

***President's Report***

The year is certainly moving along quickly as is our work at the Country Hospital Museum.

Our small group of volunteers and the committee members are always busy with the various tasks to uphold and maintain the hospital collection and to keep the displays interesting for the visitors to the museum. We are always looking for and interested in any information we can gather from the community. Family members do have some information from older members of their families and this information can sometimes fit into information we already have. This helps to complete a story of our history.

Currently we are planning a function at 10:00 am on 18th October to celebrate the completion of the hospital fence and the placing of the plaques on the fence and in the grounds. The plaques are for the original 1867 foundation stone and the Sandrock gates which are the original gates from the Rockhampton Hospital. We will also be placing one of the original plaque which was on the fence at the Hospital when it was built using a bequest from Mr George Sandrock, an early Board member of the hospital. More details of this event and invitations will be sent to you when available.

We would like to acknowledge the repair work the Village staff and volunteers have undertaken on our hospital building. Both interior and exterior needed attention and we appreciate their time and expertise.

As our band of workers and committee members is decreasing in number, we invite anyone who has some spare time and an interest in the health industry and its memorabilia to contact us to discuss any possible assistance which you may be able to give. It is very important for us to have volunteers to help to maintain and safeguard our valuable collection into the future. We would also love to catch up with you at our Annual General Meeting at 1:30 pm on Monday 26th September.

Lorraine Antonello
President

An honour for our Local World War One Nurses
By Ashley Reid

Queensland communities, through the Q ANZAC 100 Memories for a New Generation Project, continue to honour the service of military personnel who served in World War One. The Country Hospital Museum continues to be involved with this project.

The second two-day state wide Q ANZAC 100 Project Heritage Leaders Workshop was held in Brisbane at the State Library of Queensland (SLQ) in May. While the workshop focussed on the creation of a legacy for others to access in the future, particularly in a digital format, the program also provided an opportunity to profile and share some community First World War project achievements.

Receiving an invitation to participate in the workshop program and present an overview of the research conducted to uncover the "**Local WW1 Nurses - Who were they?**" I travelled to Brisbane and was pleased the presentation was well received. The time spent at the workshop provided an excellent opportunity for networking with Heritage Leaders from across the state with several enquiries and additional information being received.

Robyn Hamilton, Collection Curator, State Library of Queensland had previously indicated an interest in acquiring the original "Imison" photographs for the permanent SLQ collection. The photographs of Sister Alice Ethel Imison, who trained at the Rockhampton Hospital 1914-1917, had been donated to the Country Hospital Museum along with her certificates, medals and other nursing memorabilia by Alice's relative, Janice Marshall. The Country Hospital Museum Committee and Janice Marshall agreed as this would safely record and store these valuable resources for the future.

Lorraine Antonello and I travelled to Brisbane in June to meet with Robyn and transfer the photographs to SLQ. It was moving to see the enthusiasm and excitement displayed by Robyn when the collection of four professional photographs of Alice Imison and 42 small black and white photographs

taken during Alice’s World War One and World War Two military service were handed to her. A Deed of Gift Form was completed by Robyn and Lorraine.

Even more moving was the quiet emotion shown by Janice Marshall at lunch the next day when Lorraine and I met with her and informed her Robyn will have the photographs recorded and digitised in the SLQ as “*The Imison Collection.*”

During this visit I also met with Anna Thurgood, SLQ Regional Content Curator Queensland Memory. Anna had previously requested I submit a small selection of stories of our local nurses who served in World War One for possible inclusion in the **Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience (SACE)** exhibition to be held in Mackay in late July.

After reviewing the stories Anna requested digital photographs of any medals and certificates held at the Country Hospital Museum belonging to these nurses. Returning to Rockhampton the items were photographed by Errol Payne and emailed to Anna. These were then included in the SLQ submission to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra for approval to be included in the Mackay exhibition.

Once the submission was approved by the Australian War Memorial our items were packed and I met with Anna to confirm the items and sign the Loan Agreement Forms allowing them to be loaned to SLQ and transported to Mackay by her.

It was with a sense of excitement that I travelled to Mackay after receiving an invitation to attend the exhibition opening on Monday 25th July. Following the official opening by Mr. Tim Fischer AC, and Mr. George Christensen MP, visitors were provided with a tour of the entire exhibition. The large and very impressive displays and items were transported in 10 trucks from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and it then took a team of workers 6 days to unpack and set up.

Viewing the many graphic displays left me with a mixture of emotions from an overwhelming sense of horror at the circumstance the soldiers and nurses endured during World War One and a feeling of great pride that the Australian War Memorial and State Library of Queensland have, by allowing a small collection loaned by the Country Hospital Museum Rockhampton, endowed high honour on the service given by all our local nurses during this conflict.

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Forthcoming 2016 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events

Sunday 11th September 2016

Market Day

Sunday 27th November 2016

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 appreciates your support for our activities. We operate on a normal financial year (July -June) so memberships fees for the 2016-2017 financial year are now due.

