

***President's Report***

Once again 2014 has started with enthusiasm. Our members are busy working on a number of collections.

As our organisation is not a fund raising group we rely on members and donations. We are grateful to all members for your on-going support. However, we would very much like to increase our membership and therefore we encourage all Health Service Workers to be involved in the preservation of the collection. You may like to become a member and receive our Newsletter or you may have some free time and would like to join our merry band of workers at the Heritage Village Hospital Museum. We hope that our members will encourage friends, family and colleagues to join.

Every 8 weeks Ashley has a new static display relating to the anniversary of special events or current topics or displays of our nursing history. It is well worth having a look at these and brushing up on some nursing history from times gone by.

The school tours are set to commence. Our first group for the year is from Gladstone. Our members are at the hospital during these visits to explain what the various items are and how they were used. During 2013, 584 students and teachers attended these visits.

Lorraine is working on the data entry of all past Health Service Workers who have worked and/or trained at the Rockhampton Hospital. If you have information from other hospitals in our region we would be pleased to add them to the data base.

We have information has been recorded for nursing trainees at Rockhampton Hospital from 1885 on. It will allow future family history to be collected or if anyone has a member of the family who had trained at any of the Rockhampton Hospitals it will be able to be traced. This is an ongoing job.

Ashley will commence and undertake adding objects to the data base in the Mosaic program while Errol is continuing to add the photos and other documented items to the Collection.

Committee members Errol and Chris are busy sorting out the Library and cataloguing the books with the help of our group of volunteers. This is a big job as there are hundreds of books to go through and many are very old and require special handling.

Carol and Bill completed a major task in renewing all of the linen in the ward and Carol continues working on the linen collection while Bill provides general assistance with jobs such as shredding unwanted paperwork and hanging photographs and plaques.

Del and her group of members are busy going through hundreds of personnel files preparing them for addition to the data base.

Archival work, under the guidance of Yvonne, continues behind the scenes on most Tuesday mornings. The museum is open every day, but Tuesday is a good day to visit if you would like more information about the collection or to assist with the tasks. The other excellent days to visit the museum are market days because members of the Committee are present to discuss the collection.

We also wish to thank our many members who responded to the call to attend or submit a proxy vote for the special general meeting late last year. This meeting was necessary to amend our constitution so that we could retain our status as an organisation for which donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. We are pleased to report that the process went well and we are now registered formally with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

My thanks to the committee members for their untiring work in maintaining the collection at the museum. I would like to thank Norma West for her four years of service as the President of ACHHA.

Lorraine Antonello
President

Matron Doris Broomfield MBE.
A local nurse's 45 year nursing journey
By Ashley Reid



Matron Doris Broomfield at her desk at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Brisbane

My interest in writing this story began when I saw a small article in the Morning Bulletin on Saturday 18th September 1999 titled *“Rocky woman’s life dedicated to nursing”* which printed information regarding the life and death of Matron Doris Broomfield.

Matron Broomfield was the highly respected Matron of the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane during my four year general nurse training. As a student I certainly did not ponder what Matron Broomfield may have done in her life before her appointment as “our Matron”. However, some time spent with the range of historical records now readily available to us via the internet revealed this story of a distinguished Queensland nurse.

Doris Broomfield was born in Rockhampton on 8th November 1905, the second of four daughters to Mary and Horatio. She died in Greenslopes Hospital Brisbane on 23rd July 1999 aged 93 years. Her ashes were later interred with her parents at the North Rockhampton Cemetery.

Doris attended school at Allenstown Primary School and the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. She also successfully passed a dressmaking course at the Gracemere Rural College and went on to obtain high marks in the Trinity College of Music Examination in June 1921.

The Queensland Department of Public Instruction, recognising that many subjects taught to primary school students in rural areas did not equip them for country life after school, introduced an innovative experiment to teach students appropriate skills in agriculture and domestic science, including

dressmaking. In 1917 the first of 28 Rural Schools was established in Queensland with Gracemere Rural School opening in 1920. The District Inspector of Schools however closed the Gracemere School in 1924 believing the community needed technical rather than agricultural skills and advised students to continue their studies at the Rockhampton Technical College.

After leaving school Doris commenced four years General Nurse Training at the Mount Morgan Hospital in 1925 and successfully graduated in 1929. Her musical background came to the fore when in November 1926 she played music at a fund raising plain and fancy dress dance held in the Mount Morgan Nurse’s Quarters to raise funds for the Mount Morgan Hospital fund. The grand sum of 90 pound was raised from this well attended function.

During the 1920s Mount Morgan was a bustling mining town with one of the richest gold mines in Australia. The mine commenced operation in 1882 and during its 99 years of mining a total of 225 tons of gold, 50 tons of silver and 360,000 tons of copper was taken from the ground. The population increased from 3,514 in 1891 to 9,772 in 1911 and mining accidents occurred frequently. Hence a hospital was an essential part of the town’s infrastructure.



The Mount Morgan Hospital was opened by Mrs J Wesley Hall, Mayoress of Mt Morgan on 20 August 1890. In 1901, gas replaced kerosene lamps and wood burning stoves. Electricity replaced gas in 1935. The building was partially demolished in 1968 to make way for a new hospital.

