



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

President's Report

The most important message to bring to members' attention is the notice for the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 24th September. Information and nomination forms will appear elsewhere in the Newsletter. All positions are open for nominations.

The AGM is a reminder that to continue as a Member and to have a voice, Members are required to be financial members of the Organisation. Membership fees were due at the end of June, and a payment reminder and form are included with the Newsletter for your convenience. It is not too late to pay them before the AGM. The Organisation relies on the fees to maintain our administration of the Association. Membership is open to anyone interested in preserving the history of the health services of Central Queensland.

There is a role for Members to help at the Museum even if not on the Committee - particularly on Market Days, and with the organised school and other tours. A committee member will always be there to assist.

The other area where Members' contributions are being sought is in the recording of personal anecdotal stories of training days. We want to hear about the humorous, the serious and even the strange. The Nursing Profession is so different today, that it has become important to capture how it was before this history is lost along with those who lived it. Our plan is to publish these stories in a booklet for International Nurses' Day 2013.

I hope all were able to view the changing displays coordinated by Ashley. For April (including ANZAC day) the display depicted Nurses at War, and in June and during the Multicultural Fair the display celebrated National Reconciliation Day and featured Aboriginal Health and the Woorabinda Hospital.

Coming up for August/September the display will highlight Post-Polio Awareness Week and a timely reminder of the ravages that Polio can inflict on children and adults. Be sure to see it.

The 2012 International Nurses' Day celebrations were a success, and plans for the 2013 program are well in hand. Mark the 10th, 11th and 12th of May as important dates in your diaries for 2013. It will be at a function on the 10th that the book will be launched.

Schools continue to include the hospital museum on their tours of the Heritage Village. On these days and Market days, members of the committee are available to conduct tours, and to answer questions.

A proposed celebration of the fence which is being constructed in front of the Museum building will be held in the cooler months of 2013. The fence is yet to be completed, but when visiting the Museum be sure to inspect the detailed work that has gone into the stone blocks.

Archival work, under the guidance of Yvonne, continues behind the scene most Tuesdays. The Museum is open every day, but Tuesday is a good day to visit if wanting to know more about the collection - or to assist.

The benefits of the Museum extend past the visual aspect of the Museum itself, as the Organisation receives enquiries from the public seeking information about family members that had been in the Nursing profession, or about the hospitals in which they were born or were treated in the past. This creates added interest and confirmation of the need for preserving the history. It is also evidence that the ACHHA Web site is accessed. Thanks to Errol for keeping the Web site relevant.

My grateful thanks go to the committee members for their untiring work in maintaining and advancing the work on the museum and collection.

Norma West
President

Did you know?

That the original main building at the Westwood Sanatorium has been relocated to Emerald and beautifully restored? Did you also know that the roof tiles for these buildings were imported from France?

The first photo shows the building at the Sanatorium on opening day on 07 September 1919. The second shows the building in its new life as an Emerald home. Thanks to the owners Jean and Doug Jones for providing the photograph.



**Early Rockhampton Doctors
Dr Francis Henry Vivian Voss**

From our city's historical records, we know that Rockhampton was fortunate to attract outstanding medical practitioners who left the British Isles to dedicate their professional lives to our citizens. In the April 2009 edition of this Newsletter, we discussed Dr Daniel Patrick O'Brien (1873 – 1941) from Ireland. He was responsible early in the 20th century for establishing a home, hospital and medical practice in Avonleigh, Quay Street, and later the Leinster Private Hospital on the corner of Agnes and Spencer Streets. The original Leinster Hospital eventually gave way to the Mater Hospital and Bethany aged care.

In the April 2011 issue, we discussed Dr Henry E Brown (1858 – 1931) who was the stalwart behind the provision of care in the Rockhampton Children's Hospital until it was closed after being taken over by the Rockhampton Hospitals Board in 1925.

Even earlier than these was Dr William Callaghan (1832 – 1912) who established his Rockhampton practice in 1861 and served until 1912.[1] He was not the first Rockhampton Doctor, but was notable in serving Rockhampton for 50 years. Like others of this distinguished breed, he had wide interests, and his presence is still marked today in the name of our Callaghan Park Race Course.

Another well-known practitioner was Dr Norman Charles Talbot (1887 – 1968) who converted the elegant Tannachy residence on the Fitzroy into the Tannachy Private Hospital in 1922. The area where this hospital was built was close to that occupied by Rockhampton's very first Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital from 1858 to 1868 at which time the new hospital was opened on the present site on the corner of Canning and North Streets. Sadly Tannachy Hospital (later St John's) did not survive in the long term and is currently the construction site for a multi-storey residential development. Dr Talbot's name is still recognised in the Talbot Estate in Wandal which is dedicated to providing homes for elderly residents. Dr Talbot was joined soon after the establishment of Tannachy by his long-term colleague, Dr Frank Couper. Wooster (1884—1950).

