

President's report

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018. Again the year is moving along quickly.

Throughout 2017/2018, the committee has continued to work on all running projects which includes library, preparation of nursing information and data while trying to keep the museum clean and tidy. Every month the committee holds a meeting to ensure we are managing the collection and any issues which may arise.

It is 10 years since we procured the Nurses Quarters building from Mount Morgan Hospital and had it moved to the Heritage Village. It is a wonderful building to display the collection and many visitors enjoy walking around while it brings back memories, some good and some not so good.

Our Museum volunteers have continued to work every Tuesday morning and enjoy friendship and company, not forgetting a lovely morning tea. Maybe you or your friends would like to help the committee to care for the collection. We would like some help with dusting and wiping down the items to keep them in good clean order. If you would like to help give us a call and we would appreciate your company. Come and enjoy the morning, and of course morning tea. The committee contacts are in this Newsletter.

Ashley Reid continues to update the static display in the front foyer of the museum. The current display depicts Rockhampton Hospitals from 1858 to 1958.

Ashley has thoroughly researched the local nurses who trained in Rockhampton and surrounding hospitals and then served in WW1. Ashley has been able to present her work on several occasions. Most recently, she did a presentation to the Rockhampton Family History Association. This week she has been invited to present at the Rockhampton Library as part of a State Library of Queensland QANZAC 100 event. The committee has approved the preparation of an honour board to commemorate those nurses and that will be displayed in the Museum. Ashley has done all of the preparation for this project and the honour

board will be an asset to the museum and forever commemorate nurses who served our country.

You will be pleased to know that the old Rockhampton Post Office building has arrived at the Village and we are all looking forward to seeing it set up. This is a big year for the Rockhampton Hospital with the first patients admitted to the Hospital 150 years ago on 15th July 1868.

Come and visit the museum on market days. We always try to have someone there to answer any queries and just to have a chat. If you can't find a volunteer and have a question or comment, just email us at secretary@ahha.org.au.

Lorraine Antonello
17 April 2018

New Doctor at the Country Hospital

We have a new, distinguished looking doctor in our Doctor's Office, courtesy of Ashley Reid's imagination and skill.

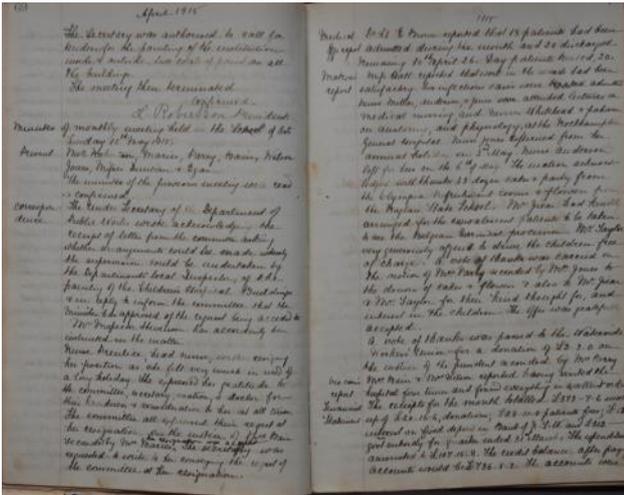


It's a shame we can't show you the original coloured photograph in a larger size, but if you look closely, the Doctor is preparing for a home visit. He has his notes in his compendium in front of him and his hat and Gladstone bag ready beside him.

Ashley started with a resuscitation mannequin donated by Hillcrest Hospital and was able to buy a latex face mask and glass eyes on line. She visited opshops etc to find the clothes. The hat came from Yeppoon and still has the original Stewarts price tag inside.

The Rockhampton Children’s Hospital a century ago - Errol Payne

One of the treasures in our Country Hospital Museum collection is a set of bound books recording the minutes of the meetings of the Children’s Hospital Committee throughout the existence of the hospital from 1891 to 10 November 1925. The minutes are generally hand written. However, printed records of Annual Meetings and reports which would have been published in the Morning Bulletin are usually pasted into the books.



