



## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

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### *President's Report*

With the ACHHA Annual General Meeting coming in October, I am nearing the end of my second year as President. Elsewhere in the Newsletter is the information concerning the AGM, and nomination forms for the positions on the management committee. All positions will be vacant, and should any member be interested in any of the positions, please make that interest known to myself or the Secretary at least two weeks before the AGM. The AGM is also a time to gently remind annual members that their membership dues should have been paid.

Two important news items were mentioned in my last newsletter.

The first related to the successful application for a grant for the undertaking of a significance assessment of the Museum. This assessment has now been completed, with the report due in a few weeks. Aspects of the report will be brought to members attention in due course. We were pleasantly surprised at how significant many areas of the museum and the collections proved to be.

The second was the planning for the celebration of International Nurses' Day. Both the Professional Development workshop in the afternoon and the Great Debate in the evening were a great success. Planning for the 2012 celebrations, again to be held in May, will commence in late September. A combined function for both Nurses and Midwives will highlight the 2012 celebrations.

The schools continue to include the hospital in the visits to the Heritage Village. Executive members act as guides on these days, and find the experience well worth the effort even though the children sometimes prove challenging with questions about our 'not so perfect' manikins. The present

manikins have served their purpose but the time has come to address the need to replace the manikins we have with new ones. Our next grant application will be for manikins.

Our latest successful grant application has seen the purchase of new filing cabinets, data projector and screen, a device to convert old cassette tape to modern digital formats and equipment to make it possible to have an internet connection at the Museum. The filing cabinets have been installed and are already in use thanks to the working party of Yvonne, Carol, Bill and Errol. As some of the material we need to destroy is confidential, a paper shredder has also been purchased.

The committee is looking at ways for the museum to have interactive displays, or to make changes to surprise repeat visitors. The present displays are as a country hospital was, so little changes can be made there, but other possibilities such as photo boards, videos, taped verbal stories of interesting aspects of the pre-technology times, and other suggestions are being considered. If it is some time since your last visit to the Hospital Museum I would encourage you to see it again and soon. The Museum is open to the public each day.

The next Market Day is the 11<sup>th</sup> September, and members of the ACHHA Executive will be there to greet you and to discuss our many plans if you choose to come on that day.

My continued appreciation goes to the ACHHA executive for their continued dedication and commitment to the preservation of an important time in both health history and Australia's history.

**Norma West**  
**President**

**Archivist's Report**

Our organisation in 2010 was awarded a National Library of Australia Heritage Grant to carry out a Significance Assessment of the museum collection. Bronwyn Roper, Museum Development Officer for Central Queensland, was engaged to assess the collection. Many hours have been spent in the data collection, identifying the sub-collections within the whole collection, writing the history and photographing significant elements. The final report is in the draft stage and will be completed and submitted in time to acquit the grant well before the closing date in November. This entitles the organisation to apply for the next two stages in the Heritage Grants Program, a Preservation Assessment and the purchase of Archival quality storage material. Bronwyn has already written:

*One recommendation of this assessment is that due to the level of professionalism, the organisation does not require a Preservation Assessment however they will need archival quality enclosures to ensure adequate storage of fragile paper based material.*

One factor that has amazed me is the large number of sub-collections identified within the collection. There were too many to include all of them in the assessment. Those that were included are listed below.

Archives

Library Collection  
 Ecumenical Church Services  
 Glass Slides  
 Hospital Record books 1890's- 1950's  
 Photographs  
 Oral Histories  
 Hospital Reports 1873-1992  
 Westwood Hospital minutes 1931-1971

Uniforms

Uniform Collections: 1, 2, and 3.

Medical

Dr. Conrad Primmer

Dental

Dr. Tony Beckinsale

Pharmacy

Dr. Barry Bryant

Nursing

Betty Cagney  
 Edna May Weber  
 Elizabeth Kenney  
 Jessie Olive Bartlett  
 Ada Catherine Dean (Kit Walters)

Mary Jane Hood  
 Rosa Annie Christmas

Nursing Records

Nursing registers 1885-1939  
 Nursing Files - inactive - 1940-1982

Rockhampton Hospital

Rockhampton Hospital Plaques  
 Community Health history  
 Foundation Stone 1867  
 Sandrock gates 1910

Nursing Education

Inservice Education 1979-1992  
 School of Nursing Records 1930-1995 -  
 General, Enrolled nurse and Midwifery  
 Regional training  
 Examination Papers  
 Anatomical Charts

Displays

Museum as a whole entity  
 Medical Equipment and Furniture  
 Gommersall Clocks  
 Iron Lung  
 Scrub Sinks  
 Stryker Frame (Rota Bed)  
 Pharmacy  
 Operating Theatre  
 Dentistry

Nurse Organisation

Australian Trained Nurses Association  
 Past Graduates Association  
 Royal Australian Nursing Federation -  
 CQ sub-branch  
 Matron's Association of Queensland  
 Royal College of Nursing Australia -  
 CQ Branch

Awards

Galleries and Museums Achievement  
 Awards for:  
 1. Individual volunteer  
 2. Organisation - volunteer run  
 ABC Regional Museums Awards.

