed. We will be in a position to welcome visitors to our new building later in the year at a time to be advised.

However, the Association will have a display at the 2009 History Expo which will be held in the Shearing Shed at the Village on Sunday 13 September in conjunction with the Jazz markets.

**Association Membership**

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. The Association operates on a normal financial year, so that subscriptions are now due for the 2009/2010 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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@achha.org.au).

### Celebrating Q150 and the new building

In order to provide Association members with the opportunity to view progress with the development of the newly refurbished building and to simultaneously celebrate Queensland's 150th birthday, the Management Committee invited members to a function on Saturday 27 June. President Yvonne Kelley took the opportunity to update members on the progress being made and the tasks outstanding.

This is a small selection of the photographs taken on the day. The first shows Yvonne Kelley (centre) with Committee member Dr John Learmonth (right) and Mr Alistair Sleeman of Carpet and Tile Court, the company which undertook the task of laying the new vinyl floor coverings throughout the building and which has donated large mats for the entrances.



Here, enjoying morning tea are Jackie Geraghty (left) with committee members Bill and Carol McIver. Carol has agreed to take responsibility for the set up of the four bed ward which will be part of our final display. Bill has been doing a lot of shifting and carrying. He and Gus Antonello have donated the use of their trailers and themselves to move objects across the Village and from the igloos at Parkhurst.



Committee member Del Leitgeb (left) and Kay Smith (Treasurer) were also on hand to check progress.



Del also discussed the displays with Rita George. The photograph in the background is Dr Ernst Silberstern. He was a qualified doctor in Austria. However, he was captured by the Nazis in 1939 and sentenced to death. He escaped and came to Australia where he re-qualified as a doctor. He came to Rockhampton in 1948 and became medical officer in charge of Westwood.



One of our key supporters throughout the project has been the member for Rockhampton and Minister for Works, Robert Schwarten. Robert played a pivotal role in gaining the first \$150,000 from the Premier's Department which enabled the Association to bring the building from Mt Morgan and reassemble it at the Village. He has since been responsible for obtaining \$60,000 in Q150 funding which enabled QBuild to undertake the internal refurbishment. Robert visited to see first hand the magnificent work which had been completed by QBuild staff. Here Robert enjoys morning tea with President Yvonne Kelley, committee member Jocelyn Philp and Vice-President Norma West.



One of the rooms in the building has been reserved for a display of pharmacy history and memorabilia. Retired pharmacist Barry Bryant (right) has been responsible for collecting and caring for the potential exhibits and other pharmacists are now coming on board to assist with the creation of display via financial or volunteer support. One of these is Duncan Stewart seen here chatting with Yvonne and Barry.



In addition to participants already named, the next photograph includes committee member Lorraine Antonello (second from left) who is playing a major role with Debbie Richards in cataloguing our collection in the software program Mosaic as well as scanning many of our photographs, and Rev Dr Rob Philp who is also a professional historian.



Committee member Dr Tom Dewar welcomes Mrs Norma Gold, wife of distinguished and

long-serving specialist dermatologist Dr Mervyn Gold.



Professor Errol Payne, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Health and Sciences at CQU is seen here in discussion with Professor Amy Zelmer, the first Dean of Health Science at CQU and Dr Lynn Zelmer who is a railway historian and museum developer/supporter.



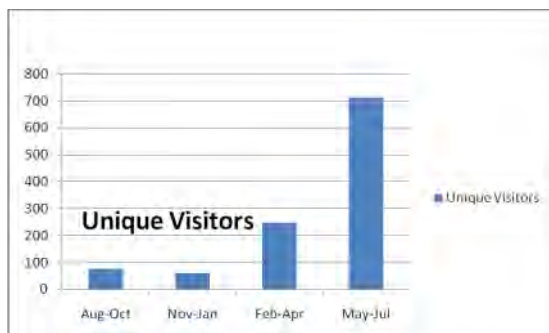
Last, but by no means least, Vice-President Norma West completed the formalities by cutting the Q150 cake.