Example of two pages of minutes from 1915

One very useful printed document included with the minutes was prepared by the hospital secretary, Mr W. H. Rogers. This provides a very valuable snapshot of the hospital ca. 1916.

“THE HOSPITAL

The Rockhampton Children’s Hospital was founded in 1885. During the first four years it had no independent existence, being administered at first, for a few months, by the Committee of the Rockhampton Hospital (then known as the Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital) and afterwards by the committee of the Rockhampton Benevolent Society.

In 1889 the present buildings, erected by public subscription on the admirable site granted by the Government, were occupied. The hospital continued to be administered by the committee of the Benevolent Society until December 1890, when the increased number of patients justified it being placed under separate control. The first president under the new regime was Mrs. W. H. Buzacott, with Mrs. F. Morgan hon treasurer, Mrs. W. Allan hon secretary, Dr. H. E. Brown medical officer, Drs. Thon and Callaghan hon. consulting surgeons, and Mr. F. O. Foster hon. Dentist. The committee consisted of Mesdames W. Woolcock, W. H. O.

Forthcoming 2018 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events

Sunday 13th May 2018

Mothers Day Markets

Sunday 8th July 2018

Market Day

Sunday 9th September 2018

Market Day

Sunday 25th November 2018

Christmas Markets

Please take the opportunity to visit our Museum during these events. We hope to have people present at the museum during these events to assist with enquiries. However, this is not always possible. If you can’t find a volunteer, you can email your query to secretary@achha.org.au.

Association Membership

The Association appreciates your support for our activities. We operate on a normal financial year (July—June) and new memberships paid now will be credited to the 2018-2019 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 for a receipt.

Smeaton, Lepoer Power, G. S. Curtis and J. Flint.
The revenue for that year amounted to £1787 1s. 7d., or £85 4s. 6d. less than for the year just closed.
Thanks to the continued liberality of the people of Central Queensland, to the endowment of the State, and to many private benefactions, notably Mrs. T. S. Hall's gift of £1000, Colonel Feez's legacy of £200, and more recently Mr Walter Russell Hall's bequest of £2000 and the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, the good work of the hospital has steadily increased. Many thousands of children have been treated and discharged cured, the percentage of deaths being very small. The area from which patients have been received extends as far west as Jundah and as far north as Mareeba.

The institution receives indoor patients between the ages of one and twelve years.

Visitors are admitted on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons between the hours of 2.30 and 4.30.

Outpatients are treated at the institution on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 11 and 11.30 am.

Tickets may be had from any member of the committee and from the Secretary (East-street).

Patient's fees are 12s. per week. Less will be accepted in the case of those whose parents are unable to pay 12s. No child within the age-limits is ever refused admission.

W. H. ROGERS, Secretary."

We learn from this that the Children's Hospital had its origin in the Rockhampton Benevolent Society but was soon run independently by a committee of women supported by the hospital's medical officer and consultant medical staff. Dr H. E. Brown was the medical officer for most of the hospital's approximately 40-year existence.

To give some perspective to the value of donations and the fees paid by patients, Dr Brown's salary as the Medical Officer was £250 pa in the period covered in this story. When the matron resigned in 1915, the secretary was asked to advertise the vacancy in the Brisbane Courier, the Sydney Morning Herald and the two local papers at £100 pa. At a meeting held on 6th March 1913, three new nurse trainees were signed onto the hospital staff with agreed salaries of £20 pa in the first and second years, £25 pa in third year, and £30 pa in fourth year. A four-year training program was in place at the Children's Hospital for a number of years before Rockhampton Hospital increased their program from 3 to 4 years in 1920. The Children's Hospital nurses were undertaking many of their theory lectures at

the Rockhampton Hospital. Although it is not possible to provide detailed information, it is clear from the minutes that a significant number of nurses resigned on completion of their training programs to move to other hospitals. Salaries of qualified nurses appear to range from about £40 pa to £75 depending on the level of responsibility. There was usually a Head Nurse in addition to the Matron. The treatment available in the hospital seems to have been quite effective. In the 1915 Annual Report, Dr Brown stated that there had been 287 "indoor" patients and 1,402 "outdoor" patients with nine deaths. In the 1916 Annual Report, he listed 389 "indoor" and 1,632 "outdoor" patients and 19 deaths. Of these, he said 9 were in a hopeless condition when admitted.