This article will concentrate on another pioneer doctor, Francis Henry Vivian Voss (1860 – 1940) who commenced his service to the Central Queensland community in 1886. The lives and careers of each of these distinguished men would warrant a book to do justice to them. In our ACHHA Newsletter we are barely able to touch on their careers.

According to his obituary published in the Medical Journal of Australia, Dr Voss was born on 09 August 1860 at Hackney, London, though the family was from Glamorganshire in Wales.[2] He was first apprenticed to the family doctor, then passed the Cambridge entrance examination and entered London Hospital where he studied under a group of outstanding medical practitioners. In August 1881 he was granted his permission to practice as a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries. On 31 August 1882 he was admitted as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Association's Annual General Meeting for 2012 will be held on 24th September at 1:30 pm at the meeting room at the School of Arts building in Bolsover Street Rockhampton. All members are encouraged to attend.

Forthcoming 2012 Rockhampton Heritage Village Events

Sunday 09 September 2012

Markets
(Including poliomyelitis display)

Sunday 25 November 2012

Christmas Markets
(Including Christmas in Hospitals display)

Please take the opportunity to visit the Country Hospital 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. The Association operates on a normal financial year (July—June). Subscriptions are now due for the 2012/2013 Financial 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. Of course any member of our management committee outlined on the final page will be pleased to assist you to join.

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.

On 11 June 1885, before his 25th birthday, he was admitted as a Fellow of the College – a high honour. In 1884 he served as Resident Medical Officer at the Whitechapel Infirmary in London.

In 1885 he came to Bowen to do a year as a *locum tenens*. He then came to Rockhampton as *locum tenens* for Dr Thurston and almost immediately purchased his practice.[2] On 11 January 1888 he married Charlotte (Lottie) White and they had a family of two boys and three girls between 1890 and 1902.[3,4] Two of the girls and two of the boys studied medicine. In 1888 he was appointed Government Medical Officer, a role he held until 1927 when he was required to resign because he wanted to take a long holiday in England. (Dr Daniel Patrick O'Brien was appointed in his place).

Dr Voss was a striking figure, as shown in this early photograph held by the State Library of Queensland.[5]



Dr Voss soon established a flourishing medical practice and attracted two other doctors from overseas, Dr D. M. Davidson and Dr Norman Hawkes. The three became known as 'the medical triumvirate'. [6] Dr Voss bought a cottage in Archer Street and converted it to a small private hospital while he worked on his "grand plan" for the much larger Hillcrest Hospital. He also built a large house known as Penmaen in 1891.[9] The house in Bolsover Street adjacent to the Leichhardt Hotel was later renamed the Voss Clinic in his honour by practitioners who followed his lead by conducting a medical clinic there.

He was particularly interested in women's health and very soon set about encouraging the Benevolent Society to expand its single maternity ward attached to the Asylum in West Street into a larger, free standing women's hospital. At its meeting in January 1892 the Society confirmed that Dr Voss had accepted appointment as Honorary Medical Officer at the new facility and that the wife of the Governor, Lady Norman had consented to the use of her name for what was to be called the Lady Norman Hospital.[7] In July 1902, the Lady Norman Hospital Committee accepted a new set of operating rules, prepared under the guidance of Dr Voss. The first rule altered the name of the institu-

tion to 'The Women's Hospital, Rockhampton' because "it was thought that name was less cumbersome than the 'Lady Norman Hospital' and that it more clearly indicated the scope of the work".[8] The Women's Hospital operated until late 1930 when it was replaced by the Lady Goodwin Hospital on the Rockhampton Hospital site. Dr Voss was Honorary Medical Officer for almost the whole life of the hospital, which also trained nurses and midwives.

In 1897 he acquired a large block of land in Talford Street on which he planned to build a new private hospital. In order to prepare himself for its development, he travelled to the United States and England in 1898. He returned with an X-ray machine, new types of sterilizers and plans for a building suited to the climate.[9] It must be remembered that X-rays were only discovered by Rontgen in 1895 so Rockhampton was very fortunate to have early access to this most important diagnostic tool.

Dr Voss and his associates developed Hillcrest over several years. From the newspapers of the day, we know that it must have been operating from as early as mid-1898. For example, this death notice appeared in the Morning Bulletin of 20 July 1898.[10]

"DEATHS.

