



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2012

President's Report

The ACHHA Annual General Meeting was held on the 24th September, and I am pleased that I once again have the honour of being the President. All previous members have been re-elected, and I warmly welcome each to their respective positions. A special welcome to Lorraine Antonello who has accepted the role of Vice-President.

The names of the committee members are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

As in previous reports, I remind members that if any one is interested in joining the committee or interested in being involved behind the scene in relation to organised tours of school children or others, to contact myself or a member of the committee.

Also with this newsletter will be the reports presented to the AGM. These reports will keep members informed on the activities of the Association including our hopes and dreams and our financial position.

The display boards allowing for a focus on aspects of health care continue to be of major interest to visitors. Be sure to see Ashley's interpretation of Christmas in Hospitals that will be the focus from November till the New Year.

Yvonne and myself continue to represent the ACHHA on the International Nurses' Day Committee with myself as Chairperson. Please note the 10th 11th and 12th of May in your diaries for the 2013 celebrations. The 10th will be an evening function, allowing for a get together of nurses and others just to celebrate this wonderful profession. At this function a book capturing anecdotal stories of how it was for the student nurse, and other interesting aspects of the profession, will be launched. (stories are still being accepted). Errol has been invited to join the Organising Committee this year to assist with the preparation of the book. The 11th will be a Professional Development Workshop. The 12th which is the actual designated International Nurses Day falls on a Sunday in 2013. For this reason, negotiations are underway to have special mention of the Professions of Nursing and Midwifery in regular Church services.

The original celebrations of this day, formerly called

Florence Nightingale Day, was always a Church service.

The erection of the stone fence around the Museum is making good progress and is starting to look amazing. Hopefully our next newsletter will have the date of the function to celebrate its completion.

Our last meeting for 2012 will be held on Monday the 26th November, and meetings will recommence in late January. However work will continue in the archive area over this period, and I and other members can be contacted during the time.

I end my report by wishing each and every member of the Management Committee, and every member of the ACHHA, their families and friends, a very special Christmas and much happiness during 2013.

I look forward to us all continuing with this important responsibility we have undertaken to preserve history in relation to caring for the welfare of others.

Norma West
President

Do you remember/did you know?

That in the not too far distant past, when a woman married, she not only assumed her husband's family name, but also his initials/given names. There are examples in this newsletter. Sarah Costello was given 3 months leave from her role as president of the local branch of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association to be married. When she resumed the role, the newspaper called her as Mrs T. A. Stabe. Likewise, on Page 6 of this Newsletter the Mayor's wife is Mrs T. W. Kingel (Theodore William).

This practice continued for many years. Our collection includes a set of photographs of doctors with their wives. The 1968 photograph is the first in which the wives are identified using their own initials, not the husbands. 1969 and 1970 went back to the old format, but 1971 again adopted the "new" format with which we are all familiar. Of course the fact that all of the women were referred to as wives rather than partners is another story.

Photos and more Photos

One of the most wonderful aspects of our Country Hospital Museum Collection is the amazing array of photographs dating back over 100 years. Our Archivist, Yvonne, continues with the very large task of sorting and storing these in archival quality packets, while we also work as quickly as we can to make digital copies to ensure the survival of the images into the future. Each photograph or set of photographs has a story to tell.

One set viewed recently contains images of a distinguished Rockhampton nurse, Sarah Eliza Costello who was born in Queensland on 22nd February 1890. She trained at the Rockhampton Hospital from December 1916 to December 1918. This photograph donated by Mr Albert Crudgington shows her in uniform in 1918



The photograph is in postcard format - a very popular way of sharing photographs for many years. The printed side of this postcard carries the handwritten inscription "Yours lovingly Costy 22-7-18".

Older readers will recall that it was quite common for people to be given nicknames based on their surname, and often ending in "y".



Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. If you wish to join, 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. Any member of our management committee listed on p. 6 will be pleased to assist you to join.

