



NEWSLETTER

JUL 2024

President's Report

Welcome to our July 2024 Newsletter. Thank you for your continuing support of our Association.

The Tuesday working group continues to meet regularly. However, due to health issues and holidays, attendance has been reduced.

We start our day with coffee and cake and utilise this time to discuss any relevant issues and make plans.

We have been fortunate this year to be able to purchase five new display mannequins! When we didn't receive a Grant from The Frenchville Sports Club, Kay our Treasurer, authorized utilising donated funds from the Mount Chalmers Historical Society, International Nurses Day (2023) and Mrs Jan Usher. The order was placed with Rax and Dollies, Sydney.

When the mannequins arrived, the fun began with assembling and dressing the beautiful nurses in their uniforms. There are some photos later in this newsletter. A special thank you to Del Kajewski for ensuring the uniforms were freshly laundered and starched and to all who participated in putting the models together and dressing them. The results are amazing!

We have taken before and after photographs and hopefully our secretary will collate the pictures to document this transformation of our display nurses.

It was disappointing to come back after the Easter School Holiday break to find that many of the displays had been tampered with. Some items had also been stolen, such as the mother's hat and a small enamel kidney dish. We have concluded that if you can't put it under lock and key it will go missing. We have written to the Village management, and they will try to

implement some preventative strategies.

The International Nurses Day dinner was held on May 10th. The event was well supported and organised. Photographs taken on the night prove that the ACHHA team were well behaved and had a great night!

On May 25th some of our members accepted an invitation from AMA GAQ to attend a networking event. I will hold over the outcome to my next report.

The Hospital Trained Nurses reunion (Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July 2024), has had a tremendous response. Tickets sales for the Saturday evening ball have now closed.

On the Saturday morning, groups from the reunion will visit the museum and ACHHA will be there to welcome them. It will be a great opportunity to showcase the museum and the benefits of retaining our history, as told in the displays. We are hopeful to attract some new members.

We do take pride in the comments left in our Visitors' Book. Mostly they are very encouraging and it's interesting to see that our visitors come from overseas as well as many parts of Australia.

We are forever grateful to the staff and volunteers at the village for their friendly greetings and their cooperation in maintaining the hospital and gardens.

I sincerely thank the committee and volunteers for their continued support. Together we will continue to achieve our goals.

Thank you

Del Leitgeb

President

Early Hospitals—a History of Giving

In our Newsletter of November 2012, we featured a story about the importance of gifts and bequests to the running of Queensland Hospitals, especially before 1925 when the Government began to play a more significant role as the major funder for our hospitals. Before that the major funding support was gifts and bequests provided by individual citizens, companies and organisations and fund-raising events such as fetes and gala balls. Government assistance was in the form of a subsidy based on the funds raised by the hospital itself. The level of subsidy varied but, as an example, in 1905/1906 the Government contributed £1 3s for each £1 raised

The earliest records of donations and bequests in our Country Hospital Museum are these two magnificent boards which were rescued when the original hospital was demolished in the mid-1980's. These may be found attached to the wall on the northern end of the Museum veranda. The first covers the period 1894 to 1917 and the second 1918 to 1926.



The first entry on the boards, dated September 2nd 1894, describes a bequest of £2000 made by Mr D. T. Mulligan. Many other significant donations and bequests follow until a second board was required in 1918 which covers the period 1918 to 1926. However, from information about Rockhampton Hospital Committee meetings published in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, it appears that the first board was only prepared and mounted in the Hospital entrance in 1905. The minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 13th October 1905 read, in part, “that a board be placed in the entrance hall to bear the names of donors and devisers of exceptional amounts and the particulars of their donations or bequests”.(1)

Many of these wealthy donors are not known to us today. However, our Vice-President, Mrs Dot Broad, has been undertaking research on the backgrounds of some of these donors. In the story which follows, Dot gives us an introduction to Mr Albrecht Feez. Albrecht’s sons in 1905 honoured his wish to donate £416 from his estate to the Rockhampton Hospital. This enlarged image of part of the first bequest board shows the appropriate entry on Oct 12 1905.



