



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

President's Report

Once again the end of the year has crept up on us and no doubt we have all had a busy year.

Throughout the year we have continued to have a number of schools from all over Central Queensland visiting the Heritage Village and in particular the hospital. When the schools request to visit to our Museum our volunteers try to be present to conduct the tours which have involved several hundred students during the year. Our volunteer guides provide the participants with information about the workings of the memorabilia on display. One of the displays which interests the younger children most is the hypodermic syringes and needles - nothing like what we have today.

The static display in the foyer which is organised by Ashley Reid has been displaying the Anzac story. As this year has been a centenary for WW1 the display has focused on the nurses who trained in Rockhampton and surrounding centres and then served in the Army by going to the war zones to care for the sick and injured. Ashley has recently revised parts of this display for Remembrance Day. It will remain in place for the immediate future to give more people the opportunity to view it. The display has provided important promotional opportunities for our Museum as Ashley has taken parts of it to a number of functions and has shared information with hospitals. Important links have also been made to the State Library of Queensland which has featured stories on their World War 1 blog and in their newsletter Queensland Memory.

The Tuesday group of volunteers continues to meet to sort and prepare the nursing information files to be transferred to the data base. This is live project which will continue for some time. However Del Leitgeb who is leading the project is pleased to report that the team is almost at the half-way point.

In the library area, most of the older books have been catalogued and are now back on the shelves arranged in order. Newer books are being worked on at the moment. This makes it easier for us to identify the more significant books and any which are duplicated and can hence be offered to other

collections. However one of the most important features of many of the books is not so much the book itself but who owned it and when. Books which tell stories will not be discarded even if they are duplicates.

The Hospital Museum has a lovely new fence and the gates from the original Rockhampton Hospital are now in place. These gates commemorate Mr George Sandrock who was a Board Member of the Rockhampton Hospital in the early 1900s. When he died in 1909, part of his estate was invested with the AMP Society. When the investment matured in 1934 a gift of £1,030 was made to the Rockhampton Hospital Committee which used a portion of the money to build a fence incorporating these gates along the Canning and North Street frontages of the Hospital. Recently we have been also given the original plaque which will be placed adjacent to the Sandrock gates. This plaque had previously been on the fence near the Hospital Post Office. We are incredibly grateful to the managers and staff of the Heritage Village and to many volunteers within the Village who have been working on this fence on our behalf.

On all Village market days we have a few of our volunteers present to assist visitors with questions and often we are able to gain more in depth information about family members or friends who have been involved in the health system over the years.

Our committee meets every month to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the collection and the establishment of newly acquired memorabilia. I would like to pass on my thanks to committee members for their untiring work throughout the year.

We were sorry to hear that Norma West has been unwell recently. Norma played a key role in the establishment of our museum collection while she was in charge of nursing in the Central Region hospitals and also served as Chair of our Management Committee for several years. We are pleased to report that Norma is progressing well with her treatment and hopes to be home soon. I'm sure that you will all join with us in wishing Norma a speedy recovery and return to full health.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Festive Season and we encourage you to bring your friends and family to visit the Museum and reminisce about the days gone by.

Lorraine Antonello
President

Christmas photos

In a Newsletter being published so close to Christmas, we must take the opportunity to show two more Christmas Day photographs from the past.



Christmas Day in the Medical Ward at the Rockhampton Hospital ca. 1930. Note the Nightingale style ward with the beds in a row, all with mosquito nets. When the photograph is enlarged you see 9 nurses plus some patients, one of whom is sitting on a chair with a "refreshment" bottle. The photograph was donated by the late Sister Ivy Baker.



This photograph published in the Morning Bulletin on 27 December 1948 had the caption: "The Children's Ward, with its Christmas tree, reindeer and snowman, won the annual Christmas decorations competition at the Rockhampton General Hospital. Shown here is Sister M. Harrison holding one of the small patients and with her are Nurses P. Johnson, B. Francis and G. Anderson." Nurse Francis is Elizabeth West, a present member of our Association. (Ref <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56836879>).



Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. If you wish to join our Association, application forms are available from Committee members, from the Museum, from the Contact us page of our website www.achha.org.au or by emailing secretary@achha.org.au

Please make cheques payable to Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc. and post to ACHHA Inc, Box 4035, Rockhampton Qld 4700 or pay by direct deposit to our Westpac Membership Account BSB 034-210 Account No. 23-3836. To enable us to identify you, please use your family name plus Mem (for membership). Any of the Committee members listed on the final page will be pleased to assist you.