Alternatively you may download a membership application from our website at: <http://www.achha.org.au/Membership%20Application.pdf>. You may also pay your subscription by direct deposit to the Association's Membership account at the Westpac Bank, details of which are: BSB 034-210 Account No. 23-3836 Please identify yourself with your Surname plus Mem.

Membership Fees

Annual	Individual	\$20.00
	Couple	\$30.00
Life	Individual	\$200.00
	Couple	\$300.00

While we do not know Sister Costello’s full nursing history, we do know that she was Matron at Springsure in 1924/1925 and there are references to her leaving Springsure to become Matron at Tannachy in 1925.

We also have a number of photographs which include Matron Costello at Tannachy. These were taken in about 1940 and were donated to the Collection by Jill Cowie (née Crossan). This first staff photo includes Back Row (L to R): Olga Freestone, Jean Fleming, Margaret Hawkins, Elsie Roden, Margaret McIlwraith, Joyce Craig, Jill Crossan, Mercy Whelan, Dorothy Bradley; Front Row: Marjorie Axe, Betty Stone, Matron Costello and Sister Doris Hill.



The second photograph includes (L to R): Dorothy Goerg, Joyce Craig, Elsie Roden, Sister Hill and Matron Costello.



Matron Costello was farewelled as Matron at Tannachy at three separate functions at the Leichhardt Hotel, the Criterion Hotel and Anzac Hall in December 1946 when she resigned to marry Mr J. A. Stabe in Perth on 30th December 1946. At her wedding she wore a matching pendant, earrings and brooch presented at the largest function which attracted 180 guests. After their honeymoon they returned to Rockhampton and she carried on with her role as an executive member of the local branch of the Australian Trained Nurses Association (ATNA). Sarah Eliza Stabe died on 30th April 1957.

Early Hospitals—a History of Giving

While Queensland hospitals have almost always received some support from government, the early hospitals would never have been established or operated without the magnificent efforts of volunteer fundraisers, bequests from the wealthy and regular subscriptions by donors.

The hospitals were managed by Committees elected by, and representing, a body of subscribers who made regular annual contributions. Groups of workers in many industries would take up collections on behalf of the hospital. Fees were charged, but not all could pay and the general rule seems to have been that no-one would be turned away. Also important was the fact that the Government subsidy was related to the level of subscriptions. To take a figure at random, the Government allocated £46,500 to the combined Queensland hospitals in 1905/06. Subscriptions and donations to the Rockhampton Hospital in 1904/05 was £753, and this led to a share of the overall Government hospital allocation of £865. (1)

The earliest records of donations and bequests held in our Country Hospital Museum are these two magnificent boards which were rescued when the old 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 board on the left covers the period 1894 to 1917 and the second 1918 to 1926.



While you can't see this in the small photograph, the rectangular box just below the heading contains a carved image of the hospital in Canning Street.

The first entry on the boards dated September 2nd 1894 is a bequest of £2000 made by Mr D. T. Mulligan. Mr Mulligan was an Irishman. He spent several years in Rockhampton as a general merchant and apparently had been a generous subscriber to the Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital during his time in the town. When he died in Dublin on 2nd September 1894 he bequeathed the sum of £2000 to the Rockhampton Hospital. This caused something of a problem at the time, because there was no Rockhampton Hospital as such, just the Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital and the Children's Hospital. Mr Mulligan's Queensland executors, Messrs Rees R. Jones and A. Grant paid the bequest to the Supreme Court pending a ruling on the rightful recipient. On 21 October 1895, His Honour Mr Justice Real held a hearing and determined that the Rockhampton Hospital referred to was the Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital. (2) This assignment was not contested by the Children's Hospital Committee and the amount was duly transferred.

In the meantime, the Rockhampton Hospital Committee had decided to clear the confusion and at its meeting on 18th February 1895 resolved to change the name of the Port Curtis and Leichhardt District Hospital to the Rockhampton Hospital. (3) While the name has changed a number of times over the past 117 years, Rockhampton Hospital is the name proudly displayed today in large letters above the Canning Street complex.

