



From the President

Thank you to all who contributed to my receiving an Order of Australia Award on 26th January this year. The citation read "for participation in the preservation of the Health Service History in Central Queensland and to the Community of Rockhampton". My trip to Brisbane to receive the award from the Governor, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce was a wonderful experience.

A big thank you all members of the committee who carried on the good work of the Association while I was out of action recently with knee replacement surgery.

We have been notified by the Government that no new Regional Partnerships applications will be accepted and those currently under assessment will not be considered for funding. All the hard work in preparing the applications will have to be chalked up to experience, which means we are on our own again.

The good news is that your committee has decided to go ahead and get the external carpentry completed as soon as possible and Mr Tom Upton, Director of Cultural Services for the Rockhampton Regional Council, will undertake the external painting of the building in the near future. This will leave the internal carpentry and painting, electrical rewiring, floor coverings and window treatment to complete the refurbishment. We will be applying for Queensland Government grants for some of these activities.

During the organisation of the recent Nurses Quarters Wake, members of the committee, ever watchful for opportunities, were able to obtain enough office furniture to fit out our administration area and a quantity of steel adjustable shelving to use in the store room. The furniture was surplus to requirements and donated to ACHHA by the Rockhampton Hospital.

A team from the Heritage Village assisted the committee with shifting and transport of the furniture and the nursing records which were stored in the quarters for the past 10 years. The furniture and records are now at the Collection Centre. This will enable us to start sorting and cataloguing some of the archival collection sooner than expected.

The first two activities will be to get the hundred boxes of nursing files dating back to the 1940's from the floor into the filing cabinets and to sort and name the hundreds of surgical instruments in the collection. Any member who would like to be involved in these activities please contact me on 4928 5443. Working bees will be organised to suit those who volunteer.

Yvonne Kelley

Cent Sale

A fundraising cent sale will be held on Saturday 19th July 2008 at Bauhinia House. Doors open for ticket sales 12.30 pm, and the Draw commences at 2 pm. Afternoon tea will cost \$1.00. Donations can be given to any committee member.

Volunteers are required to assist the committee by:

- Helping set up the hall and make sandwiches on the Saturday morning;
- Working as ticket sellers from 12.30 - 2 pm;
- Acting as runners to help distribute prizes;
- Serving afternoon tea;
- Helping to clean up after the event.

Proceeds will support the ACHHA to refurbish the Country Hospital Museum at the Heritage Village.

Farewell to a Lifestyle Once Lived - Rockhampton Hospital Nurses Quarters 1950 - 2008

If there was no alternative to the demolition of the Nurses Quarters that formed part of the skyline of the city and the heart of the Rockhampton Hospital grounds for over 50 years, it seemed appropriate that some recognition be given to the role this building played in the lives and careers of many people, before it fell into the hands of the demolishers.

As the Nurses Quarters would soon be a thing of the past and as a WAKE is the track of anything that passes, it was decided the most fitting function should be a WAKE - A time for reminiscing and mourning and celebrating for what was.

With the news that the demolition date had been set for late May, it gave little time to get the message about the proposed Wake out to as many people as possible. The organising team was therefore delighted to have attracted more than 160 past residents of the Nurses Quarters and friends to the function on Sunday 25th May, with many coming from far afield. This photograph shows the building polished up one more time, and being given a "lift" with helium balloons being attached to the veranda rails courtesy of hospital staff-members Jenny Frazer and Amanda Tynan.



The program, organised by a committee of Hospital staff and members of the ACHHA, commenced at 10am with registration and excited greetings as old friendships were renewed over morning tea.

The official ceremony commenced at 11am with Dr Lynn Jamieson acting as Chairperson and giving an overview of the day's

proceedings. The audience of past residents of the Nurses Quarters their friends and invited guests was warmly welcome by Dr Bill Beresford.

