

***President's Report***

Where did 2024 go? Here we are at the end of another year and looking forward to our Christmas break. Thanks to our members and supporters for keeping us committed and focused on our core business which, as our statement at the bottom of each page of this newsletter says, is to be “dedicated to preserving the health service history of Central Queensland”.

But when you think about it, there is something missing in this statement. We are really “dedicated to preserving **and sharing** the health service history of Central Queensland”. This is the reason for newsletters such as this, our website and the fact that our museum is designed to be self guided and is open to the public on almost every day of the year. For this, we are grateful to Council staff and volunteers at the Heritage Village who open and close the museum each day. Many small associations like ours simply don't have enough volunteers to open daily if they are in a separate venue which doesn't have this type of support.

Our Visitor's Book provides a small window on our visitors. Not all visitors write in the book, but we love the positive comments of those who do. We also love to see where these visitors are coming from within Australia and from overseas.

My welcoming note in this Newsletter is short because this mailout includes all of the reports which were submitted to our Annual General Meeting on October 28th. My President's report covers a full year of activities.

So all I have to do now is to wish everyone a “Very Happy Christmas” and hope that 2025 turns out to be an excellent year for all of you.

Del Leitgeb
President

Biography of George Sandrock
Prepared by Dorothy Broad

George Sandrock is another of the early supporters of the Rockhampton Hospital who are featured on the Hospital's Gift and Bequest Boards at the Museum.

George Sandrock, born on 16 May 1819 in Chatham, Kent, led a life marked by significant public service and community involvement. From 1834 to 1837, he worked as an assistant to Francis Mallalieu in Barbados, overseeing the abolition of slavery in the West Indies. After returning to England, Sandrock held various clerical roles before becoming a relieving officer in Greenwich in 1843. In 1845, he married Sarah Maria Pain, and they had five daughters.

In 1853, Sandrock resigned from his Greenwich position and emigrated with his family to New South Wales aboard the Princess Sophia. He held several clerical roles in Sydney until 1863, when he was appointed to the Customs House in Rockhampton, Queensland. In Rockhampton, Sandrock became deeply involved in the community, notably through his work with the Church of England Aide Society, where he helped raise funds for a new Anglican church.

Sandrock's career included postings to various locations in Queensland. After his tenure in Rockhampton, he moved to Sweers Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Sweers Island was named by Matthew Flinders in 1802, when he sailed around Australia in the ship The HMS Investigator. He also named a tree after the Investigator and a portion of this tree is now in the Queensland Museum. A photo held in the Queensland State Library shows George Sandrock on horseback and the Sandrock family having a picnic under the Investigator tree.



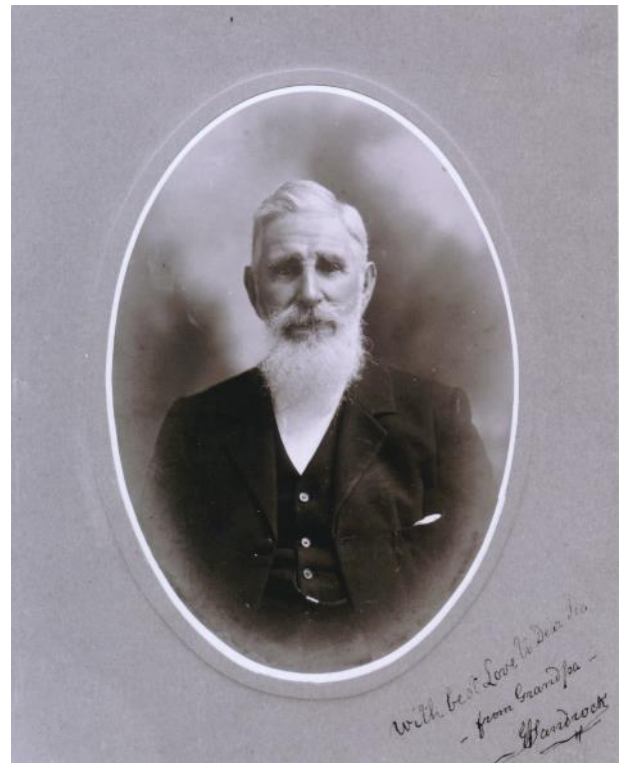
The Customs House where Sandrock was based had been relocated from Burketown to Sweers Island in 1866 and the township of Carnarvon was established. George Sandrock also had 100 - 200 cattle grazing on the island where the exporting of sheep, wool and cattle and importing goods from Batavia to Australia was the key business.

