

***From the President***

At long last the end is in sight for the ACHHA to achieve the vision and goals set eleven years ago; that is, to have an Australian Country Hospital Museum at the Heritage Village.

It is with great pleasure that I report that we have received a grant of \$60,000 from Q150 funds to help complete the Hospital Museum. As you will see in Robert Schwarten's press release on p. 6, QBuild will complete the internal carpentry, electrical rewiring, plumbing and internal painting. QBuild has indicated that the work will be finished by the end of June this year. The external preparation and painting was commenced by volunteers of the Village with the assistance of a work for the dole scheme in early March (see photograph on p. 2).

Your committee will still have to raise about \$25,000 to cover the 300 square meters of flooring with masonite and vinyl and to install UV heat resistant blinds before we can display the collection and have our grand opening.

I am asking members to consider giving a donation towards the completion of the project or if a group would like to conduct a fund raising activity for us. The committee is going to be very busy over the next few months. Donations \$2.00 and over are tax deductible and will receive a receipt.

The committee plans to have a function to celebrate International Nurses Day during Heritage Week in May. Further details will be found in this newsletter.

We have also received a Regional Arts Development Fund grant in partnership with Bronwyn Roper, the Central Queensland Museum Development Officer, to conduct a three day workshop on the MOSIAC data base program for small Museums. We are already using the

program to document our collection. Debbie Richards and Lorraine Antonello attended a workshop two years ago and have been steadily working away inputting our collection data. They are looking forward to attending the workshop to update their skills.

The last project in our overall plan will be to relocate our 40ft storage container (already overflowing with part of the collection) to the back of the Museum, to be fitted out and used as the museum storage unit.

I sincerely thank all the committee members over the past eleven years for their contribution to the development and success to date of our organisation.

The photograph below shows Robert Schwarten at the Museum building with members of the Management Committee Executive (L to R) Norma West (Vice President), Hon. Robert Schwarten MP, Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology and Member for Rockhampton, Errol Payne (Secretary), Kay Smith (Treasurer) and Yvonne Kelley (President).

Yvonne Kelley



Invitation to a Celebration of Heritage Week 2009, Queensland's 150th Anniversary and International Nurses' Day

The President and members of the ACHHA are inviting you, your family and friends to join us at the Rockhampton Heritage Village at the Mothers' Day Markets on Sunday May 10th. We are planning a joint celebration of Heritage Week 2009 as part of Queensland's 150th birthday celebrations, and International Nurses' Day. The National Trust of Queensland is running the Queensland Heritage Festival from Sunday 10th May to Sunday 17th May with the theme *The Making of Queensland*. The role of health services has been a critical in the in the making of our State, and it is fitting that our Association join in the celebrations.

Details of the morning are being finalised as this Newsletter is being printed and are set out on the enclosed supplementary flyer. In general terms, we plan to highlight our display in the Lakes Creek Cottage at the Heritage Village from 9:00 am. Members will be present to show a PowerPoint presentation of Rockhampton's historic hospitals as well as displays of uniforms, and medical equipment. We hope to have the iron lung working, but in any case will tell you about it and its history in the Rockhampton Hospital. We will also be able to tell you about the exciting progress which is now being made with the refurbishment of our new building, the former Rockhampton Hospital Nurses' Quarters. By mid-May, the painting of the exterior should be near finalisation, and QBuild should be well on track with the internal refurbishment and painting.

At 11:00 am there will be an Ecumenical Service in St Peter's Church at the Village to commemorate International Nurses' Day which falls on the following Tuesday. There will be a guest speaker at this service.

At midday, you are invited to join us to share a light lunch (sausage sizzle or sandwiches) under the old Kalapa State School building. This will be sponsored by Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital.

Of course we are still in the process of developing the museum and will be seeking donations towards the refurbishment fund in addition to the gold coin entry charge made by the Village on market days.

We look forward to your participation.