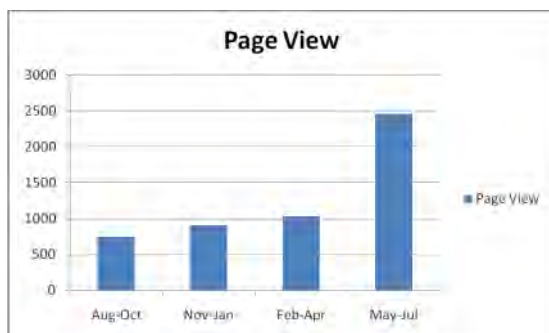
### Watching our website

It is now over a year since the Association launched its website to provide us with the opportunity to tell our story to a much broader worldwide community. Our Web Designer, Dr Alison Payne, has generated a set of data on the performance of the site over the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. The data is in the form of reports for each quarter and here is a summary of some of the key points.

Firstly, 1,075 individuals have logged on to our site during the 12 months. With others looking over shoulders, that represents a significant number of people. What is also very interesting is the way in which the number has been increasing, as shown in the bar chart below.



Unless they arrive on the site by accident, most people will look at more than one page. In fact there were 5,157 page views during the period. These also increased as shown in this bar chart:



The ten most popular page views were "People" (684), the "Home Page" (481), "Uniforms" (363), "Stories" (256), "Buildings" (225), "News" (209), "Resources" (196), "About Us" 179, "Contact Us" (144) and "Pharmacy History" (138). The eleven most popular photographs were "Nursing staff having afternoon tea 1900" (80 views), "Nurses in the 1920's" (62), "Mt Morgan Hospital" (54), "Salvation Army Hospital

1913" (53), "Nursing staff with patients at Westwood 1920's" (49), "Tannachy Staff 1940's" (49), "Yeppoon Hospital" (42), "Student Nurses 1950's" (39), "Rockhampton Hospital Christmas 1930's" (39) and "Nurse Elsie Crudginton 1918" and "Lakes Creek Cottage" (both 35).

The number of visitors increases when we list our website on sites operated by other organisations. For example, 65 visits came via the Collections Australia Network site and 39 via Museum and Gallery Services Queensland.

Google Images was the referring site for 192 visits while 6 came via email reference. Web searches using search engines such as Google generated 949 "hits" on our website. Searchers typed in a total of 673 different keywords. The most popular (apart from our Association name or variants thereof) included such terms as "Yeppoon Hospital", "salvation army glenties Rockhampton", "lady goodwin hospital", "mount morgan hospital" and "Rockhampton heritage village". A total of 164 visits to the site came via "direct reference" i.e. "word of mouth" from people passing on the web address.

I believe that these results should encourage us to continue with the development of our website by adding more stories and photographs as quickly as time permits so that we don't lose momentum in telling our story to the virtually unlimited audience provided by the web. The way in which this website has been set up also enables us to document items such as photographs in the systematic way used by major libraries and state and national photo collections.

*Errol Payne*

### The Friendlies

This article about the development of the Friendly Societies' Pharmacies is the third pharmacy article prepared for our Newsletter and website by long-time Rockhampton Pharmacist and now pharmacy historian, Barry Bryant. We hope readers find the article both educational and interesting. You will find other pharmacy articles on the Our Stories page of the website at <http://www.achha.org.au/stories.php>.

The Friendly Societies were originally set up to provide mutual assistance for members and their families in times of sickness and distress,

essentially paralleling the attempts of trade unions to gain industrial employment benefits for their worker members.

The early history of Benefit or Affiliated Friendly Societies is shrouded in the mists of time due to loss of documentation. Suffice to remember that lodges flourished of necessity as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution in England in the 1770's. In those times, tradesmen, labourers and ordinary citizens tried to pre-empt hardship, injury and death by contributing a small percentage of their income to a common fund dedicated to the purpose of relief for members and their families. The registration of Friendly Societies in that country was accomplished in 1793.

In the new Colony of New South Wales, it is known that in May 1846 three men met at the Star Inn in George Street, next door to the original David Jones' first shop to form a benefit lodge called "Travellers' Home Branch No. 731". This Certificate number implies that there were 730 previous lodges already in existence in England under the auspices of the original Grand United Independent Order of Odd-Fellows in Leeds, England.

Lodges, in order to care for their members, would arrange healthcare benefits by contracting with various doctors and chemists to provide medical care and medicines for members. As these mutual benefit Lodges spread throughout the new colony, they became an integral means of providing health services to their communities. It was logical that as such Lodges became more organised, they should try to establish their own pharmacies to service members and indeed the first United Friendly Societies Pharmacy opened in Sydney in 1887.