1. 1905 'ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITAL', *Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954)*, 14 October, p. 8. , viewed 11 May 2024, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55811846>

The brief story of Mr Albrecht Feez

(Researched and written by Mrs Dorothy Broad)

On 12th October 1905, the family of [Albrecht Feez](#) donated 416 pounds to the Rockhampton Hospital in his memory. This generous donation honoured a man who had been instrumental in developing the town of Rockhampton from its early beginnings.

Albrecht Feez was born in Eschau, Bavaria, Germany in October 1825. After being schooled in Munich he joined the German Army, rising to the position of Lieutenant Colonel. Lorna McDonald in her book "Rockhampton - the history of City and District", notes that he, being an officer in the Schleswig-Holstein army fled into exile after the battle with the Danes at Idstedt.

According to J.T.S.Bird in his book "The Early History of Rockhampton", Albrecht Feez came to what is now Rockhampton because of the Canoona gold rush although not as a miner but taking supplies to the miners working on the field. He had horse teams and the freight costs were so high it became a very profitable business.

After the gold ran out, he stayed and became one of the first merchants importing goods to the new town. In 1858, a month after the township had been proclaimed, Albrecht Feez bought an allotment at the first auction of land in Rockhampton. He established a store in Little Quay Street which was the hub of the business area close by the wharfs where the ships docked on the Fitzroy River. He also took an interest in political and municipal affairs which made him prominent in helping to build the town.

On 13th October 1857, Albrecht married Sophia Milford, daughter of Justice Milford in Brisbane. They had two sons.

By 1863 several businessmen, including Albrecht Feez, believed that Rockhampton was not getting much support from the Government and presented a petition asking for help and floated the idea of separation. As Lorna McDonald writes it was not taken seriously by the members of Government. It was not until 1890 that the Central Queensland Territorial Separation League was formed by prominent men from the area, however as with the push from the league in Townsville for separation, it was not successful.

In 1865 the Rockhampton Glee and Madrigal Society presented the first performance in the new School of Arts. Albrecht Feez was a member of the first School of Arts committee in 1866. He was also an original member of the Rockhampton Jockey Club that was formed in 1868.

He was elected Mayor of Rockhampton in 1879 when Mayors only held office for a one-year term. The Morning Bulletin reported two important events during Albrecht Feez term as mayor were the laying of the foundation stone for St Pauls Cathedral and the first railway telegraph office opened in Rockhampton.

On 6th May 1880, Albrecht was elected Member of Queensland Legislative Assembly for Leichhardt, which included Rockhampton, until 23rd August 1883.

This photograph of Albert was taken when he was in parliament.



When Fred Morgan sold his mining interest to Thomas Hall, William Knox Darcy and William Pattison, shares were also given to John Ferguson

who, unbeknown to the other share holders, sold some shares on to several Rockhampton businessmen, one of whom was Albrecht Feez. Lorna McDonald points out that these men became very wealthy when the Mount Morgan mine was making large profits.

Albrecht Feez returned to Munich in Germany and died on 25th July 1905. His legacy lives on in Rockhampton with a street named in his honour.

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Tribute to Sr Doris Kathleen Baker

Nurses who worked at Rockhampton Hospital before 1968 will have known Sr Ivy Baker personally and those who were at the hospital for some years after that will have known her by reputation. It is probably less well known that Ivy had a younger sister, Doris Kathleen Baker.

Like Ivy, Doris Baker was a quite prolific donor of records to our museum, including some which related to Ivy. She was also interviewed by Yvonne Kelley as part of the oral history collection. This short newsletter article will provide a brief snapshot of Doris Baker's time as a student and as a Registered Nurse.

Doris was a general nursing student at Rockhampton Hospital between 14 Jul 1936 and April 1940. She went on to complete her midwifery studies at the hospital between 04 Apr 1940 and 04 Feb 1941. The following September 1937 studio photograph shows Doris as a young student in the second year of her training. In this era, studio photos were very popular with nurses. We have quite a number in our collection.