Painting underway

It's a pity we can't afford to print this newsletter in colour. Nevertheless share our excitement as the external painting of our building is undertaken by volunteers at the Rockhampton Heritage Village with funding provided by the Work for the Dole Scheme. Mr Les Earle also made a donation of some of the paint for the project. See the colour version of this photograph on the About Us tab on our website at www.achha.org.au. Only the highway side is completed at this time.

Our part of the Heritage Village will become busier as further development is undertaken. The Lakes Creek Railway Station is now positioned nearby and there will be a small train operating from there in the future. A shearing shed is also being relocated to a nearby site.



Hospital Matron's Prayer

This Hospital Matron's Prayer has been provided by Norma West. It was first published in the Nursing Mirror in 1962, but has also been included in the book on the 50 year history of Matrons published in 2000.

O God, Who dost teach the world that those Who lead must serve, bless the work of Hospital Matrons that they may ever combine gentleness with firmness and humility With authority. Grant wisdom and Patience amid all the pressing problems of Their task.

Vouchsafe to them the constant sense of Thy Presence that they may go about their work With cheerfulness and courtesy, endowed with Inward peace and outward calmness.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Living loving Lord, in Whose service is Perfect freedom.

Amen

Dr D. P. O'Brien, Avonleigh and Leinster

As we celebrate Queensland's 150th birthday in 2009, it is worth looking back on some of the people and institutions that have "made a difference" in our geographical area. We have written a number of stories about the Rockhampton Hospital in recent editions of this Newsletter. We are aware that the present hospital on the Range originated on the banks of the Fitzroy River before Queensland became a separate State and may be regarded as the "Mother" of health service provision in the region. In this short account, we will overview a contribution from the private sector by examining the roles of Dr Daniel Patrick O'Brien, Avonleigh and the Leinster Private Hospital.

According to Deborah Friel [1]:

"Dr O'Brien graduated from medicine with honours and following his position as superintendent of St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin, migrated to Australia, worked in Ravenshoe, and then settled in the Central Queensland region. He commenced practice in the Rockhampton District in 1901 and opened his first hospital, Avonleigh, in Quay Street in 1908."

Dr O'Brien's qualifications were M.D., B.Ch., Ba.O., FRSCI. Hence he was qualified in medicine, surgery and obstetrics. His admission to the Royal College of Surgeons came during a trip to his native Ireland in 1911.[2] Rockhampton was certainly fortunate in its ability to attract outstanding scholars and practitioners from the earliest times.

Avonleigh at 248 Quay St is one of very few 19th Century buildings with a history as a hospital to have survived to the present day [3]. The building was constructed for Mr Frederick Morgan in 1885. Mr Morgan and his brothers were responsible for the commencement of gold mining in Mt Morgan in 1882. They sold their share of the Mt Morgan Mine in 1884 and it was this money that Mr Morgan used to construct Avonleigh, one of the first grand mansions built in Rockhampton. Though Mr Morgan died at Avonleigh in November 1894, the property stayed in the family until the title was transferred to John Henry O'Brien in September 1904. In April 1906, Dr Daniel Patrick O'Brien acquired the property for use as a private hospital. This image of Avonleigh from the ACHHA Collection dates from around 1908.

Important notices**Forthcoming 2009 Rockhampton Heritage Village Markets****Sunday 10 May 2009**

Mothers' Day Markets incorporating special ACHHA activities at the Lakes Creek Cottage to commemorate Heritage Week 2009 and International Nurses' Day.

Sunday 12 July 2009

Heritage Market (possibly)

Sunday 13 September 2009

Jazz markets

Sunday 29 November 2009

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 progress on the refurbishment of the Mt Morgan Nurses' Quarters building.

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. The Association operates on a normal financial year, so that subscriptions paid now will be for the 2008/2009 year..

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.