Many bequests and gifts recognised on these boards are between £20 and £50. However, there are other large donations such as Mrs Hall in memory of her husband Thomas S Hall, £2000 in 1904, the C.Q. Patriotic Fund Rockhampton Sub-Branch, £1000 in 1920 and the estate of Jas Stewart, £1000 over 1925 and 1926.

The significance of the final date of 1926 on the bequest board relates to the fact that a new management structure came into effect in 1925. A new Hospital Committee charged by the Queensland Government with the management of the Rockhampton Hospital, the Children's Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Yeppoon Hospital held its first meeting on 13 November 1925. A major outcome of the formation of this Committee was the consolidation of all of the Rockhampton institu-

tions on the present Canning Street site over the following five years.

Another illustration of the principle of giving preserved in our Country Hospital Museum Collection is in the form of these photographs, originally from the John Oxley Library, of beds or cots in the Children's Hospital, complete with patients.



The bed on the left carries the inscription "Presented by the Yeppoon Branch of the Ministering Children's League Sept 1912". The inscription on the bed on the right reads "Walter & Eliza Hall Cot Endowed in Perpetuity Nov 1912".

Note the mosquito nets which featured on most beds in the days before insect screening.

The donation of these two cots was reported by the Matron (Miss C. I. Hall) to the meeting of the Children's Hospital Committee held on 10th June 1913. Miss Hall reported (4):

"The cot presented by the Ministering Children's League, Yeppoon, and the Walter and Eliza Hall cot have arrived and are a great improvement to the Hospital. I hope the children of the league will be able to come to the institution and see them".

The Ministering Children's League was a world-wide organisation founded by Mary Brabazon, Countess of Meath in the UK, in 1858. The general aim of the organisation was to encourage children to develop habits of kindness and unselfishness and a habit of helping those in need. The organisation's motto was "No day without a deed to crown it." (5)

There was more information about the Walter and Eliza Hall cot in the annual report to the subscribers published in the Morning Bulletin on 23rd July 1913. (6) The report included the following:

"In addition to ordinary subscriptions, there was received from the estate of the late Mr. Walter Russell Hall two legacies of £1000 each: of which one was placed in the general fund and the

other, in accordance with the conditions of the bequest, invested in government stock, the interest being applied to the endowment in perpetuity of a cot called the Walter and Eliza Hall cot. The Committee was most grateful for this noble benefaction, which, besides being a welcome addition to the funds of the hospital, will keep alive in time to come the memory of a philanthropic family."

Of course this bequest to the Children's Hospital almost pales into insignificance compared to the big picture. Walter Hall died in 1911 aged 80 after a life in which he accumulated great wealth through his role in the Mt Morgan mine and in the pastoral industry. He was also the last owner of Cobb & Co. In 1911, Mrs Hall made a bequest of £1,000,000 to establish the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, based in Melbourne which still assists people today (<http://www.wehalltrust.org.au/>).

This third cot carries the inscription "Presented by Central Girls' State School Rockhampton July 1913". Clearly this was a more modest set of donors, but no doubt the cot was equally appreciated.



Travelling outside Rockhampton, research undertaken last year for the 80th Anniversary of the Biloela Hospital reveals the following in a report published on 9th July 1931. (7)

"At a hospital building committee meeting it was decided to affix a brass plate in the hallway of the first aid section of the hospital, stating that the section had been fully equipped by the Biloela Branch of the C.W.A.. A letter of appreciation is also to be addressed to them."

Stories such as these may be found in the history of all hospitals established in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

Many donations were made in kind. When Matron Hall reported on the donation of the two cots to the Children's hospital, she also reported on other in-kind donations:

"I wish to acknowledge with many thanks a bag of sweet potatoes from Mrs. Marr, Archer's Siding, a bag of pumpkins from a friend at Westwood, a bag of lemons from a friend, a case of oranges from a friend, and toys from Miss Olive Drape. - The report was received and a vote of thanks was accorded to the donors."