HIGSON. —On the 7th July, at Drs. Voss and Hawkes' Hospital, "Hillcrest," Herbert Thomas (Bert), the beloved son of Wm. Kay Higson, aged 17 years.

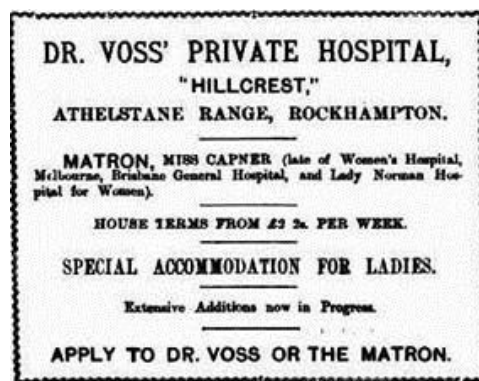
Deeply regretted."

Births are recorded at least as early as 12 April 1899. [11]

"BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.
BIRTH. HOBLER.—

On the 12th instant, at "Hillcrest," Rockhampton, the wife of F. H. Hobler, of a daughter."

In 1901 there are examples of Dr Voss advertising his new hospital and publicising the additions which were being made.[12]



Over time, the hospital developed into a 65 bed facility. This image from the ACHHA Collection gives an impression of the overall hospital.



Another photograph from 1922 shows Dr Voss with members of his family and staff at the Hospital which he operated until his retirement in 1929. He left Rockhampton at that time and lived at his Bellevue Hill, Sydney, home until his death on 15 February 1940.[13] Those identified in the photograph are Sister Palfrey (later Matron) in the centre of the back row, and in the front row Dr Paul Voss (L), Dr F. H. V. Voss holding family dog 'Wedgie' and Mrs Voss. It is possible that the other man in the photo is the Voss's youngest son Kerrod.



After Dr F. H. V. Voss's retirement in 1929, his legacy lived on in the persons of his son Dr Paul Voss and Paul's wife Dr Harriette Martha Voss (née Exton). "Dr Paul" as he was referred to, continued the Rockhampton practice, basing himself in Penmaen. He and a Dr C. N. Matheson bought Hillcrest but Dr Matheson later sold out to 'Dr Paul'. [13]

When Dr Paul Voss died in 1948, Hillcrest was left to their son, Vivian Robert de Vaux Voss and Dr Harriette Voss took on the role of manager. In 1951, ill health forced her to resign from the role and she died of cancer on 20 December 1951. According to her wish, the hospital was offered to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church for purchase and this was transacted in June 1952. The hospital was then known as St Andrew's Hospital. Subsequently it was sold to private operators and continues to operate in 2012 as the Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital under the management of Ramsay Health Care.

Dr Francis Henry Vivian Voss was undoubtedly an outstanding scholar. He read widely and was very proud of his library. Some of his medical text books published as early as the 1880's are in our ACHHA collection, and some have his name and handwritten notes inside to provide a further link.

Not only did he bring X-ray machines to Rockhampton soon after their invention, but he was also a disciple of Lister when it came to infection control, brought radium treatment for cancer into his practice, and developed his own pathology laboratory as soon as these techniques began to be developed. In 1927 Dr Voss was admitted as a Foundation Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

He apparently had the first "horseless carriage" in Rockhampton, a steam driven vehicle specially imported for him. [13] Perhaps this is not surprising since Dr Matheson reports in the obituary that soon after his arrival in Rockhampton he was called to visit a patient far in the bush.

"Although not a very expert horseman, he started out on horseback, but unfortunately was thrown and suffered a fracture of his fibula. Nothing daunted, he remounted and continued his journey and attended to his patient".

Perhaps this quote from Dr Matheson serves to round out our picture of this man of distinction:

"One of the day's pleasures was to give anaesthetics for him, for there would surely come out at the most unexpected moments extracts from his latest find in the book world, with anecdotes and stories in which his sense of humour delighted. He loved music and was very interested in education. For many years he was Chairman of the Girls' Grammar School Trust".

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Mr Douglas William Wallace OAM – A Tribute to “The Nurses”

Many Rockhampton residents were saddened to hear the news of the death of Mr Douglas William Wallace OAM on 28th June this year. Mr Wallace was a well-known Rockhampton resident often referred to as “The Spider Man”. In his obituary in The Morning Bulletin on 5th July 2012, his daughter said that there are more than 300 spiders collected by him in the display in the office at the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens. He assisted the ambulance service by helping them to identify spiders, and spent a great deal of time talking to school children and other groups. He had two spiders named after him.