Being a nursing student at Rockhampton Hospital was not all hard work as this photo shows when the students were relaxing with ice-creams on Christmas Day 1937.



The nurses in the photograph are Front Row (L-R) Grace Morton, Doris Baker, Hilda Van Bael; Back Row: Helen Richardson, Bonnie Smith, Marge Shelton, Pat Galletly and Eileen McGuane.

We also have an informal photograph of Doris interacting with a young patient in November 1938.



We have several photographs of Doris with fellow graduates on Graduation Day, 24 Apr 1940. This is an example.



Graduates in the photograph are Avis Auton at the back and L to R in the front row are Blanche Groszmann, Marjorie Jones and Doris Baker. This studio photo is by Studios Ltd Rockhampton.

We don't have detailed information about Doris's nursing career but we can track her movements to some extent via the Queensland Electoral Rolls. In 1943, Doris was a nurse at the Mount Isa Hospital. The 1949, 1954, 1958, 1963 and 1968 rolls place her at the Mackay District Hospital. We also know that she was the Matron at that hospital from 1963 – 1969. This is a photo of Doris at her desk.



When Doris left Mackay she worked for 18 months at the Sir Leslie Wilson Bush Children's Home at Hervey Bay. It appears that she then settled in Maryborough because the 1972 and 1980 rolls describe her as a nurse in Maryborough.

Doris made further contributions to our Museum after her death. Trevor and Sue Pitt from Maryborough visited our Museum on Tuesday 20th July 2020 and told us that they had Power of Attorney for Doris who had packed three boxes of memorabilia for our Museum when she was still well enough to do so. Trevor and Sue duly visited to deliver them.

More of the Baker sisters

The poem in the next column was written by a grateful patient as a tribute to Sister Ivy Baker on her retirement after forty-two years of continuous service to the Rockhampton Hospital. A faded copy of the poem was given to the Hospital Museum by Ivy's sister, Doris.

Tribute to Sister Baker

We will miss this kindly Lady, who nursed us through the years.

She was always there to help us through our suffering and fears.

Always tending to her patients, seeing everything was right.

She was there to give us comfort through the day and lonely night.

All of those that she has tended; yes, each and every one,

Must join with me in saying, "A grand job nobly done".

A Patient

A photo from the archives

Every time we open a folder from Yvonne's collections, we are likely to find an old photograph. The information on the back tells us that this 1985 photo is of Sister Bernice Armstrong with the ward dog in the first rehabilitation ward which was above the Female Medical Ward in the old hospital.



Our new mannequins

Visitors to our Country Hospital Museum will have seen that dressed mannequins are an essential part of our displays. Some of the mannequins which have been on display for many years were starting to look worse for wear, so we decided to take advantage of several valuable donations to replace some of them. This has sharpened a number of the displays and the experience of purchasing unpacking, assembling and dressing the mannequins was enjoyed by the nurses in our volunteer group.

The first job was the jigsaw puzzle. Dot Broad is tackling the packing boxes and has clearly found an important part of one model.



One of the replacements shown in the first photograph is the nurse in her bedroom who has now been dressed in a more modern version of the uniform worn by nurses in training. Sadly, we can't afford to have this newsletter printed in colour, but it's actually blue. The wigs have been replaced as well. The dressing is being taken care of by Del Kajewski at rear, Carol McIver (left) and Del Leitgeb.

The second image is of the newly-dressed nurse having the final polish being applied by Del Kajewski.

The Ward Sister mannequin has also been updated and the third photo in the set shows Del Kajewski and Carol McIver making final adjustments to her new veil.



Two more photographs below show an “old” mannequin (L) beside a new mannequin both wearing a replica of a 1918 uniform worn by Elsie Crudginton at Rockhampton Hospital.