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.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Mailed with this Newsletter you will find a Notice of our Annual General Meeting which this year will be held at 1:30 pm on Monday 26th September at the School of Arts Building in Bolsover St. We would love to see you there. The Annual General Meeting will be preceded by a short ordinary meeting at 1:00 pm.

Alice Imison - a very special photograph

One of the photographs mentioned by Ashley showing Alice Imison in her military uniform was printed in the April 2015 Newsletter. In this newsletter we are showing a second photograph of Alice in her hospital nursing uniform.



Alice Ethel Imison in nursing uniform ca. 1917.
Alice trained at the Rockhampton Hospital from
January 1914 to January 1917 (Photograph
donated by Janice Marshall)

Congratulations to the Rockhampton Benevolent Society

We are pleased to congratulate the Rockhampton Benevolent Society on its 150th anniversary. As CEO Alison Moss said in the Morning Bulletin *"There are not many organisations in the region that can say that they have been serving the community for 150 years"*.

The small Rockhampton community was struggling to care for its growing population in the 1860s. Hundreds of new residents were arriving by ship into a community with little infrastructure. An important meeting was held to try to work out

what to do and as the ultimate result two important organisations arose: the Benevolent Society and the Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital Committee. The latter ultimately has a continuous connection with the present Rockhampton Hospital and the former a continuous connection to the present Benevolent Aged Care institution.

Men involved with the hospital association were none too interested in the welfare of women, children or the disadvantaged. This task fell to the Benevolent Society, an organisation set up and run by caring women. The starting date was August 1st 1866 and at a meeting of the Committee on 4th August a set of rules was adopted of which the first stated: *"This Society shall be named the Rockhampton Benevolent Society, and its object shall be the giving of out-door relief to the destitute"*.

Newspapers of the day made many references to the Society and its daunting task. The report of the 10th Annual Meeting stated that relief had been given to 470 adults and 781 children during the year. The society had also set up a temporary Asylum which cared for 71 females and 12 children. Society members worked assiduously to have the Government provide funding for a permanent asylum but it was not until 1878 that tenders were called for a building which provided the bare bones with the Society left to raise the funds necessary to make it usable - which they did. It opened in May 1879.

Building on this foundation the Society planned to deliver a higher level of medical care for women and children, setting up a separate Children's Hospital in 1884 on The Range opposite the Girls Grammar School and a Women's Hospital in 1885 on the West Street site. Each hospital each had its own Committee and they were strongly supported and advised by the outstanding medical practitioners of the day such as Dr F. H. V. Voss and Dr H. E. Brown. Both hospitals became training hospitals for nurses.

The hospitals survived as stand alone institutions until the Government integrated all hospitals in the region under a single Hospitals Committee in 1925. The children were transferred to the Rockhampton Hospital in late 1929 and the women were transferred to the Lady Goodwin Hospital in mid-1930.

The Society has continued to flourish as it adapts to the needs of the community it serves. You may see more of the Society's story on this special web page: <http://www.benevolent150.com.au/>

Visit to Charleville and Miles

By Errol Payne

As someone involved in our Country Hospital Museum, I always keep an eye out for interesting places and objects when travelling. Here are a few photographs taken on a recent trip.

The Charleville Hospital is quite an impressive set of buildings. From newspaper reports it appears that the first hospital was built in the mid-1880s and there was a major rebuild in 1939. In April, the drought was still quite strong and the grounds were home to a very large number of kangaroos/wallabies.



The Charleville Historic House is an important museum in Charleville which has as one of its displays the Charleville Rail Ambulance.



As is expected, the country roads around Charleville would have been impassable in wet weather. According to the information with the display, a fatality in Quilpie in the early 1920s led the Ambulance Superintendent, Mr J. Grinstead, and the Resident Medical Officer at Charleville, Dr J. Shannesy, to ask for the purchase of a Rail Ambulance in 1922. However the unit was not delivered until 1929. It was built in Brisbane on an English standard chassis manufactured by Coventry Motor Company of England and was powered by a 10 hp Standard Coventry Engine.

The unit was 4.7 m in length. As you can see in the next photograph, it was quite spacious and carried at least a railway driver and an ambulance officer. It had a maximum speed on a straight line of 32 km/hr though it was

progressively restricted to lower speeds for safety reasons. It was withdrawn from service in 1956 and had many homes before making it back to this museum for restoration which was completed in 1992 in time to celebrate the centenary of the Queensland St John Ambulance. It is believed that there were about 10 such rail ambulances in Queensland.



Another item on display is an ambulance litter which was in use at the Charleville base from 1920 to 1930.



Miles also has an excellent Historical Village along the lines of the Rockhampton Heritage Village but further developed in some areas with fully set-up small cafes and shops as well as a bakery.

There is a small hospital and pharmacy display. The item that we would love to have in our Museum is this dental chair with pedal operated drill. We often mention this device to our visitors but we don't have one to display. These provided the only option for dentists in centres where there was no power available. No doubt the dentists travelling around the small country schools would also have used them. This type of treadle drill was apparently invented in about 1870.