Mrs Yvonne Kelley OAM, President of the ACHHA, gave a comprehensive history of Rockhampton Hospital Nurses Quarters over the past century, and in particular the current building, and also outlined the vision of the Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association. The history of the Nurses Quarters and the stories and memorabilia will be included in the ACHHA collection.

The need for the Nurses Quarters/Staff Accommodation Building to be demolished was explained by Peter Moss who also gave a detailed description of the vision for Public Hospital services on the site.

A selection of entertaining anecdotal stories collected for a book about the Nurses Quarters soon to be written, were read by Dr Lynn Jamieson and colleagues, all past residents of the building. These triggered the memories of many in the audience.

Ms Norma West OBE, past Matron/Director of Nursing of the hospital addressed the audience about the importance of preserving history. Even though such history could be given only a cursory glance by the present generation, it is there for future researchers.

Prayers on the occasion of the Demolition of the Nurses' Quarters were offered by the Venerable Dr Rob Philp and are recounted elsewhere in this Newsletter. This brought a solemn but comforting finale to the official part of the day's celebrations.

A barbecue lunch, provided by the Rockhampton Hospital and prepared by present and past nursing staff and with the sausages ably cooked by the Executive Director of Nursing Mr Lex Oliver, was enjoyed by all.

The celebration cake was cut by Mrs Betty West who was identified as the person present who had the earliest association with the Nurses Quarters. Mrs West was also presented with flowers.

Time during the day was utilised to have a last tour of what for some was their home for many years, and an opportunity to view for the first and now last time the area previously out of bounds, the Matron's flat.

Photos from times past adorned many of the walls, and tables were laden with newspaper cuttings and photo albums. "Do you remember" was the frequently heard sentence as groups surrounded these areas. These aspects of memorabilia will soon be joined by the photos and stories gathered on the day. Official photos were taken by Errol Payne, but the committee hopes copies of any photos taken will find their way to the museum.

Memorabilia in the form of coffee mugs, tea towels and spoons were available for purchase. Participants had the opportunity to sign a banner beautifully handcrafted by Ashley Reid, that will now form part of the ACHHA collection and be hung in the ACHHA Collection Centre.

A Christmas tree reminiscent of an annual event adorned the foyer of the fourth floor and at the end of the day was adorned with messages from participants. These also will be put into book form as another way of recording a time now lost.

The days activities ended with ceremonial presentation of the 1950 Foundation plaque, and the plaque from the 1954 Opening Ceremony by Dr Lynn Jamieson to Mrs Yvonne Kelley. These plaques will now be part of the ACHHA Collection and a very tangible reminder of the existence of the Rockhampton Nurses Quarters. Goodbyes and promises were said over afternoon tea.

Sunday the 25th May 2008 was a near perfect day weather wise. It fitted perfectly into the vision for the day of sadness, laughter, greetings and memories renewed. Monday dawned grey and bleak as was Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday, and with the handing over of the Nurses Quarters to the demolishers midnight Thursday, the skies wept!!!!

The Wake Committee is appreciative of the assistance of the many people that contributed to the success of the day, and to the Rockhampton Hospital for its sponsorship.

A Lifestyle once lived was given an appropriate farewell.

Norma West

Important notices

Cent Sale

2:00 pm Saturday 19 July 2008 at Bauhinia House.

Annual General Meeting

5:00 pm Wednesday 24 September at the COIN Meeting Room, Commonwealth Building cnr Fitzroy and East Streets.

Forthcoming Rockhampton Heritage Village Markets

Sunday 13 July

Sunday 14 September

Jazz Markets

Sunday 30 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.

You will also see the Mt Morgan Nurses' Quarters building in its final position where it is awaiting full refurbishment.

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities.

The Association operates on a normal financial year, so that it is now time for members to renew your subscription for 2008/2009.

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.

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.

*Prayers on the Occasion of the Demolition of
the Nurses' Quarters Rockhampton Hospital
25 May 2008*

The people being assembled a Prayer in thanks giving for the facility the building provided for the advancement of the health and well being of the Rockhampton community is said.