Membership Fees

Annual membership is \$20.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family. Life membership is \$200.00 for an individual and \$300.00 for a family.

Rockhampton's Hospitals of 90 Years Ago

Errol Payne

For this Newsletter article, we will take you back 90 years to 1925 to provide a brief view of the choices a resident of the district would have had if hospital care had been required. The First World War was several years in the past though there was still much instability in political relationships which would eventually lead to the outbreak of the second World War. The Great Depression was a few years into the future. Readers of these ACHHA Newsletters will already know of some of the facilities and will also know of the work of some of the key doctors and senior nursing staff.

It seems surprising that there were so many options for hospital treatment in 1925. These included the Rockhampton General Hospital, the Children's Hospital, the Women's Hospital, Hillcrest, Tannachy, Leinster and the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, the Mt Morgan and Yeppoon Hospitals and the Westwood Sanatorium. There were many small specialised Lying-in Hospitals which provided care specifically for maternity cases.

In fact there are far too many options and issues to deal with in one newsletter. So, on this occasion, we will focus our attention on the private providers. What we can deduce from the newspapers of 1925 is that there must have been quite strong competition for the patients' pounds, shillings and pence.

The page image opposite is from the National Library of Australia Trove newspaper archives on the web and shows professional notices on p. 8 of the Morning Bulletin issue of 16 June 1925. The page has been chosen at random but is typical of what would be found in newspapers in the mid-1920s. Of course this image is too small to read, but we will provide more information now.

A feature of the earlier years of the 20th Century in cities and towns in Australia was a significant number of "Lying-in hospitals". In Rockhampton these were ordinary houses run by one or more midwives, generally catering for 3 or 4 women at a time. We know quite a lot about these because a CQUniversity nursing academic Dr Wendy Madsen, researched them for her doctoral thesis. If you wish to read the full story, you will find the text of her PhD on the Queensland University of technology website at: http://eprints.qut.edu.au/16115/1/Wendy_Madsen_Thesis.pdf



National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article54305942>

The first advertisement is for a Nurse Gaffney who ran the "Derrinlough Nursing Home" in Derby Street off George St (Telephone 826). According to Dr Madsen's research, Nurse Catherine Gaffney operated a nursing home in Rockhampton from 1916 until at least 1930. The address in 1925 would have been 87 Derby Street. The building has been replaced by a more modern house. It appears that Catherine (Kate) was married and this highlights the fact that while married women were unable to work in hospitals there was no restriction on them running their own businesses.

Strath-Avon is the second lying-in hospital in the above advertisements. The Strath-Avon advertisement reads as follows:

STRATH-AVON PRIVATE NURSING HOME
Maternity Cases only, conducted by Nurses
Berrill A.T.N.A., corner Archer and Talford
Sts. Phone 347 Canning-st tram passes door.

Nurse Jane Berrill operated a lying-in hospital from at least 1916 until at least 1931 but probably went on after this. Her Australian Trained Nurses Association (A.T.N.A.) record indicated that she was an experienced but untrained nurse. However, in 1906 she completed a midwifery certificate at the

Women’s Hospital. At least one member of our Association was born at *Strath-Avon*. This is a photograph of the building which is still on the site.



The Mater Misericordiae Hospital was the third to advertise as follows:

THE MATER MISERICORDIAE PRIVATE HOSPITAL
 THE MANSION THE RANGE
 Fees on application. Tel. 280
 For Particulars Apply to
 MATRON OR SISTER-IN-CHARGE.

The Mater Hospital would have been celebrating its 10th anniversary in 1925. “The Mansion” is presumably a term they used at the time to refer to *Kenmore*.

Hillcrest had been opened by Dr Francis Henry Vivian Voss in Talford Street, site of the present Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital, in 1900. Dr Voss had the second X-ray machine in Australia at Hillcrest.

HILLCREST,
 ROCKHAMPTON
 FIRST-CLASS NURSING & ACCOMMODATION
 HILLCREST HOSTEL.
 Accommodation for Ladies in connection with
 THE HILLCREST MATERNITY HOME.
 Full particulars Apply to
 THE MATRON.

By 1925, Dr Voss was having some health problems and was relieved as necessary by his son “Dr Paul”. He retired in 1929.