Speaking of hospitals in this part of the west, a plaque at the current Tambo Primary Health Care Centre informs us that the first hospital at Tambo called the Mitchell and Warrego Hospital opened on 24th October 1873, well before the Charleville Hospital. It was a shingle-roofed wooden building and Dr E. M. Ruth was the first doctor. A new hospital was built in 1912. This building was also of timber with female, male and private wards, operating theatre and recovery ward, pan room dispensary, laundry, kitchen and dining room. In fact, very similar to our Country Hospital Museum. In 1948 a maternity wing and nursery were added. There was also a morgue, isolation ward and staff residences. The name was changed to the Tambo Hospital in 1918. There was no permanent doctor after 1958. The present building opened in 1985 as an outpatients Centre with the title changing to Tambo Primary Health Care Centre in 1993.

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Mount Morgan Hospital Opening

You might say that this story came about by mistake - a website visitor who was working on the story of her great-grandfather, Thomas Upsell Stubbs (1868 – 1954), noted that the opening date for the first Mount Morgan Hospital quoted on our website differed from the one she believed to be correct. We had August 20th 1890 and it should have been August 30th 1890.

The Stubbs family was a pioneering family in Mount Morgan and Mr Stubbs was in the band which played at the opening ceremony of the Mount Morgan Hospital. Among the treasures handed down to his family was a significantly damaged official photograph taken on the day of the opening. Mr Stubbs' great-granddaughter has had the photograph restored by a Sydney specialist and has provided our Association with both an image for our website and a labelled print for us to have

framed and placed in our museum. We also have approval to use the image in this newsletter. You will see this amazing photograph with a full description on the next page.

The Stubbs family exhibit at the Mount Morgan Historical Museum includes Mr Stubbs' French horn, which he played in the Mount Morgan Brass Band. Notably, he played the French horn at the Dame Nellie Melba concert at Mount Morgan School of Arts on the night of 7 July 1909. You can also see his flute, which he played in the Mount Morgan Masonic Lodge Orchestra from 1918 to the 1930s. There are also many old Stubbs family photographs on display, dating back to the 1880s. His family also have his two old violins, which he played in the Mount Morgan String Band and the Mount Morgan Masonic Lodge Orchestra.

Mr Stubbs' great-granddaughter has checked with the State Library of Queensland, Rockhampton Regional Libraries, the Mount Morgan Historical Museum and the CQ Collection at CQU. No other copies of this photograph are known, so it is very special. We are very grateful to have been given access.

While checking the date of the opening, we discovered a very comprehensive description of the hospital (pictured below) which really brings the building alive .



"The total length of the building over all is 148 ft., the width of the main portion being 74 ft. The verandah extends right round and is 11ft. 6in.wide, the roof of such being lined with tongued and grooved boards to prevent the radiation of heat from the iron. The wards, of which there are two, the north and south, are spacious, airy and comfortable apartments; they measure respectively 42ft. long, 20 ft. wide, and 10 ft. high from floor to ceiling. Each ward is furnished with twelve beds which number can be augmented if the necessity arises. In each ward are seven 7 ft. x 4 ft. French casements, with fan-lights to open and close for ventilation. These casements are wide enough to allow the patient and bed to be conveyed bodily on to the verandah for change of air. Ventilators are fitted into the ceilings, and from each of them a double light chandelier will be suspended. Attached to each ward are complete bath rooms and lavatories, with hot and cold water laid on."

1890 'The Morning Bulletin, ROCKHAMPTON.', *Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954)*, 1 September, p. 4. , viewed 13 Jul 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article52336973>

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRST MOUNT MORGAN HOSPITAL



This 2016 restored image has been made available courtesy of Sydney resident, Catherine McIntosh, great-granddaughter of band member, Thomas Upsell Stubbs (1868-1954), who is the sixth person from the right in the second back row of the photograph. Mr Stubbs was the beloved grandfather of Catherine McIntosh’s late mother, Rockhampton-born Lilyan Lauretta McIntosh (née Stubbs), who also became a musician.

The photograph was taken on the afternoon of 30 August 1890 during the ceremony to open the first Mount Morgan Hospital, the General. Nurses may be seen in uniform in the front rows while the band members are in the back rows.

Photographic research indicates that James Wesley Hall (1839-1901), the first general manager of the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Limited from 1886 to 1891, is in the back row, second from the left. He was also the first Mount Morgan mayor (1890-1891) and first president of the Mount Morgan Hospital Committee (1889-1891). His wife, Mount Morgan's first mayoress, Mary Frederica Dora ('Dora') Hall (née Dempster) (1864-1895) is believed to be the stylish young lady in the front row, third from the left. During the ceremony, she had the official task of opening the hospital after being presented with the key to the building. The photograph was taken at the back of the building near one of the two chimneys.

This is the only known photograph of the opening of the original hospital.

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