From this list you can get some idea of what the collection holds. We have paper based material and stories on many more health personnel and related topics which are still at the processing stage. This work will be ongoing for many years. The archives are being organised and processed onto our MOSAIC database system and will be a rich source of material in the future for access by researchers, historians and students.

Participating in this significance assessment process has enabled the management committee to identify and see more clearly the huge potential this collection has for the future generations to explore.

**Yvonne Kelley**  
Archivist.

### **Origins of the Yeppoon Hospital**

We are quite used to seeing houses and other buildings shifted from one place to another with the assistance of heavy machinery and large trucks. Our own museum is a good example, having been moved from Mt Morgan to the Heritage Village in four pieces. However, relocating buildings didn't daunt our ancestors either.

The photograph below shows the Yeppoon Convalescent Home, a building which had originally been built (but never used) as a hospital at Mt Chalmers, a town between Rockhampton and the coast which, for a time in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was a thriving mining town. The industry all but collapsed in 1915 and a number of buildings, including this one, were relocated.



The Convalescent Home was opened by Ald T. B. Renshaw, President of the Rockhampton General Hospital, on the afternoon of Saturday, 7th July 1917 at a ceremony attended by 200 persons. The building contained 2 wards, an operating room, dispensary, matron and nurses' apartments, kitchen, and cook's and assistants' rooms, two bathrooms and two end rooms on the front and back verandas. The building was scheduled to take its first clients 2 or 3 weeks later, and became part of the new Yeppoon Hospital in 1922.

Ref. 1917 'Yeppoon Convalescent Home.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld.: 1878-1954), 9 July p. 9, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53817533>.

### **Important notices**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Association's Annual General Meeting for 2011 will be held on 24th October at 1:30 pm at the home of Bill & Carol McIver at 12 Mary Street Rockhampton.

#### **Forthcoming 2011 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events**

**Sunday 11 September 2011**

Markets

**Sunday 27 November 2011**

Christmas Markets

Please take the opportunity to visit the Country Hospital Museum during these events. While the Museum is open daily, it is on Market Days that members of the Association will be on hand to help you with any enquiries and discuss the displays in more detail.

#### **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 2011/2012 year.

If you wish to join the Association, please contact any member of the Management Committee listed on the back page of this newsletter, or email the Association at [secretary@achha.org.au](mailto:secretary@achha.org.au) 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.

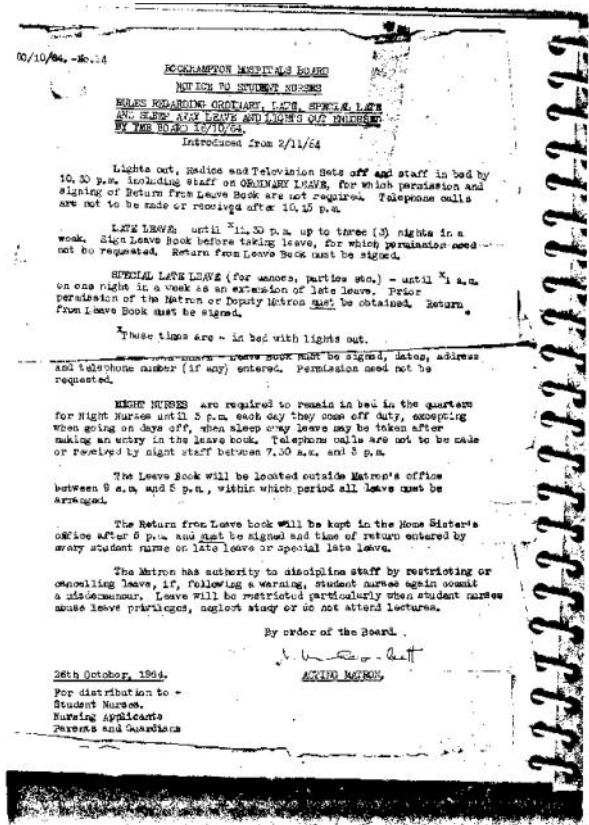
#### **Newsletter**

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).