Rockhampton Children's Hospital across Agnes St from the Girls Grammar School ca. 1922



Nurses and patients in the Children's Hospital ca. 1915.

The Children's hospital was closed ca. 1929 when its services were consolidated into the Canning Street Rockhampton Hospital. The Queensland Government had decided to take control of all "community-managed" hospitals in 1925. The land was soon sold off for housing. Some of the buildings were moved to the Rockhampton Hospital and reconstructed as nurses quarters. These burned down in 1945.

Cure or Quackery? by Ashley Reid

Members of the dedicated band of volunteers who willingly work each Tuesday to continue preserving our collection at the Country Hospital Museum are frequently surprised by items found within the walls of the museum. Recently while shifting items in the museum office, a dusty brown case was found under a desk, possibly there since the collection moved from the Lakes Creek Cottage to the present building some nine years ago and considered too fragile to store in our outside storage container.

With no labels to identify the contents, the case was opened revealing an “Ultra – San Main Regulator” connected to an electric power cord, along with a treasure trove of small glass items. A 56-page booklet, “*Health, Healing and Recovery by means of HIGH FREQUENCY, An Introductory Booklet for High Frequency Treatment for the Sick and the Healthy*” written by J. Platus, Sydney, was located in the case.



What would this apparatus have been used for and how did it come into the museum collection?

To begin our investigation Country Hospital Museum volunteer, Janet Iffinger, conducted a Google search and found a reference to a case similar to ours on the Powerhouse Museum, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney website. The website describes the equipment as ‘Ultrasan High Frequency Electrotherapeutic Apparatus’ made by J Platus in Sydney, 1940-1950.

- ◆ Cased set containing 23 variously shaped glass tube attachments,
- ◆ A Bakelite high frequency control unit with a Bakelite handpiece attached with electric cord,
- ◆ A rubber hand pump, and an instruction booklet also containing testimonials.

[Source: powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=65372]

The items described by the Powerhouse Museum, match the contents of our case but regrettably

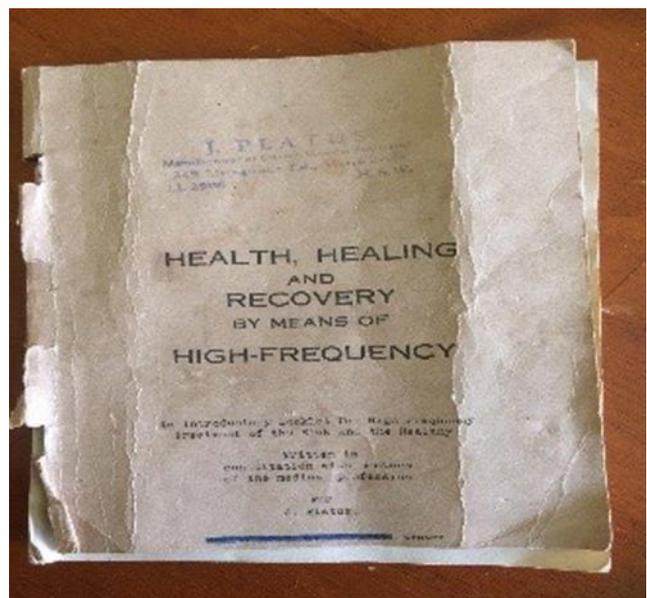
some glass tubes or electrodes, as they were called, have been broken. Fortunately, 20 remain in good condition.