Source: Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

Following completion of her general training Miss Broomfield gained a post graduate certificate in Maternal and Child Welfare in Brisbane in 1929 and a Midwifery Certificate at Bundaberg's Lady Chelmsford Hospital in 1931 before moving to Western Australia.

Australia entered World War II shortly after the invasion of Poland, declaring war on Germany on 3 September 1939 and in February 1941 Miss Broomfield enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) as a Lieutenant, being promoted to the rank of Captain in April 1941.

The Australian Army Nursing Service was established on 1 July 1902 as a reserve staffed by volunteer civilian nurses. The Service became part of the Australian Regular Army in 1949 as the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC). Members were active at the outbreak of World War Two serving in Australia and overseas.

Following her enlistment she was posted overseas, travelling on the troopship Queen Elizabeth to serve at the 2/7 Australian General Hospital (AGH) at Rehovot, Israel and at Sister's Clearing Station in GAZA. Returning to Australia she was posted to Army Hospitals, 2/1 AGH, Western Australia, 116 AGH Charters Towers Queensland and 112 AGH Greenslopes Brisbane until her discharge from AANS on 6 February 1946.

Just weeks after her discharge from five years Army service, Miss Broomfield was appointed Deputy Matron of the Bundaberg Hospital and later accepted an appointment as Matron of the Maryborough Hospital. She undertook further study to complete a Diploma of Nursing Administration and gained Fellowship of the College of Nursing in 1963.

During the 1950s Brisbane was a growing city with an urgent need for a large general hospital on the south side of the city to cope with an increasing population. A newly built hospital known as the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital was opened in the grounds of The Diamantina Hospital in 1956. The new hospital remained under the control of the Brisbane General Hospital until "Independence Day" on 1st July 1959 when it became a separate Hospital. It was renamed Princess Alexandra Hospital (PA) in 1959 following a visit from Princess Alexandra.

Providing trained staff on secondment and student nurses on "Ward Move" rotations to the new hospital was the responsibility of Matron Burbridge from the Brisbane General Hospital until after the

appointment on 27th October 1958 of Miss Broomfield as the first Matron of the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital.

At the time of her appointment there were 757 inpatients in the Acute Section and 399 patients in the Chronic Section of the Diamantina Hospital and 3,893 outpatients visited clinics during the week ended September 14th 1958. The number of student nurses were - first year 142, second year 123, third year 56 and fourth year 38.

Following "Independence Day" student nurses were informed by Miss Broomfield if they wished to nominate to complete their training at the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital and receive a General Nurse Certificate from the hospital, they could apply in writing to do so. The first Graduation Ceremony for 51 graduating nurses was conducted at the hospital in December 1960. The graduate nurse badge was designed by Miss Broomfield and Miss Marjorie Dickfos who commenced at the hospital in 1957 becoming Sister in Charge of the School of Nursing in January 1960.

Nurse education transferred to the new School of Nursing in August 1966 and in October 1970 just weeks before her retirement on 22nd November the school was renamed in her honour "*The Doris Broomfield School of Nursing*" and a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Minister for Health, the Hon. S. D. Tooth.



Matron Broomfield with Graduating Nurses

Nurses appreciated Miss Broomfield allowing them to organize and hold dances several times a year in the Recreation Hall on the ground floor of the quarters. Nurses excitedly decorated the Rec Hall in a theme for the night and lots of fun was had "dressing up" for the occasion. Boyfriends were allowed to attend but were carefully scrutinized by the Welfare Officers ensuring they didn't get a chance to put one foot over the invisible line that separated the living area from the Recreation

Hall. These occasions relieved the institutional feel of the nurse’s home and won enormous respect for “The Matron.”

Recognising the need for nurses to retain an ongoing commitment to nursing and opportunities to maintain friendships, Miss Broomfield organised the formation of The Past Nurses Association, holding the first meeting in November 1967. This Association continues today. Various fundraising activities have resulted in providing funds for conferences for nursing staff, equipment for patients and relatives as well as providing opportunity to remain in contact with nursing colleagues from years gone by.

Some years after her retirement in 1970 Miss Broomfield made notes on her time spent at the hospital including her frustration at the process required for submissions to increase staffing levels and the disappointment when these were frequently ignored or only small increases were made after months of delay.

Among her notes she also recalled great improvements to the staff dining room with more varied menus and better quality china and cutlery being purchased but disappointment at not being able to introduce hot meals for night staff. Despite the many problems encountered from overcrowding in the wards and at times insufficient nursing staff Miss Broomfield praised the high level of cooperation from all levels of staff.

Years of dedicated service to the nursing profession was acknowledged by the award of an Order of the British Empire – Member Civilian, Post nominal MBE © in June 1971. She is recognised in the *Faith Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours record 1901-1989* and the *IT’S AN HONOUR website – Australians celebrating Australians*.

Miss Broomfield died in Greenslopes Hospital Brisbane on 23rd July 1999. Greenslopes Hospital was built in 1942 by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide care to returned veterans and was called The Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital. Ramsay Health Care bought the hospital in January 1995 renaming it Greenslopes Private Hospital. An agreement at the time of the sale ensured Australian veterans and their widows would continue to receive the services previously provided at the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital.