He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on 14 June 2004 “*For service to natural science through the study of arachnids, particularly in the Central Queensland region*”. He was also awarded an Honorary Master of Applied Science from Central Queensland University.

Our ACHHA Collection includes a poem which he wrote in praise of the nurses who cared for him while he was in hospital in 1989. Obviously the treatment was beneficial because he lived for a further 23 years. He was 89 years of age when he died.

THE NURSES

*They say their mattresses are filled with scented eider-down,
That their pillows dreamily caress the face -
What greater comfort could be granted to the tired, weary,
nurse,
When her shift has ended at the ‘Rocky Base’?*

*I believe the Matron comes around, and tucks them in to bed,
And adjusts the thermostat to keep them cool
Between their satin sheets, ‘bossed with the daisy and the
rose -
With a vase of violets resting on a stool.*

*I hear the carpets are as thick as uncut summer lawns,
To warm their ankles in the pre-dawn chills;
With their breakfasts served in silver on a laden traymobile -
Finger bowls and serviettes with fancy frills!*

*But others tell me lots of this is high-flown fantasy -
I’m quite confused - there’s no way I could know!
And I’ve heard it said in whispers ‘It’s the patients get the
perks -’
Well, come on, try my bed! Give it a go!*

*Someone told me, as they’re dreaming soft music filters over-
head,
And the room becomes a haven, filled with peace;
Where the toiling, and the traumas, and the pain and
tragedies
Are locked in precious slumber’s sweet release.*

*I know that when I needed it they gave such gentle care -
Reassurance, when dread fears filled my night!
And I’m glad I saw how they applied their dedicated skills,
As they kept the ‘Flame of Nightingale’ alight.*

*I may be wrong, I do not know – perhaps it’s just a dream?
But I like to think it’s something they deserve.
For in stories I’ve heard spoken, and the actions I have seen,
They stand proud in the profession which they serve!*

**Doug Wallace
18-1-89**

Changing Displays

In our April Newsletter, we introduced our Changing Displays program, intended to highlight items in our Collection, and provide background stories to place the past delivery of health services in context for our visitors. This program, under the leadership of Management Committee member Ashley Reid is progressing well.

The first display for the year was about tuberculosis (January, February) and featured the Westwood Display, the second in March covered the history of the development of our museum itself. A version of this display has been set up permanently since many people ask about the story.

In April/May, spanning Anzac Day, we featured Nurses at War, with stories of several Queensland country nurses in World Wars 1 and 2, and showing some of the war memorabilia in the Collection. Over June and July, including Multicultural Day, we have had a display of early Indigenous history at Woorabinda. Our next display will be about poliomyelitis. It will feature the Iron Lung as well as giving information about the disease and its present significance in the World.

Finally for this year, we plan to feature Christmas in Hospitals in November and December including the Christmas Markets. When patients had longer hospital stays and staff lived in Nurses’ Quarters, quite a lot of effort went in to making Christmas as happy as possible for people who were away from family. Displays for next year are already under consideration.

This photograph shows one part of the Nurses in War display showing our Spyder display board which is now set up permanently on the veranda. For some of the displays we have so much material that many of the tables and doctors’ examination tables are covered as well!



Hospital Boards and Committees

Almost from the opening of the first hospitals in Queensland, many have been run by Committees or Boards of citizens assisted by a limited number of professional advisors. For hospitals such as Rockhampton, this system was in place from the 1870's until the early 1990's when the Hospital Board which oversaw all of the region's hospitals was abolished. Both the Federal and State Governments are now supporting a return to local management boards, which commenced operation in Queensland on 1st July this year.

Management of the Rockhampton Hospital and its predecessors have tended to be dominated by men. For example, a typical 1869 meeting was attended by nine men advised by Dr Callaghan. However, a number of hospitals were run by "Ladies Committees", and certainly these groups played a major part of the fundraising efforts which were needed to keep the facilities open. For example, in 1902 the committee running the Lady Norman Hospital included six women advised by Drs F.H.V. Voss, & C. M. Davidson. In more recent times the Matron often joined the Medical Superintendent as professional members on Boards.

Boards have also been used by some private hospitals. To round out our earlier story about Hillcrest, this photograph shows the Board of Hillcrest Hospital in 1957 after the Hospital was taken over from the Voss family.



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Secretary: Errol Payne
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Archivist: Yvonne Kelley

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 Nancy Crapp
 Tom Dewar
 Del Leitgeb
 Carol McIver
 Bill McIver
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