We who are gathered here know that this building is to be demolished in the near future.

To many of you this building has special significance and you have cherished memories, and we know that some of you will have a sense of loss.

May God give you grace to accept the present and to value the past.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thank you for all your gifts of healing
and compassion:
for the grace to love and care for each
other,
and all your hidden blessings manifested
in this place,
and for all you still have in store for us in
that which will take its place.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**A Prayer for all who lived, worked, studied,
were instructed and were commissioned
from this building is said.**

Heavenly Father we praise you for all
those whose contributions made this a
place of significant contribution to the
practise of healing and the gaining of
knowledge and skills for the
advancement of our human condition
both in the past and in the present.
We praise you for your gift of human
reason by which these learnings and
harmonies of body, mind and spirit are
imparted and experienced.

Amen

We pray for the repose of the souls of all
associated with this building and who
departed this life. May they rest in peace.

Amen

**A Prayer for those who will work on the
new building which is to take the place of
this present structure.**

Heavenly Father we ask your protection
for all those who will labour on the new
building on this site. Guard them from
all harm and grant them a happy
outcome of their efforts.

Amen.

The Grace is said.

More photos from the Wake

As with any such function, cameras were the
order of the day. Of the many photos taken, we
can only show a few here - and then only in
black and white. To see a larger collection of
photos in colour, go to the Association's
website at www.achha.org.au, click on the
link to the **News** page and then to the story half
way down the page.

The first group to register included (L to R) Jan
Aust, Narelle O'Rourke and Diny O'Neill,
assisted by ACHHA Committee Member
Lorraine Antonello (2nd from left).



ACHHA President Yvonne Kelley with
Debbie Richards who was instrumental in
preparing the displays in the Matron's flat.



Sandra Hay (left) with Ashley Reid who had prepared this banner for all attendees to sign. This will become part of the ACHHA historic collection.



Judith Corney and Sandra Hay who trained together enjoyed the opportunity to revisit their former 'home'.



The ACHHA used the opportunity to sell memorabilia to raise funds for the Collection Centre. Carol McIver (L) and Del Leitgeb 'man the store'.



One of the rituals of the Quarters was the Christmas Tree on which residents pinned notes containing their thoughts.

Diann Brooks set up a tree for this occasion to record a few final reminiscences. Mary McCabe is about to add her contribution while Norma West (left) checks the tree. Diann has collected all of the thoughts and is collating them into a booklet.



One last look - Venerable Dr Rob Philp, Norma West and Jocelyn Philp take a final look from the roof—where some former residents confessed to sun bathing.



At the end of the day, Dr Lynn Jamieson (centre) handed over the brass plaques for the sod turning and opening of the building to Yvonne Kelley (Left) for safe keeping in the ACHHA Collection.



Alchemy under Capricorn

The Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association's collection spans the full range of services needed to provide health care to early communities. The chemist or pharmacist was one of the key providers. In this article, one of our members, Mr Barry Bryant OAM discusses early pharmaceutical service provision in our region and discusses a number of items in the ACHHA collection for which he is the 'guardian and curator'. Barry writes

The history of early local Rockhampton pharmacists involved gold fever, shipwrecks, dedication and hard work, pathos and humour. It continued a centuries-old tradition of plant-based treatments, leading ultimately through the transition to modern day laboratory-produced synthetic cures for a range of human ailments.

Anecdotal material has been steadily accumulating for a number of our early pharmacists: the Rutherfords were the first to provide pharmacy services to Rockhampton at the time of the Canoona gold rush in 1858; E R Row (from 1868) was the founder of Row and Co; Tom Ingham settled in this town in 1876 after his third shipwreck adventure searching for gold in New Guinea and later on the Palmer River between 1872 and 1874, opening his 'Medical Hall' on the corner of East and William Streets. E N Symons (later E N Symons and Son) bought Tom's establishment in 1897 after emigrating from Cornwall and completing his apprenticeship in Gympie during that city's gold rush when money was so short at times that his wages were sometimes paid in biscuits! The Friendly Societies dispensary was established in 1893 on the present site of Green Brothers.