**From the Archives 1**

Our first story from the ACHHA archives related to the very strict living conditions imposed on nursing staff until relatively recent times. This particular story relates to the conditions set by the Rockhampton Hospitals Board on 30 October 1964. This is a reproduction of the distributed proforma which is part of our collection.

To make it easier for you to read, the text is repro-



received after 10.15 p.m.

LATE LEAVE: until 11.30 p.m. up to three (3) nights in a week. Sign Leave Book before taking leave, for which permission need not be requested. Return from Leave Book must be signed.

SPECIAL LATE LEAVE (for dances, parties etc.) - until 1 a.m. on one night in a week as an extension of late leave. Prior permission of the Matron or Deputy Matron must be obtained. Return from Leave Book must be signed.

These times are - in bed with lights out.

SLEEP AWAY LEAVE - Leave book must be signed, dates, address and telephone number (if any) entered. Permission need not be requested.

NIGHT NURSES are required to remain in bed in the quarters for Night Nurses until 3 p.m. each day they come off duty, excepting when going on days off, when sleep away leave may be taken after making an entry in the leave book. Telephone calls are not to be made or received by night staff between 7.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Leave Book will be located outside Matron's office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., within which period, all leave must be arranged.

The Return from Leave book will be kept in the Home Sister's office after 5 p.m. and must be signed and time of return entered by every student nurse on late leave or special late leave.

The Matron has authority to discipline staff by restricting or cancelling leave, if, following a warning, student nurses again commit a misdemeanour. Leave will be restricted particularly when student nurses abuse leave privileges, neglect study or do not attend lectures.

By order of the Board.  
 N. M. Corbett  
ACTING MATRON.

duced below.

30/10/64. -No. 14  
**ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITALS BOARD**  
**NOTICE TO STUDENT NURSES**  
**RULES REGARDING ORDINARY, LATE,**  
**SPECIAL LATE**  
**AND SLEEP AWAY LEAVE AND**  
**LIGHTS OUT ENDORSED**  
**BY THE BOARD 16/10/64.**

Introduced from 2/11/64

Lights out, Radios and Television Sets off and staff in bed by 10.30 p.m. including staff on ORDINARY LEAVE, for which permission and signing of Return from Leave Book are not required. Telephone calls are not to be made or

26 October 1964  
 For distribution to -  
 Student Nurses.  
 Nursing Applicants  
 Parents and Guardians

**International Nurses' Day Celebrations 2011**

A long-standing Rockhampton tradition was honoured again in 2011 when the role which nurses play in our society was celebrated at events on 12 May. Unlike previous years, the 2011 celebration had two parts. The first was a staff Professional Development Program held during the afternoon at the Shearing Shed at the Rockhampton Heritage Village. The workshop was addressed by several distinguished speakers and covered such areas as nurses as commanders, simulation in nurse education, rural nursing, the experiences of nurse practitioners and nursing in Australia in 2011.

Many participants in this workshop joined others for an evening event which commenced under the old Kalapa State School at the Heritage Village, with refreshments provided by the Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital. Many attendees took the opportunity to visit the adjacent Country Hospital Museum to inspect the many displays covering health services delivery in Central Queensland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The formal part of the evening held in the Shearing Shed commenced with a PowerPoint presentation by the ACHHA Archivist Yvonne Kelley on the topic "From Then to Now". Yvonne's presentation ranged over a series of areas highlighting the contrast between many hospital procedures from the past and those now in place. A simple example was the replacement of porcelain and enamel bedpans which had to be emptied, cleaned, sterilized and reused by similar shaped cardboard items which are shredded and flushed into the sewerage system. Another example covered was the difference between the old methods of measuring blood chemistry such as glucose levels using test tubes, reagents and Bunsen burners compared to present day methods which use modern automated instruments.

The main event for the evening was The Great Debate on the topic "Generalist Nurses - who needs them?" The battle was waged vigorously between two teams of three speakers each.

We must congratulate the members of the Organising Committee who worked very hard in planning the event with the sponsorship of Mercy Health and Aged Care Ltd (Mater Hospital), Ramsey Health Care (Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital), Queensland Health (Central Queensland Health Service District), the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, Central Queensland University and the Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

Here are a few of the photographs taken on the evening. More are available on the ACHHA website: [www.achha.org.au/news-IND-2011.php](http://www.achha.org.au/news-IND-2011.php).

The first two photographs show guests enjoying refreshments under the old Kalapa State School at the Village. In the first we see Associate Professor Trudy Dwyer (CQUni), a member of the Organising Committee, with Mr Tony Gubbins (Rockhampton Grammar School), who was the Adjudicator for the Great Debate. The second photograph shows Ms Tracey Wust (Hillcrest), one of the debate participants with Mr Matthew Johnson (Queensland Health), MC for the evening function.