According to the summary of the entry in the Queensland Heritage Register:

“On 7 December 1906 the right to use the party wall on the northern side of the building was registered indicating additions to the building were undertaken at about this time. After the building was extended to the northern side, the hospital consisted of eight bedrooms and an operation room on the first floor and on the ground floor were the waiting and consulting rooms, dressing room, dispensary and nurses’ quarters and sitting room. The doctor resided in adjoining apartments at the northern end of the ground floor.”[3]

According to Historian, Dr Lorna McDonald:

“In May 1908, he (Dr O’Brien) advertised it (Avonleigh) as a ‘new two-storeyed building’ in the charge of a competent matron and staff of trained nurses. Each patient had a separate room and special accommodation was available for confinement cases. Fees were the same as Hillcrest – two guineas a week.”[4]

However, Dr O’Brien, a prominent medical practitioner who held the positions of Government Medical Officer, President of the Rockhampton Medical Association and Medical Officer to the local Hibernian Association and Medical Officer to the Westwood Sanatorium did not stop there.[2] He next opened Leinster Private Hospital on the corner of Agnes and Spencer Streets though he continued to reside and have consultations at Avonleigh until 1938. All dispensing of medicines was also undertaken from his offices in Avonleigh. Leinster was originally a private home occupied by Mr Charles Steele who was a nephew of James Stewart and had an interest in the company for a time.[5] This photograph from the ACHHA Collection shows Dr O’Brien and staff in front of Leinster in 1915.



In 1914/15, the Sisters of Mercy who resided at the Range Convent were negotiating for the purchase of Kenmore in Ward Street. Once acquired, the Sisters decided to use the grand mansion as a hospital for the infirm, a notion supported by Bishop Joseph Shiel, the fourth Bishop of the Rockhampton Diocese. The house was converted into a 32-bed hospital with Sister Adelaide Wilson as the Hospital’s first Matron. Both Adelaide and her sister Elizabeth subsequently enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Corps and served overseas.[2]

To ensure the success of the new Mater Hospital, Dr O’Brien closed Leinster to transfer the patient load to the Mater and establish business there. Following the transfer, Dr O’Brien made the building available for use as the nurses’ quarters for the Mater though he maintained ownership of the building and it appears that he continued some medical practice there in addition to Avonleigh.

The first operation to be performed at the Mater was undertaken by Dr O’Brien in late November 1915. For the appendectomy, Dr O’Brien called upon Dr Sampson Stuart, a fellow Rockhampton practitioner to anaesthetise, and Sister Catherine (‘Kit’) Monckton, a registered nurse from Leinster, to join him as Theatre Sister. Miss Monckton had been trained at the Rockhampton Hospital, and following the success of the operation at the new Mater, Bishop Shiel offered Miss Monckton, a lay person, the position of Matron which she duly accepted.

Dr O’Brien retired from practice in 1938 and leased Avonleigh to Dr V T J Lynch who used it as a surgery and residence.[3] He returned to his native Ireland. However, with the outbreak of World War II he decided to return to Australia in 1939 and died in Sydney that same year. Another photograph in the ACHHA Collection shows Dr O’Brien with nursing staff in front of Leinster in 1930. The two photos have an add-

ed interest in that they show a marked change in the nurses' uniforms over a period of 15 years. Leinster was willed to the Diocese of Rockhampton on the understanding that it was to be used as a home for the aged. Bishop Hayes handed it over to the Sisters of Mercy who established our current Bethany Home for Aged People which is attached to the Mater Hospital. We still have reminders of Dr O'Brien and



Leinster in Rockhampton. Leinster Place Residential Aged Care Facility was opened by Mercy Health and Aged Care in North Rockhampton in 1997 and this photograph shows the name O'Brien Place for the existing Bethany complex in Ward Street Rockhampton.