A number of the earlier pharmacists were all things to all people, ministering to ailments from cholera to corns, mumps to molars, (literally, as some including Messrs Blake, D'Weske, Row and Ingham were also registered dentists in the 1890s and early 1900s).

In the early days of the Colony of Queensland, no statutory qualifications as we now know them, were required to practise as a chemist and druggist. In Queensland in 1861, a Medical Act was passed which provided for the registration of chemists and the first chemists were

registered in that year. The professional body, The Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, was founded in 1880 with thirty-nine members out of a total of sixty chemists in Queensland. Its parent body, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had been founded in 1841 and Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1843.

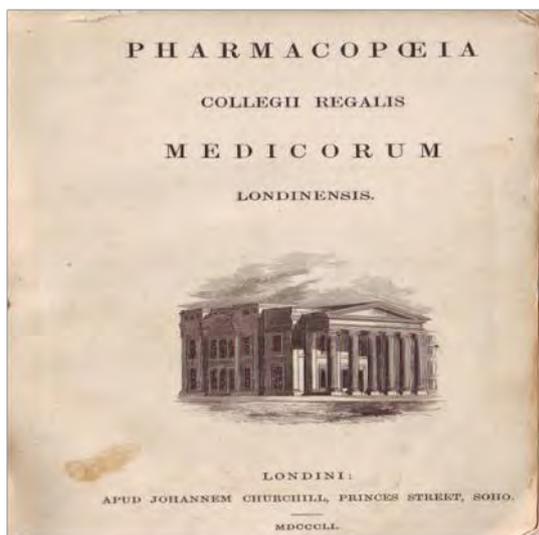
Inspection of the Register of Chemists and Druggists, Queensland for 1885 shows a wide range of qualifications then acceptable for registration, a selection of which is shown here: Testimonials from Dr Yorke; Associate of the Pharmaceutical Society of England; Owned Pharmacy at Rockhampton (a case of the cart before the horse?); Testimonials from Dr Lawrence, Grenadier Guards; Testimonials from Dr W Armstrong & Dr C I Anderson, & Certificate of Mr Joseph Wonderly; Ordinary course of Chemistry at Rockhampton; Dispenser of Medicine 1855; Apothecary of the Forces; Captain, Army Hospital Corps 1873; Testimonial from the Director-General Army Medical Department 1874; Certificate from Apothecaries Hall Dublin 1873. This is a somewhat arbitrary collection of qualifications to modern eyes.

A College of Pharmacy was established in Brisbane in the 1880s leading to effective pharmaceutical training in chemistry, botany and compounding. In the early years of its existence, the College even taught Assaying and Mineralogy in association with the Central Technical College, Brisbane.

The old apprenticeship system was evidently serious business and not conducive to idleness as an old set of Apprenticeship Articles from 1888 makes abundantly clear. The poor apprentice is strictly enjoined that 'he shall not haunt taverns, inns or ale houses, he shall not play at cards, dice, or tables, or any other unlawful games, neither shall he contract Matrimony'. All these restrictions for fifteen shillings per week wages – chickenfeed or in some cases biscuits (see above).

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, it became the proud claim of these new era professionals that they were pharmaceutical chemists by exam, unlike some older apothecaries "by default" without more formal training or qualifications. The regularly trained pharmacists of the nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries, as well as many of those of earlier eras were, of necessity, highly educated in the arts as well as the sciences. Amongst the rarer items in the ACHHA collection is an 1851 copy of the London Pharmacopoeia written in Latin, the universal language of science.