One of the early lodges in Rockhampton was Loyal Pioneer Manchester Unity Independent Order of OddFellows (MUIOOF) which opened on 21st May 1863. Shareholder Lodges include the Independent Order of Rechabites, Protestant Alliance Friendly Societies of Australia, Australian Order of Foresters, Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, Australian Natives Association. Individual benefit lodges within these groups were: Loyal Pioneer, Victoria, Fitzroy, Hope of Yeppoon, Jubilee, Queen Alexander, Thistle, Kabra (all MUIOOF); Court Robin Hood, Maid Marion, Lady Norman (Ancient Order of Foresters); Lord Cairns

Lodge (PAFSOA); Never Too Late To Mend Tent, Earl Kitchener Tent (IOR).

Elias Rutherford (see *Alchemy under Capricorn* in this series) provided medicines under contract from his shop in Quay Lane. The first doctor to enter into a contract was Dr A C Robertson FRCS (Lond., 1818-82), who at the time of the Canoona gold rush came from Gladstone where he practised from 1857. He set up a good practice in Rockhampton and was the first surgeon appointed (1859) to the hospital which had been sent prefabricated from Sydney in 1858 at the beginning of the Canoona gold rush. It was then erected on the riverbank in Victoria Parade next to the present-day bridge at Albert Street. After many struggles and tribulations, the hospital site was eventually relocated to the crest of the Range in 1868. Dr Robertson's successor was Dr William Callaghan who will be encountered elsewhere in future articles. He achieved notoriety on one occasion by remarking when asked if the hospital needed improvements that it "...needed none, but the Matron has outlived her usefulness".

Paralleling the experiences in other parts of Australia, during the early 1870's and 80's, efforts were made to improve contractual arrangements and put the Lodges on a better fiscal footing. As a result, a committee was formed showing in the Minutes of Loyal Victoria MUIOOF Lodge for July 25th 1883. Procrastination and resolution of difficulties seemed as prevalent then as in modern times, but the Institute was finally established at a meeting on December 18th 1893 and registered by the State Government on February 5th 1894. The Rockhampton District Associated Friendly Societies Medical Institute thus came into being in order to establish a Dispensary, and provide Sick Pay and Funeral Benefits services for members and their families.

A copy of the 27th Annual Report (1920) makes interesting reading. In those days, the Institute dispensary was situated on the corner of William and Alma Streets opposite St Paul's Cathedral where Green Bros music store now stands. This building had previously been occupied by P A Nelson and Co. as a coachworks (Post Office Directories 1903).

This is an image of the front cover of this report.



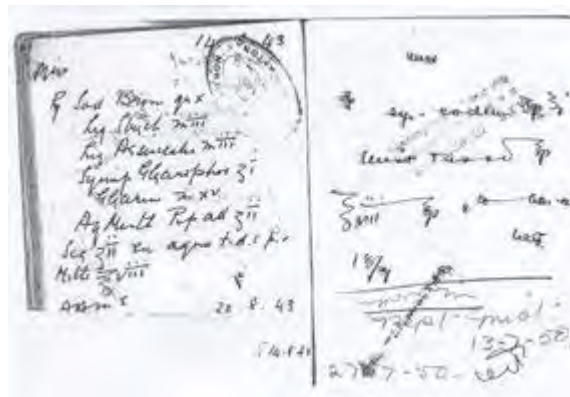
The Medical Officers were Dr N C Talbot MB, ChB (Melb.) of East Street and Dr A A Parry FRCS (Eng.) of "Illilawa" Fitzroy Street. During 1920, records show 23,223 visits and consultations carried out and 20,118 prescriptions dispensed. The pharmacist in charge was Mr O M Roggenkamp PhC who succeeded Mr J C Ramsay. Although the prime function of the Institute was the provision of health care and relief to members in times of distress, it was pleasing to note a profit of £260 10s 6d for the year. Other doctors recorded as offering their services apart from those mentioned previously included Drs Bowman, Voss, Stuart, Gordon and Wooster.

In the Rules and Regulations the Dispensers, as they were termed, were strictly enjoined to be "courteous to all persons requiring medicines and serve them in strict rotation"; "They shall give satisfactory security to the extent of £250 if having receipt or charge of money". Prescription books were provided for the use of members in which the medical officers would write their prescriptions.

These are some of requirements in place:

- The dispenser (sic) was instructed not to supply medicine unless the book was produced;
- Members were also reminded that medicine bottles were the property of the Institute and must be returned as soon as possible when empty;
- Members requiring a second doctor for the administration of chloroform would be required to pay £1 1s unless on the said doctor's list at the commencement of the quarter;
- Members had the right of the attendance of any medical officer of the Institute on the payment of six shillings and threepence extra per quarter in advance.