Tannachy on the banks of the Fitzroy River was the newest hospital in Rockhampton. It had been opened by Dr Norman Charles Talbot in 1922. He was joined in early 1924 by Dr Frank Couper Wooster who had been the Medical Superintendent of the Rockhampton

Hospital since 1914. Both Drs Talbot and Wooster had served in World War 1 with Dr Wooster being given special leave from his Medical Superintendent’s position for the duration of his war service.

TANNACHY PRIVATE HOSPITAL
 - Also -
 MATERNITY HOME
 VICTORIA PARADE.
 Full particulars, Apply to
 THE MATRON.

Nurse Henrietta Costello ran her lying-in hospital *Lucina* at 152 Talford street from 1923 until at least 1944. She held a midwifery certificate from the Women’s Hospital which she completed in 1918. For at least some of the births, Dr Frank Wooster from Tannachy was also on hand. At least two members of our Association including myself were born at *Lucina*. This is a photograph of the 4-bed lying-in hospital as it is today.



Finally for this particular edition we have an advertisement by Nurse Sykes.

NURSE SYKES A.T.N.A.
 PRIVATE NURSING
 TOWN AND COUNTRY
 NORTH-STREET, OFF WEST
 Telephone Nos. 201 or 913.

Dr Madsen does not mention Nurse Sykes and we don’t know any more about her. The fact that she is advertising Private Nursing could possibly mean that she was offering general care rather than maternity care but we don’t know. Certainly some married nurses continued with their profession by going into the private sector.

The few lying-in or private hospitals mentioned here because they advertised on that particular day are a small sub-set of the 13 which Dr Madsen identified as taking patients in 1925. We have identified some other homes which are still standing. For example *Aura* at 51 George St is one of the few homes left along the high-

way and is currently for sale by the Public Trustee and is likely to be demolished soon. *Bannockburn* is a large home in King Street. However many others have been demolished since they are in areas now dominated by commercial premises.

Of course lying-in hospitals were not restricted to Rockhampton. Locally there were others in Mt Morgan and Yeppoon.

We should also mention another institution which did not advertise but was at work in 1925. I refer to the Salvation Army Hospital, *Glenties* in Talford Street which was established in 1907 to care for the disadvantaged including unmarried mothers. In a 1924 Salvation Army report it was referred to as the Glenties Mothers Hospital. The Salvation Army has an ongoing presence on the site which is now the location for the Bethesda Aged Care Facility.

The story of the other hospitals in the district will be discussed in a later story. These hospitals, the Rockhampton General Hospital, Children’s Hospital and Women’s Hospital, were run by elected committees of citizens. However, 1925 was the final year of this arrangement with the Government stepping in to place all hospitals of this type throughout the district under a single Hospitals Board under which a process of integration occurred.

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Nurse Edwards—an Entrepreneurial Nurse

When you search for nurses in the 1924/1925 Morning Bulletins, you can’t help seeing many advertisements inserted by Nurse Edwards who described herself as a Registered Nurse.

Nurse Edwards used “medically treated electricity”, vibration and radiant heat for healing the body and for keeping the body strong and healthy. She offered a product called *Varex* for varicose ulcers and “bad legs”. She also had a nurse trained in the *Maison Marcel* for hair treatments. In fact she seemed to offer a full range of hair-dressing and manicure services, noting that “hair is a woman’s crowning glory”. This included hair colouring with the “colour coming up immediately”. She offered a number of hairstyles including the “shingle” which was all the go for women in the 1920s. Massages were also available.

Superfluous hairs could be removed permanently at 100 for £1 1s and moles for 5/- each.

Nurse Edwards had her rooms in the city but was prepared to visit homes or hotels. Rates for her services were always advertised and there were generally discounts for quantity.

Pharmacists hold function to commemorate Barry Bryant’s service

A morning tea held at our Museum in August was attended by about 30 pharmacists and family members plus members of our Committee.

The purpose of the function was to present our Museum with a plaque commemorating the late Dr Barry Bryant’s contribution to the pharmacy profession. It was clear that the pharmacists and their family members greatly enjoyed the opportunity to get together in what also served as a reunion for the group. Barry’s son David was able to attend and share in the ceremony. He was clearly impressed at seeing the esteem with which his father was held by local members of the profession. The plaque celebrating Barry’s work has been hung in the pharmacy room.