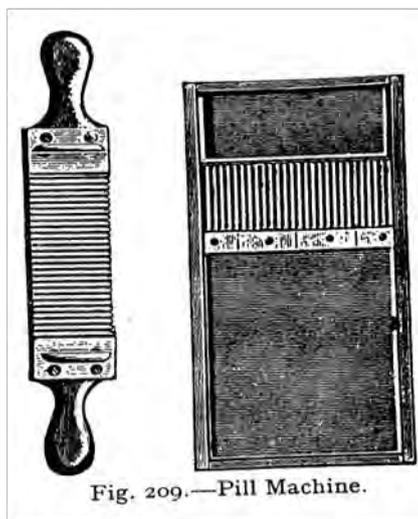
Prescriptions were also written in Latin until relatively recent times. Famous men of science who were originally pharmacists include Robert Boyle (gas laws); Sir Isaac Newton (before the penny dropped); Anthony van Leeuwenhoek (development of the microscope); Scheele and Priestley (discovered oxygen in 1770); Sertürner (discovered morphine); Caventou and Pelletier (discovery of strychnine, quinine, caffeine).

Pharmacists were manufacturing and dispensing specialists. They were responsible for making their own preparations from the crude animal, vegetable and mineral materials which were the source of almost all medicinals until the advent of the organic chemistry revolution of the twentieth century. Indeed the art of compounding and use of drugs in medicine can be traced back to ancient Egyptian papyrus records from 3300 BC, through to the exhortation in Exodus XXX 25 to make .. ‘an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary...’.

From these crude drugs, a variety of liquid or powdered extracts, tinctures and decoctions were prepared from which were compounded patient-specific prescriptions or over-the-

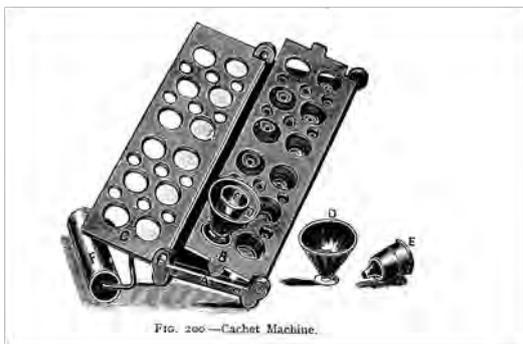
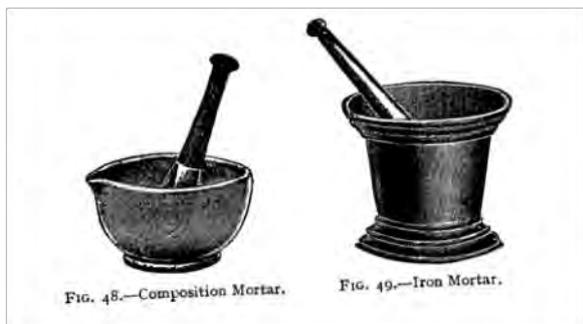
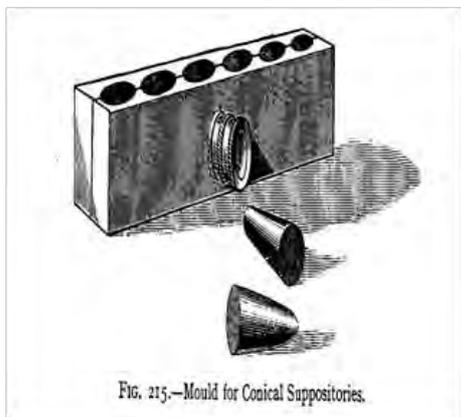
counter remedies for the community’s ailments. These took the finished form of products such as mixtures, lotions, creams and ointments, bulk or individually wrapped powders for internal use and external dusting powders. The work of the trained pharmacist (and the hapless apprentice) was therefore very labour-intensive. The larger pharmacies in the mid-twentieth century still produced a wide range of such products.

In the material thus far collected for the ACHHA Museum displays are a number of pieces of equipment, considered essential to the pharmacist of yesteryear together with examples of the finished products. Pill machines in a variety of sizes were in constant use producing a range of standard formulas such as Iron Pills, Compound Rhubarb Pills and Mercury Pills.