This photo shows the Sandrock family in front of the Sweers Island Customs House.



George Sandrock next moved to Bowen, where he served as a sub-collector of customs from 1873 to 1885 at which time he retired and continued to live in Bowen. In 1895, he returned to Rockhampton, where he spent the rest of his life.

The photograph at the top of the next column shows Mr Sandrock later in life. The photo was donated to our museum by a member of the Sandrock family.



Mr Sandrock's contributions to the community were once again significant. Most notably for us is the fact that he was elected to the Committee charged with managing the Rockhampton Hospital in 1899. In 1907 he donated twenty pounds to the Rockhampton Hospital. This is acknowledged on one of the Bequest Boards in our museum.



When Mr Sandrock died on 9th June 1909, aged 90, he was still an active member of the Rockhampton Hospital Committee. In the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13th May 1909, he was congratulated on reaching his 90th birthday on 16th May. It was noted that he was " hale and hearty". Sadly, he died from influenza a few days later on 7th June.

He left behind a legacy of public service and community development that continues to be recognised today. When he died, part of his estate was invested with the AMP Society and when the investment matured in 1934, the Rockhampton Hospital was gifted one thousand and thirty pounds. Seven hundred and one pound was used to fund the construction of a high

Of course the nurses were happy to give one-on-one support where necessary, as shown in this photograph of Nurse Elizabeth (Betty) Francis - later Elizabeth West, who was a member of our Association for many years. She was helping Lawrence Newman to forget his broken arm on Christmas morning 1948 at the Rockhampton General Hospital. It was Lawrence's second day in hospital.



Some of the displays set up were very elaborate, as seen in this photograph from 1950 which shows Sister Southgate with colleagues and children in the Children's Ward. The photograph was published in The Morning Bulletin with the caption *"PRIZEWINNING WARD AT GENERAL HOSPITAL - There was an old woman who lived in a shoe was the nursery rhyme which inspired the decoration of the children's ward, which won the Christmas decorations competition at the Rockhampton General Hospital yesterday.*

Nurse C. Weiting was the 'old woman', and standing behind her are some of the nursing staff responsible for the decorations."

Clarice Weiting (married name Bawden) is now well past 90 and attended the Sunday morning recovery session which was part of the Rockhampton Hospital Trained Nurse Reunion which was held in the middle of this year.



The reindeer helped out with this display from the 1960s which shows Sister Kit Walters (née Deane) with patients examining the Christmas decorations in one of the wards at the Rockhampton Hospital.



Carol singing also played a part in the celebrations as shown by this group of nurses on the internal stairway of the old hospital in the 1960s.



And finally, this photograph is out of sequence, it's only fair quality, but has quite a lot of detail which I think is worth taking note of in the wider format. This is the same type of Rockhampton Hospital ward as you saw in the 1890 photo. The photo would have been taken sometime around 1930.



This was obviously a men's ward because quite a few patients can be seen, including the person standing in the centre rear. The nurses' uniforms are much as they were for decades. This is another example of a Nightingale ward which dominated hospitals until relatively recently - not much sleep in one of these. Every bed has a mosquito net. There were no screens or air conditioning. Some of those bottles on the centre table look suspiciously like the beer bottles I saw when I was much younger. The floor was plain timber. But the decorations made it Christmas!

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. If you wish to join our Association, application forms are available from Committee members, 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 membership is \$20.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family. Life membership is \$200.00 for an individual and \$300.00 for a family.

Association contact details:

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