While the refreshments were being served, guests took the opportunity to view the displays in the Country Hospital Museum. In the first photograph, Dawn Wheeler, Christa Tollner and Helen Quigley inspect the historical hospital ward. The second shows Jessica Lang, Lorraine Antonello and Colleen Reeve in the Treatment Room while the third shows Judy Cornick, Debby Frawley and Shelley Nowlan in front of the display which celebrates the 1954 Nurses' Quarters at the Rockhampton Hospital.



As usual, Yvonne Kelley gave an excellent presentation. This year her topic was "From Then to Now" highlighting changes in buildings, uniforms and procedures over time.



The Great Debate followed. Here Dr Lynn Jamieson (Queensland Health) addresses the audience in support of specialist nurses.



The end of the debate left the judges Emeritus Professor Errol Payne, Ms Amanda McMaster (Mater Hospital) and Professor Amy Zelmer to consider their verdict.



Before leaving the stage, all of the participants lined up for this group photograph showing (L to R) Chair of the Judging Panel, Professor Amy Zelmer, Professor Ysanne Chapman (CQUni), Ms Tracey Wust (Hillcrest), Ms Sherrie Lee (CQUni nursing student), Mr Jared Kummerfeld (TAFE

nursing student), Ms Shelley Nowlan (Queensland Health), Dr Lynn Jamieson (Queensland Health) and Mr Tony Gubbins (Adjudicator).



To complete the function, Chair of the Organising Committee, Ms Norma West, summed up a very successful evening and invited the guests to participate in a light supper.



**Association awarded two grants**

In her President’s Report, Norma mentioned that the Association had been awarded another grant. This is \$6,983 from the Jupiter’s Casino Community Benefit Fund. It has enabled us to replace all of the old hand-me down filing cabinets with modern, non-rusty lockable units to better care for many of our paper records. (Not that we have thrown away all of the old units - most of them have been assigned lesser duties associated with the collection.) We will also be able to purchase a data projector and screen which will be useful both for presentations and for internal work such as training and sharing of knowledge with our volunteers. Another purchase will be a simple cas-

sette player designed specifically to copy our old cassette tapes to modern digital format on USB sticks or SD cards so that we can safely store and document them for the future. Some of these cassettes hold important oral history stories. Finally, we will be able to buy equipment which will enable us to have internet access at the Museum (though this will have an on-going cost which we are yet to resolve).

Of course each new grant generates some new work. Here we see Bill and Carol McIver and Yvonne Kelley partway through the task of replacing the old filing cabinets with the new in the main records room, and refiling the many documents in the archives. Errol is behind the camera.

In a Stop Press announcement we are pleased to



tell you that Museum and Gallery Services Queensland has advised that Yvonne’s application for \$3,053 to purchase archival material for the storage of items in our collection has been successful. This grant is a follow-up to Yvonne’s successful participation in a museum standards project several years ago. Archival materials are specialised storage products which safeguard records such as documents and photographs from damage and degradation while in storage. They are especially prepared so as to be free from acids and other damaging materials. The materials to be purchased also include items such as silverfish traps and cockroach detectors! Having these materials available now will save us double handling as we continue to sort and store the collection in its new home at the Village.

This funding program is financially supported by the Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Standards Program Grant through funds generously provided by Museums Australia Queensland.

**From the Archives 2**

One of the photographs which Yvonne included in her International Nurses' Day presentation is the beautiful one below showing that nurses were celebrating their various uniforms 64 years ago much as they are today.



The photograph of the Nurses' Cavalcade held on 18 November 1947 was published in The Morning Bulletin on 21 November 1947 over the caption:

*"Changes in Nurses' uniforms, down through the years, were aptly displayed by members of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association at the School of Arts on Tuesday night. From left to right: Present-day nurse at Rockhampton General Hospital (Miss B. Withers); 1930 nurse (Miss B. Klauke); 1924 nurse (Miss D. Ross); 1920 nurse (Miss F. Crellin); 1907 nurse (Miss D. Williamson); Sister Dora (Miss M. Jenkins); Sairey Gamp (Miss J. Dyer); Sister of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (Miss S. Carrington); Hygeia, Goddess of Health (Miss N. M. Spence); nursing nun (Miss B. Hynes); Mrs Fry (Miss E. Triffitt); Florence Nightingale (Miss O. Cordingley); 1890 nurse, Brisbane General Hospital (Miss J. Corey); 1914-18 sister (Miss M. Stevens); 1924 sister (Miss I. Urquhart); 1939-45 Army sister (Miss A. Collins); 1939-45 Air Force sister (Miss J. Schum); present-day sister, Rockhampton General Hospital (Miss J. Conley)."*

**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:** 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