To this list could be added an individual prescriber’s own preferred formulae, (many of which were used as purgatives)! Numerous traditional glass jars with gold-leaf labels from the 1890s display a cross-section of the therapeutic drugs and herbal extracts used in earlier colonial times, many of which will be familiar to the reader, including liquorice, ginger, opium, belladonna, powdered rhubarb, quinine, not to mention the ubiquitous leeches. Suppository moulds were used to incorporate a wide range of active ingredients for local (eg haemorrhoids), and systemic effect (eg relief of asthma). Cachet machines operated by hand produced rice-paper cachets to enclose bulky or

nasty-tasting powders for internal use. Items in everyday use included pestles and mortars for crushing and mixing drugs, ointment spatulas for producing creams and ointments, conical and cylindrical measures, and dispensing scales.



A wide selection of early textbooks and Pharmacopoeias from the 19th and early 20th centuries together with a number of early prescription record books are also in the Association's collection. Australian formulary books modified the traditional British formulas in keeping with the new challenges of the colonies and a number of these are also to be found, along with some wartime formularies, developed by necessity when supplies of some old-world crude drugs were in short supply. One war-time formula given to the author

turned out on closer inspection to be the Boer War! A treasured early prescription from 1931 ordered hemlock juice as an antispasmodic ingredient in the treatment of an asthma attack. When it is considered that this drug was also the official Greek state poison which was used to kill the philosopher Socrates, it seems nothing much had changed in two thousand years.

Among the older remedies in the collection which might stir a response amongst some readers' memories are: "Carbolised Eucalyptus" Ointment for Barcoo Rot, 'Pectorine' Cough Mixture, "Tropical Tonic" (containing strychnine), "Zanetta" Hair Restorer, "Coral" Dentifrice Powder, Tom Ingham's Eucalyptus Oil (awarded a gold medal at the Chicago World fair in 1893) and distilled at Tungamull. Above all, running through this material is a fascinating portrayal of social history in Rockhampton over its first one hundred years.

Barry Bryant

- 00 00 00 -

Let's hope we don't get back to this!

This fascinating photograph from the ACHHA's archives was taken in June 1919 and shows a health worker Gertie Head (Mrs Patterson) wearing an "anti - flu" uniform.



According to p. 85 of A E Hermann's book *'The Development of Rockhampton & District'*, published by the Central Queensland Family History Association in 2002, the Spanish Influenza epidemic raged from May to July 1919 with a reported 4,746 patients receiving treatment. So many nurses were afflicted that volunteers came in to assist in the hospitals.

New ACHHA website

As stated in previous Newsletters, we have been developing a new website for the Association. We are pleased to report that the site is now sufficiently advanced to share it with you and to seek your comments and suggestions. We are fortunate to have access to the expertise of Dr Alison Payne, a computing specialist who is the Director of Online by Design (www.onlinebydesign.com.au). Alison has voluntarily undertaken all of the technical work involved in designing and setting up the site. The rest is a team effort going back more than 30 years to the origins of the comprehensive ACHHA Collection. Without the raw materials, and the knowledge of Yvonne Kelley, fellow members of the Management Committee and others in the Association, there would be no story to tell on this modern communication medium. We must also thank the many people who have entrusted the ACHHA and its predecessors with valuable photographs, equipment, uniforms and other memorabilia.

The site displays a very small sample of the Association's Collection. We hope it will whet your appetite to find out more and to continue to support us as we work on completing the physical Collection Centre at the Heritage Village.

It is time to introduce the site and some of its "underpinnings" to make it easier for you to use, to navigate around it, and to understand some of the background. You may find it useful to read this article in front of your computer so that you can see what we are talking about.

Firstly and most importantly, the address of the site is www.achha.org.au. Just type the address into your browser such as Internet Explorer and hit the Enter key and you will be taken to the Home page which provides a brief introduction to the Association.