Continuing our investigation, a discussion with Yvonne Kelley, Country Hospital Museum Archivist, revealed the case was donated to the collection several years ago by Mrs. Olwyn Cordell (née Cordingley) who was a past trainee of the Rockhampton Hospital ca. 1944 – 1947 and who later worked as a Registered Nurse at the hospital. Another puzzle solved.

Electrotherapy is the use of electrical energy through electrical devices which may be used for medical or therapeutic treatments. The Queensland Energy Exhibition Centre records the Rockhampton Gas & Coke Company commenced providing electricity to Rockhampton residents in 1892. [<http://www.qldenergyexhibitioncentre.com/1890s.html>]

The booklet describes how the use of the Ultra – San Main Regulator and appropriate glass electrodes could assist in the treatment of 128 health and beauty issues ranging from Anaemia, Boils, Constipation, Lumbago to Wrinkles.

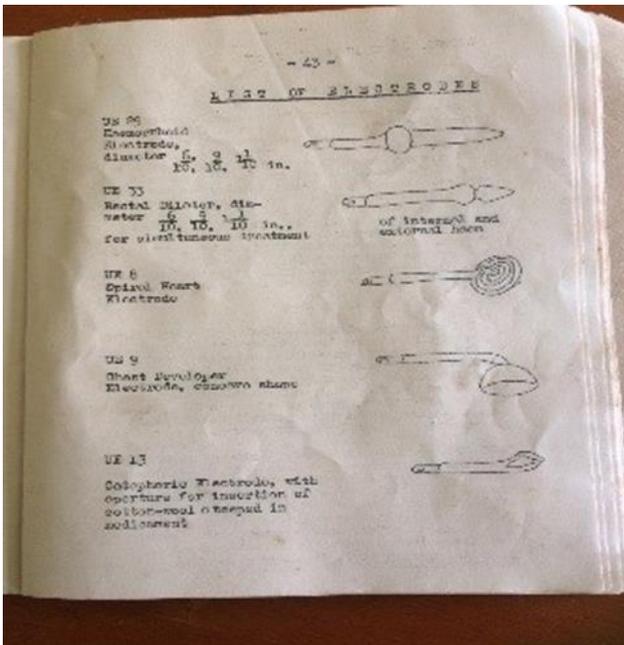
Instructions and guidelines to assist Doctors and clients, who often bought the machine to use themselves at home, are included in the booklet along with drawings of each electrode with its identifying number, the area of the body where the electrode was to be used and the number of minutes each electrode was to be applied. While promoting the use of the equipment there are words of caution recommending a Doctor be contacted in the case of sudden illness or deterioration in the client’s condition.



The instructions include the procedure for plugging the power plug into a power socket and turning the

Ultra – San Main Regulator on. The writer claimed Violet Ray High Intensity Currents, or as they were called, the “Violet Rays”, would be electrically discharged and travel through the glass electrodes as electric energy to provide painless soothing relief of pain when applied appropriately to the human body. By turning the regulating knob from weak to strong the intensity of the current to be used could be regulated. The Violet Rays were also said to destroy germs, had a “strong power over infection” and by using it on healthy bodies it safeguarded the user against any coming illness.

However a note of caution is found among the instructions for use on page 5. *“Many illnesses arise in consequence of an unsuitable mode of life. High Frequency treatment cannot, where that is the case, remove the violation of natural law. An improvement can therefore never be looked for unless the old habits are given up.”*



A reassuring note in the instructions to the user reads, *“It is absolutely without danger and there need be no anxiety in handling the equipment”*. Nevertheless discouraging recommendations for the client and user’s safety include *“The person using the equipment must not come in contact with metal objects, electric or telephone wires, equipment must not be used in damp rooms and client’s skin must be dry, the user must avoid any sudden or violent regulation of the apparatus from weak to strong. Each treatment must be in accordance with the times indicated in the booklet and rings, chains, earrings, hairpins must be removed before treatment.”*

Glowing written testimonials credited to be from satisfied customers are included in the booklet along with an assurance from J. Platus that originals

would be presented on request.