Errol Payne

Sources:



1. Deborah Friel in Hilary Mercer, Peggy Carter, John Pearn, Eds. (1992). *Characters & Caritas: vignettes of community health care in Central Queensland*, Brisbane: Amphion Press. P.13.
2. Terence P. Hayes. (1990) *Mater Misericordiae Hospital 1915-1990*, Youth Service Press, pp. 13, 14.
3. Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency, 'Avonleigh', *Extract*

from the Queensland Cultural Heritage Register, Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/heritage/index.cgi?place=600813&back=1> accessed 24 March 2009.

4. Lorna McDonald. (1995). *Rockhampton - A History of City and District*, Rockhampton City Council, p.366.
5. A E Hermann (2002). *The Development of Rockhampton and District*, Central Queensland Family History Assn, p. 91.

Storing your digital photographs

For those of us who are used to pulling out old photographs and regretting the fact that they don't seem to be as clear as they used to be, or the colour has changed a bit, the new digital age presents a new set of challenges. At least the old photos can be scanned and touched up to achieve a reasonable outcome.

We have recently received an email from Bronwyn Roper, Museum Development Officer in our region, alerting us to some advice that has recently appeared in museum discussions involving the Collections Australia Network of which we are a member.

Basically, the advice is that professional users re-burn their collection of DVD's every couple of years or so because the silver backing on some DVDs ages and becomes delaminated at around the 4+ years mark. Some of the major manufacturers such as Kodak and Verbatim have developed archival grade DVDs which incorporate gold which does not corrode like metals such as silver.

A web search did not provide any really definitive answers. Archival quality DVDs are more expensive but Kodak is claiming lives of 80-100 years. In any case, we should follow the general principle of not putting all of our eggs in one basket. Portable hard drives are now relatively inexpensive and it's easy to back up your normal hard disc onto them. Don't assume that cheap DVDs are the same as the others and consider the more expensive archival quality for really important items. Store everything in cool, dry and dark place to minimize decay.

Errol Payne

Funding for Australian Country Hospital Museum - Press Release

Member for Rockhampton Robert Swarten has announced \$60,000 of Q150 funding which will go to finishing the refurbishment of the Australian Country Hospital Museum at the Heritage Village.

Mr Swarten said he was pleased to be able to provide the much needed funding for the museum building, which was formerly the Mount Morgan Hospital nurses quarters.

“Q150 is a chance to celebrate our rich and varied history and for the Australian Country Hospital Museum to benefit from that funding is just a perfect fit,” Mr Swarten said.

“The funding will allow the hard working people of the Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association to finish off the job they started admirably so many years ago.

“Electrical, plumbing, carpentry and painting works will be done to modify and refurbish the former nurses quarters up to the standard it needs to be for a museum.”

Mr Swarten said there was a touch of irony that the Australian Country Hospital Museum was getting funding through Q150, which was set up to celebrate Queensland’s independence from New South Wales.

“Among the Museum’s vast collection of mem-

orabilia and artefacts are hospital records that go back to 1858, when Rockhampton was still part of New South Wales.”

The fact was not lost on the President of the Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Yvonne Kelley.

“Well I think it is meant to be,” Ms Kelley said. “We are over the moon to have received this funding and thank Robert Swarten for helping make it happen,” she said.

Ms Kelley started the collection for the museum 33 years ago. The vast collection of memorabilia and artifacts depicting the pre technology era of health care was commenced in 1976. The collection was first displayed at the Rockhampton Base Hospital in 1988; the museum was closed in 1998 due to operational requirements of the Health Department.

The refurbishment of the Australian Country Hospital Museum is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

Membership form on the web

On page 3 of this Newsletter you will find details of our membership fees etc. You may find more information about us on our website www.achha.org.au and download an Application Form at <http://www.achha.org.au/Membership%20Application.pdf>.

Association contact details:

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[Incorporation Number: IA20217]

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Elected Office Bearers

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Vice-President: Norma West

Secretary: Errol Payne

Treasurer: Kay Smith

Committee Members

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Tom Dewar

John Learmonth

Del Leitgeb

Carol McIver

Bill McIver

Jocelyn Philp

Debra Richards