[Acknowledgements: We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of donations from the Rockhampton International Nurses Day Organising Committee, the Mount Chalmers Community History Centre Association and Mrs Jan Usher. We are also pleased to say that the mannequins which have been replaced have gone to a new home in the Heritage Village’s costume section.]

Did you know?

Since our Association was formed at the Heritage Village, a total of 42 of these newsletters have been produced. These are all on our website at:

<https://www.achha.org.au/news.php>

Go to this page and scroll down until you find the *Newsletter* heading.

Unfortunately we can’t afford to print the newsletter in colour. However recent versions on the website are in colour. Check them out.

International Nurses Day in Rockhampton

The International Council of Nurses has celebrated a form of International Nurses Day or International Nurses Week since 1965. The day/week was formally designated by President Richard Nixon in the US in 1974. The day was chosen in recognition of Florence Nightingale’s birth on 12 May 1820.

Yvonne Kelley has written a brief account of IND celebrations in Rockhampton since the 1970s. Up until the 1980s, the celebrations were organised by the CQ Sub-branch of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation. These were in the form of a church service each year alternating between the two cathedrals. These are some of the Cathedral services listed by Yvonne since 1971.

In 1971, St Paul’s Cathedral hosted an address by Dr John Hasker, in 1972, St Joseph’s Cathedral hosted an address by Dr John Learmonth and in 1973 St Paul’s Cathedral hosted an address by Dr Alan Agnew. Yvonne also recorded the topic for some of the guest speakers. For example, in 1974, Miss S Keenan, former Matron of the Bundaberg Hospital, spoke at St Joseph’s Cathedral on the topic “*Are Miss Nightingale’s Ideals Relevant Today*” and In 1975, Dr Wendy Christie spoke at St Paul’s Cathedral on the topic “*The Role of Women in Medical Care*”.

Other speakers up until 1987 were Miss Norma West, Rev Brian Farran, Miss Bart Schultz, Hon Sir William Knox, Sr Anne Maree, Dr Conrad Primmer, Miss Janiece Woods, Mrs Margaret Wilson and Rev. Kay Ronalds.

When the RANF, CQ Sub-branch, disbanded in 1987, the Royal College of Nursing Australia, CQ Branch, decided to take over the planning of International Nurses Day functions and in 1988 arranged for Dr Lesley Warner, Dean, School of Science at CQU, to speak about “*The Caring Profession*”. Formal celebrations then became hit and miss until 2009 when ACHHA and Hillcrest Hospital combined to conduct a service at St Peter’s Church at the Village.

In 2010, The Rockhampton International Nurses Day Organising Committee was formed by Miss Norma West with the assistance of Mrs Yvonne Kelley. The committee included representatives of Rockhampton Hospital, Hillcrest Hospital, Mater Hospital, CQUniversity, TAFE and ACHHA.

Since then, International Nurses Day has been marked in some way but in a changed format compared to the earlier religion-based, events. The first was in 2011 which was a Professional Development Day at the Heritage Village Shearing Shed followed by an evening function, the 2013 topic was “*Diversity in Nursing*” while the topic in 2018 was simply “*Celebrating Nursing*”.

In 2022, the theme was extended to celebrate nurses and midwives and featured a presentation about the Fitzroy Community Hospice which was in the development stage. Funds raised went to the Hospice. The recent 2024 celebrations raised funds for the Community Hospice and also for our Association. As a result we received a donation of \$400, as we did in 2023. The Guest Speaker this year was Ms Kelley Yates, recently appointed General Manager Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Service for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service.



ACHHA attendees at International Nurses Day Dinner 10 May 2024.

Front Row (L—R): Kate Heilcher, Del Leitgeb, Jackie Geraghty; **Back Row:** Nancy Crapp, Joan Miller, Dot Broad, Carol McIver, Errol Payne, Del Kajewski, Del Rogers and Daphne Murdoch.

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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Secretary: Errol Payne
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Archivist: Yvonne Kelley

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 Janet Iffinger
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 Del Kajewski
 Daphne Murdoch
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