While researching, “Local World War One Nurses. Who were they?,” an article stored on Trove and written in the Brisbane Courier Mail on Thursday 4th September 1941 told of an unsolved death of a returned soldier while receiving treatment through a diathermy machine at the Brisbane General Hospital. The nurse on duty at the time of the death was Daisy Wharton Squire, who had been temporarily in charge of the massage department. Sister Squire was a returned World War One Nurse born in Springsure Central Queensland. Her story is written in “Local World War One Nurses. Who were they?” and accessible on the ACHHA website.

<http://www.achha.org.au/WW1-AANS-ver-2.php>

The Ultra – San Main Regulator may appear “Quackery” to some readers today. However advances in medicine and the sciences over the past seventy years have allowed the development of electrotherapy and electromagnetic therapy equipment and apparatus to be used as treatment options for many medical and health and wellness conditions. Occupational Health and Workplace Health and Safety Regulations, Policies and Procedures are now strictly enforced to ensure client and therapist safety while using such equipment.

Call in next time you visit the Heritage Village and view the Ultra – San Main Regulator and equipment on display at Country Hospital Museum which is in a glass-fronted case in the Treatment Room. The search continues to discover more treasures.

Addendum to Ashley’s story - Errol Payne

Some time ago while researching advertisements for lying-in hospitals on Trove, I noticed that some nurses were offering other services. The advertisements meant nothing to me at the time, but having read Ashley’s story, they start to make sense.

Here are two examples from the Morning Bulletin in 1924:

MATRON O'MALLEY, LADY SPECIALIST, BODY, FACE, AND SCALP MASSAGE, HAIR SINGE AND SHAMPOOING, Nestle's Hair-waving a Speciality. Entirely New Process to Rockhampton. Violet Ray Treatment for Rheumatism, &c.. Only Qualified Nurses in Attendance. Sufficient address: EAST STREET. NEXT MISS NOLLER'S. Phone 1193.

[1924 'Advertising', Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 30 September, p. 8. , viewed 09 Mar 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article54288281>]

NURSE EDWARDS (Reg. Nurse) Uses Electricity, Vibration, Radiant Heat for Healing of Body. Also for keeping body strong, healthy, VAREX for Varicose ulcers, BAD LEGS. Toilet Rooms. Edgars Buildings Upstairs). Health Rooms, A. Tye, Dentist, Williamstreet. Graziers' Association Chambers, Longreach, Nurse Ullman. Nurse Edwards visit week-ends. Homes and Hotels visited by appointment.

[1924 'Advertising.', Morning Bulletin Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 30 September, p. 8, viewed 28 November, 2015, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article54288281>]

While the device described by Ashley probably dates to about 1940, these women were offering related techniques much earlier. To help us to understand the above advertisements, we must remember that married nurses were unable to work in the normal hospitals, so they would have been looking for alternative ways to use their skills. We know that quite a few set up their own maternity homes or lying-in hospitals in large houses around town. Using their training to offer beauty treatments and treatments with electricity or "violet rays" gave them another means of using their valuable training to support other women in the city.

Checking our website

Don't forget to check our website www.achha.org.au from time to time since new photos from our collection are added regularly.

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

Elected Office Bearers

President: Lorraine Antonello
Vice-President: Christine Putman
Secretary: Errol Payne
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Archivist: Yvonne Kelley

Early Queensland Country Hospitals

Peak Downs Clermont Hospital ca.1910

The National Library of Australia holds a large collection of glass slide and photographs taken by Mr Gordon Cumming Pullar around Central Queensland. This outstanding example shows the Peak Downs Clermont Hospital and staff in about 1910. Clermont was an important mining town in the late 19th early twentieth century.



Chillagoe was another example of a mining town which had its own country hospital. Notice the nurses on the steps. This photograph from the early 20th century is from the J C Smith Collection at the Fryer Library, University of Queensland.



Committee Members

Dorothy Broad
 Nancy Crapp
 Matthew Johnson
 Del Leitgeb
 Daphne Murdoch