Two examples of scripts from an actual Lodge script book are illustrated below. One is from 1943 and the other from 1950. As well as illustrating book entries, the prescription on the left is notable because two of the ingredients, Solution of Arsenic and Solution of Strychnine, were typical medications of the time.



**REFERENCES**

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James R 2001 *Secret Handshakes and Health Care in Australia Sesquicentenary of GUIIOF Newcastle 1998*.

McDonald L 1981 *Rockhampton A history of city and district*. Uni. of Qld Press St Lucia pp 357-513.

Rockhampton District Associated Friendly Societies *Annual Report 1920*.

The Friendlies' Societies Acts 1913 et sec.

**Barry Bryant**  
**17 June 2009**

**2009 History Expo**  
 The 2009 Central Queensland History Expo will be held in the Australian Shearing Shed at the Rockhampton Heritage Village on 13 September 2009 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Entry will be by a gold coin donation to the Heritage Village.



*Some "other" country Hospitals*

On a recent driving tour of parts of north Queensland, the Editor took the opportunity to take some photographs of hospitals in some the towns along the road. Many of these are now fairly unexciting but safe single story brick structures, but some, such as these, are more impressive.

We have already had an article about the Mt Isa Underground Hospital Museum in an earlier Newsletter. Here are a couple more views of the structure. This photograph shows one of the three entrances/exits of the E-shaped structure cut into the hill.



Here is an internal view of the long part of the E. The structure was dug out using conventional mining techniques and the roof was supported with timber.



The Mount Isa Hospital stands next door to the Underground Museum.



As might be expected, the Charters Towers Hospital is quite grand.



As were the Nurses' Quarters .....



The Hughenden Hospital is also quite impressive.



This building on the Hughenden hospital site is the one which most reminded me of our museum building.



**Wanted**

Your memories, knowledge, experience, opinion, anecdotal stories, memorabilia etc with regards to any of the following, but not restricted to this list, in order that defining moments/times in the history of Nursing and health care can be recorded.

- Matrons
- Nursing hierarchy
- Student nurses
- Sisters
- Assistant nurses
- Enrolled nurses
- Cadet nurses
- Student midwives
- An all Registered Nurse staffing/ and the transition period
- Pre regional training
- Regional training
- In-service (registered nurses, and Matrons/ Nursing Superintendents/DoNs)
- Turning of sod at CQU
- Transfer of Nurse Education for general students to CQU
- Transfer of Enrolled Nurse education to TAFE
- Transfer of Midwifery education to CQU
- Uniforms
- Agreement between Qld Health and Universities for transfer of Nurse Education to Universities.
- Wearing of veils and caps

- Nursing title changes
- Life in the Nurses' Quarters
- Nurse Education accommodation (Nurses Quarters – Under IHU)
- Christmas in hospital and Christmas carols
- Graduations
- Hospital buildings
- Wards/departments
- Shift work/shifts
- Museum at the hospital
- Mt Morgan Nurses Quarters
- Treatments now obsolete eg Tulle gras, steam tents
- Hospital fetes
- History of the swimming pool
- Hospital Boards
- 840 hour nursing curriculum
- Pre 840 nursing curriculum
- 1200 nursing curriculum
- Wages

For enquiries please phone Norma West on 4927 7259. Please forward any written correspondence, hard copy materials etc, to The Secretary at the Association's postal address below.

**Norma West**

**Vale Dr Mervyn Roy Gold**

We are sorry to hear of the death of one of our members, Dr Mervyn Roy Gold OAM. We extend our sympathies to his family. We plan to publish a tribute in our next Newsletter.

**Association contact details:**

**Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.**  
**PO Box 4035 Rockhampton Qld 4700**  
**[Incorporation Number: IA20217]**  
**Website: [www.achha.org.au](http://www.achha.org.au)**  
**Email: [enquiries@achha.org.au](mailto:enquiries@achha.org.au)**

**Patron: Dr Con Primmer OAM**

**Elected Office Bearers**

- President:** Yvonne Kelley
- Vice-President:** Norma West
- Secretary:** Errol Payne
- Treasurer:** Kay Smith

**Committee Members**

- Lorraine Antonello
- Tom Dewar
- John Learmonth
- Del Leitgeb
- Carol McIver
- Bill McIver
- Jocelyn Philp
- Debra Richards