You will see that we have provided a menu across the top of the page. Clicking on each of these menu items (Home, Our Collections, About us, Visit Us, News, Other Resources and Contact Us) will enable you to find your way around the site.

All menu items except Our Collections take you to a specific page. The Our Collection tab

provides you with five additional choices – People, Buildings, Equipment, Uniforms and Stories. First place your cursor over the Our Collections tab, move to whichever sub-menu item you wish to view and then click the mouse button.

Try this by going to the People page. You will find yourself in a "photo gallery" with small images called "thumbnails", each with a brief identifier under it. It's difficult to see much detail in such small pictures. However, if you move the mouse cursor over the picture it will turn into a hand. Click on the mouse button and you will be taken to a much larger picture with more information provided. You may then use the back arrow on your browser to return to the previous page or go back to the top of the page to access another menu item.

Behind the website, Alison has designed a database to hold the photographs and associated information in a systematic fashion. Preparing a photograph for the website involves some detailed work. It is first necessary to make a scan. Sometimes these are already available eg photographs which have previously appeared in the Association's calendars. The scanned files are generally too large to use directly on the website so special software (Adobe Photoshop Elements) is used to prepare smaller versions suitable for web use. We are making three sizes - small ones for thumbnails, medium ones to include in the stories and larger ones for the detailed pages.

There are three main reasons to avoid using full size scans. Firstly, the Association would have to pay a lot more to the company which is hosting our website if we wanted to store a lot more data. Secondly, large photographs cost more and take a lot longer to download, especially for people with dial-up access. People may become bored trying to use the site. Thirdly, we don't want to "give away" all of the Association's property. The photos on the website are generally not of high enough quality to use in printed publications, so we expect that people who might want to use them for this purpose will seek our approval and pay for use if the purpose is commercial.

In providing data for each photograph, we are attempting to follow the standards typically used for major library collections such as those held by the State Library of Queensland. While

this does make the development of the site more complex, we believe that making an effort in this direction from the beginning will ultimately make it easier to incorporate our collection into national databases and give it the standing it deserves. That said, it is particularly important that the information in the tables or on any other part of the website is accurate and we seek your support in pointing out any errors or ambiguities which you may find.

As you can see, the People photo gallery is not in any particular order at this stage. It has largely been a matter of processing photographs as they become available from the collection. However, the Stories section of the site gives us the opportunity to put groups of photographs together in context. There are some examples already on the site. We are looking for other ideas or other contributions. The website is dynamic and belongs to everyone in the Association. We are hoping for widespread involvement in its ongoing development.

The Buildings page is more restricted in terms of the number of photographs. The reason is to try to give website users who do not already have a detailed knowledge of local history some basic understanding of the sites of major health facilities in the region and the organisations which ran them. The photographs are arranged more or less in the order in which the facilities commenced operation. Where the Association has many photographs of a particular facility, these can be shown in the relevant Story. For

example, see the Story about the Port Curtis & Leichhardt District Hospital.

The Equipment page and the Uniforms page simply introduce these components of the Collection at this stage of development of the website.

The other main pages are more or less self-explanatory. The About Us page provides more details of what the Association does. The Visit Us page tells people exactly where we are located. If you haven't used a Google map before, try clicking the mouse pointer on the various arrows and plus and minus signs. The News page allows us to tell people about relevant events which are coming up. The Other Resources page provides further information for people who want to delve more deeply into local history beyond the information which is part of the ACHHA Collection. Finally, the Contact Us page tells people how to get in touch and invites them to take out membership. If the Association wishes, the capability to make membership payments electronically can be added on this page.

On a number of pages you will notice words or phrases underlined. These are called links. Clicking on them will take you directly to the page or website under discussion.

We will be making continuous updates to the website as time permits, so be sure to come back to it regularly.

Errol and Alison Payne

Association contact details:

Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

PO Box 4035 Rockhampton Qld 4700

[Incorporation Number: IA20217]

Website: www.achha.org.au

Email: 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