The Country Hospital Museum would welcome any information you would like to share about the life of this Mount Morgan Hospital student nurse who went on to be Matron Doris Broomfield MBE.



Forthcoming 2014 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events

Sunday 11th May 2014

Mothers Day Markets

Sunday 25th May 2014

Heritage Festival

Sunday 13 July 2014

Market Day

Sunday 14th September 2014

Market Day

Sunday 30th November 2014

Christmas Markets

Please take the opportunity to visit our 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. We operate on a normal financial year (July—June) and new memberships paid now will be credited to the 2014-2015 financial year.

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

Individual \$20.00

Couple \$30.00

Life

Individual \$200.00

Couple \$300.00

Donations

The Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc (ABN: 86 751 554 596) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, please pay as above or by direct deposit to our Museum Account BSB-034-210 Account No. 23-3844. Please identify yourself by your family name plus Don (for donation) and make sure that we have your address so we are able to send you a receipt.

Development of the Rockhampton Hospital

We are fortunate that our collection contains many photographs of hospitals taken at different stages of their development. This story is about the changes at the Rockhampton Hospital since 1986. Photograph 1 was taken from Quarry Street in about 1986 after the opening of the Medical Services Block.



Photograph 1: Rockhampton Hospital ca. 1986 from Quarry and Cambridge St corner.

Photograph 2 is the view from a similar position in March 2014.



Photograph 2: Rockhampton Hospital March 2014 from Quarry and Cambridge St. corner.

The few remaining buildings are the first stage of the medical services building, the former intellectually handicapped unit (now Birribi) in the foreground and the old services building on the corner of North and Quarry Street. The 1954-built nurses' quarters have been replaced by the new 8-level building which, according to the Queensland Health website, will include cancer services, medical officers' facilities, two wards and 70 additional in-patient beds with provision for a future ICU.

Photograph 3 shows the new cancer services block which now dominates the Canning St entrance. The former medical superintendent's residence, dental clinic and post office remain on the Canning St frontage. The Emergency Department in a new section of the original medical services block is now accessed through this Canning Street entrance.



Photograph 3: New cancer services building viewed from the Canning St entrance to the hospital.

Photograph 4 takes us back to 1986, when the space between the Medical Services Block and the Nurses' Quarters and Cambridge St was virtually deserted.



Photograph 4: View ca. 1986 from the Cambridge St side of the Rockhampton hospital.

Photograph 5, also taken in March 2014, shows that this is now a bustling part of the hospital precinct, dominated by the University of Queensland's teaching facilities and student residences. Further along Cambridge St is the new hospital staff accommodation building constructed in 2008 to replace the two sets of flats on Canning St which were removed intact during 2010.



Photograph 5: View of the Rockhampton Hospital grounds from Canning and Cambridge St corner showing University of Queensland Rural Clinical School.

Archive Report

By Yvonne Kelley, Archivist

We are very fortunate this year to have eight committee members and six extra volunteers who meet at the museum most Tuesdays to work on sorting and cataloguing material for several archival projects.

The 5,000 odd nursing files project is progressing well and will be on-going for several years. The old Hospital record book project is nearing completion and the linen room and linen inventory is almost complete.

A system for processing the library /text book collection has been developed and work has commenced on this very large and important project. The earliest book found so far is "A Manual of Orthopraxy" about the use of mechanical devices to treat deformities in the human body. The book written by Henry Heather Bigg was published in 1869 and is one of many books from the Voss family library.

The data processing of nurse training records is progressing. These records when complete will cover nurse training at the Rockhampton Hospital from 1885- 1995. General nurse training ceased at the hospital in 1992 and midwifery in 1995 when the education of nurses transferred to the University sector.

The Health Service documents project covers the large collection of documents collected over the past 38 years. This material is slowly being sorted for permanent inclusion in the collection. The organisation has in place a succession plan and processes to insure the continuation of the ACHHA's organisational structure, vision, mission and goal statements developed by foundation members in 1998. I am in the process of revising this material to present and update members at meetings throughout this year.

Watching our website

Don't forget to visit our Association's website www.achha.org.au occasionally because we do periodically add new photographs from our collection. In the latest additions are 15 photographs donated by the late Mrs Jill Cowie (née Crossan) featuring staff at Tannachy Hospital around 1940. While there is something special about holding these small, old photographs we are able to see more detail in the larger scans on our website.

Don't forget that when you click on Our Collections, People you see very small thumbnail photographs. If you click on the thumbnail you see a larger version with a description.

Here is one example of recently added photographs showing Sisters Reid and Abbott in uniform in the Tannachy garden in about 1940.



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: Lorraine Antonello

Vice-President: Ashley Reid

Secretary: Errol Payne

Treasurer: Kay Smith

Archivist: Yvonne Kelley

Committee Members

Nancy Crapp

Tom Dewar

Del Leitgeb

Carol Mclver

Bill Mclver

Jocelyn Philp

Christine Putman

Norma West