1. 1905 'ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITAL.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 10 November, p. 3, viewed 10 November, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55816669>
2. 1895 'ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITAL.', *The Brisbane Courier* (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), 22 October, p. 3, viewed 8 November, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3611654>
3. 1895 'PORT CURTIS AND LEICHHARDT DISTRICTS HOSPITAL.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 16 February, p. 5, viewed 5 November, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article52492898>
4. 1913 'CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 12 June, p. 10, viewed 8 November, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53302130>
5. http://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/GetRecord/SHCOL_7919
6. 1913 'CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 23 July, p. 9, viewed 8 November, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53341064>
7. 1931 'BILOELA.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878-1954), 9 July, p. 2, viewed 22 June, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57625614>

The Fete—Another fundraising venture



Another way in which funds were raised for the hospitals was through events such as fetes. Our collection includes this photograph donated by Mr Albert Crudginton of the fete held for the Rockhampton Hospital on Saturday 23rd October 1915 in Victoria Park - still a popular public venue on the banks of the Fitzroy to the north of the city centre. We are fortunate to have the Morning Bulletin report of the fete which paints a beautiful picture of the scene.

“The weather was somewhat close in the forenoon; but in the afternoon a delightfully cool breeze blew, while in the evening the conditions were all that could be desired.

The site chosen, as in former years, was on the high bank on the upstream side of the kiosk, where, between the rows of spreading banyans and stately laurels, hessian covered and flag-bedecked stalls, with their scores of covered tables and innumerable chairs set out invitingly on the lawn, made a scene which resembled nothing so closely as a thriving country village en fete. The effect was materially enhanced by a generous display of flags and bunting. A huge Union Jack was stretched across the avenue at the portals, whilst many strings of small flags and coloured

streamers were suspended from tree to tree and fluttered above the heads of the well-dressed, happy, and prosperous looking throngs which promenaded the temporary highway.”

Our photograph of Sweets Stall No. 2 does not have a caption. However, the news report states that the Stall was run by Mrs T. W. Kingel and Mrs. F. Lomas. As it turns out, Mrs Kingel, the Mayor’s wife, is the grandmother of one of our members, Mrs Margaret Anderton. While we can’t be absolutely sure, we believe Mrs Kingel is the lady on the right. The children are waiting expectantly to tackle the baskets of sweets on the table.

The Mayor who had been in Brisbane undertaking training associated with the outbreak of World War 1 opened the fete a little late since his train was delayed. He spoke extensively of the challenges facing the city and its institutions as so many left to go to the war, meaning that those left behind would also have to step up to meet additional challenges of funding the institutions, especially the hospitals which would soon have to deal with war casualties. The fete continued into the evening when there was a torchlight procession from the Council Chambers. Again we have a beautiful description of the scene from the newspaper report.

“Although there was a fair gathering in the afternoon and the stallholders were kept very busy, the real business of the day was transacted in the evening, when the scene, an animated and picturesque one was illuminated by the rays of the full moon and enhanced by innumerable coloured lanterns, and flashing acetylene lamps among the trees.

The Lake's Creek and Salvation Army brass bands, the Fire Brigade (with the Dennis engine and other apparatus), and members of the Lodges joined the procession.

Source: 1915 'GENERAL HOSPITAL.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 25 October, p. 4, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/53416578>>

Association contact details:

Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.
PO Box 4035 Rockhampton Qld 4700
[Incorporation Number: IA20217]
Website: www.achha.org.au
Email: enquiries@achha.org.au

Patron: Dr Con Primmer OAM

Elected Office Bearers

President: Norma West
Secretary: Errol Payne
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Archivist: Yvonne Kelley

Committee Members

Lorraine Antonello
 Nancy Crapp
 Tom Dewar
 Del Leitgeb
 Carol McIver
 Bill McIver
 Jocelyn Philp
 Ashley Reid