The AFS pharmacy group which donated the funds for the pharmacy display cabinet in our Museum was represented.

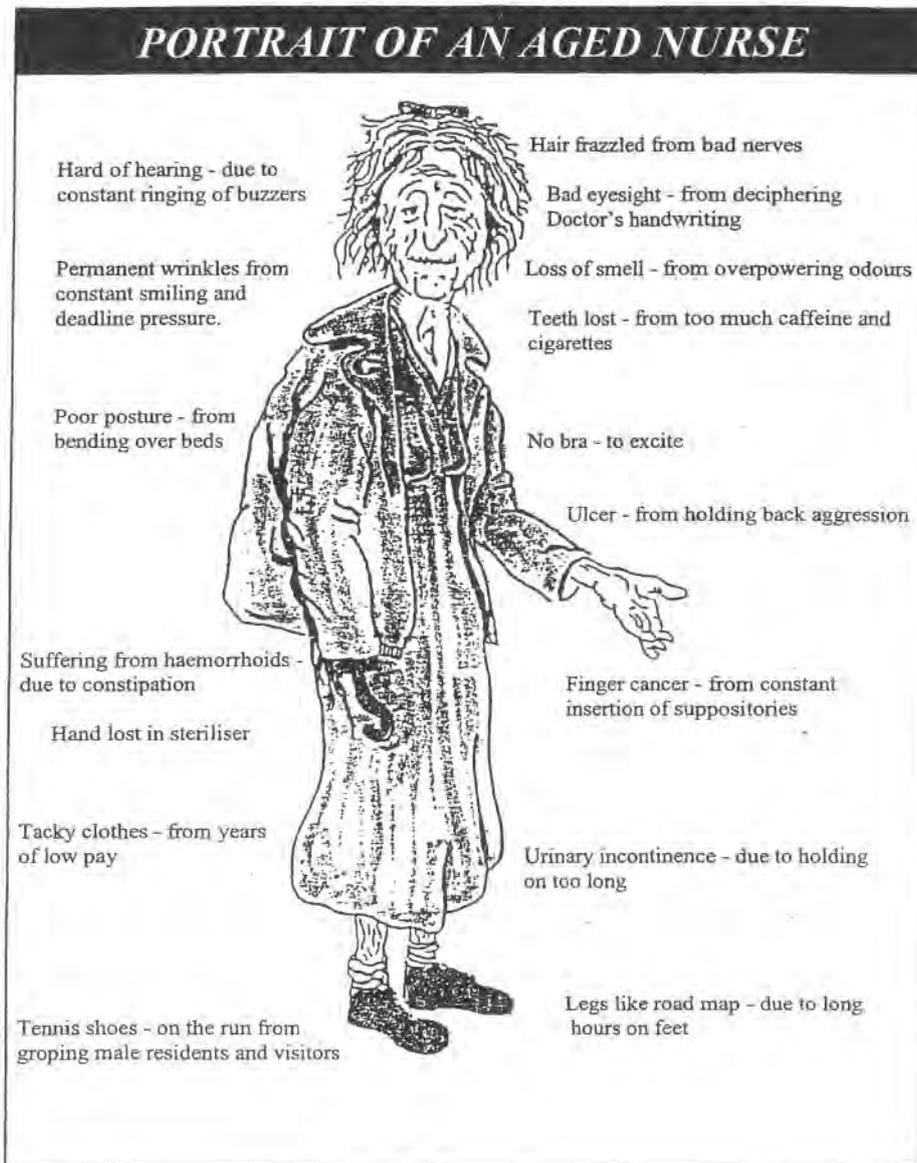


The photograph shows retired pharmacist Duncan Stewart who organised the function with David Bryant and our President Lorraine Antonello who is holding the plaque. In the background are members of our Management Committee Nancy Crapp, Carol McIver and Del Leitgeb.

Duncan Stewart also presented us with a wooden name plaque which had been used by another retired pharmacist, Brian Davies.

Did you know That in the 1920s the Golden Casket was a significant source of funds which the Government distributed to organisations such as hospitals. In their 1925 Annual Reports both the Rockhampton Hospital and the Children’s Hospital acknowledged £1000 grants from this source.

One of our members, Diann Brooks, has suggested that this would lighten the end of the year for our nurses. Unfortunately we don't know the original source.



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