

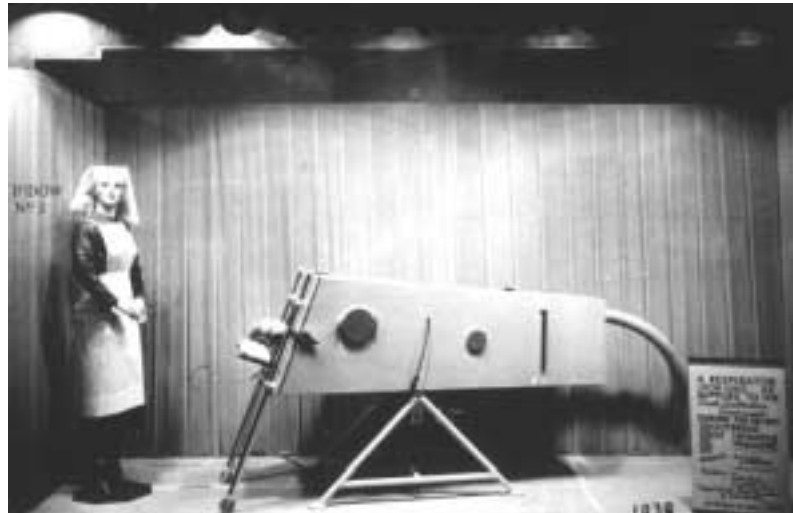
THE 'IRON LUNG' IN AUSTRALIA

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Cover photo

Displayed in the show window of the South Australian Agent-General in London during the outbreak of poliomyelitis ('infantile paralysis') in 1938, a cabinet respirator made by Edward Both replaced the usual array of dried fruits, wine and wool. The display attracted a great deal of interest and led to Lord Nuffield's involvement in the manufacture of the respirators. *Photograph lent by Dr Richard Bailey*



There are examples of 'iron lungs' in museums all over Australia, reminding us of the poliomyelitis epidemics of the mid-20th century: the patients who suffered from the frightening disease, the nursing and medical staff who cared for them, and the engineers who developed the technologies that kept them alive.

In this issue of The HaMMer we take a look at the history of cabinet respirators or 'iron lungs' in Australia and highlight some of the examples held in museums. We hope that these stories will assist museum workers when they are researching the history and significance of the respirators in their own collections.

Poliomyelitis is a viral disease that, in its most severe forms, attacks the central nervous system causing permanent or temporary paralysis. Patients with 'anterior' poliomyelitis are unable to breathe and require artificial respiration to keep them alive. The earliest epidemic of poliomyelitis or 'infantile paralysis' in Australia occurred in 1895. The last was to happen in 1961 before the Salk vaccine and the Sabine oral vaccine finally put an end to polio in Australia. Between those years there were a number of outbreaks including three major epidemics, occurring not only in Australia but world-wide, in 1937-38, 1947-48 and 1951-52.

The 1937-38 epidemic was the unprecedentedly severe. At that time there were a few American 'Drinker' respirators in Australia, but suddenly there was a need for more. Several inventors devised respirators based on the Drinker model that could be manufactured inexpensively and quickly. The most commonly known of these was the wooden 'Both' portable respirator invented in Adelaide. Both 'iron lungs' went on to be manufactured by Lord Nuffield in England in the late 1930s and distributed all over the British Empire, including Australia. With various improvements they were also copied in the workshops of several Australian hospitals, while at the Both factories in Adelaide and Sydney they were still being made into the 1950s.

The cabinet respirators in Australian museums are not all the same. Most of them are versions of the wooden 'Both' respirator, but they have been manufactured in different places and at different times. Research is needed to tease out the story behind each one.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The HaMMer brings the membership of HMM up to date with many activities across Australia. You will read of events organised in New South Wales and Victoria, and something of areas of endeavour in the other states.

This issue includes articles and photos about 'Both' respirators, the iron lungs' used to give artificial respiration to polio sufferers unable to breathe because of paralysis of their respiratory muscles. I have visited Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in Melbourne (before it was closed down) and spoken to patients in these strange contraptions, looking in to their rear vision mirrors to see the world around from their supine positions.

When I visited the Dittrick Medical History Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, I was told by the curator, Jim Edmonson, that there were one million objects in the collection. I asked if they had a Both Respirator, and he immediately responded they had a child-sized model, a deliberate decision to save storage space. I will be interested to learn where these have been collected around Australia.

The Annual General Meeting of HMM will be held in Melbourne during the Australian Society for the History of

Medicine Conference just after Easter this year (details below). All are welcome to attend, and join us for a convivial meal afterwards.

During the Museums Australia Conference in Perth in May, HMM will have a session at the WA Medical Museum at the King Edward Memorial Hospital on Friday 30th, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. Anna Fairclough and I look forward to meeting our Western Australian colleagues, and any conference registrants who wish to attend.

If there are issues, ideas or questions in the minds of HMMers, please contact Anna or myself. The agenda for the AGM will be circulated, but we are interested in feedback from our scattered membership.

I wish you all a successful 2003.

(Dr) Philip Thomson
President
Health and Medicine Museums

HMM Annual General Meeting and dinner

Friday 25 April 2003 – Melbourne

The HMM AGM will be held at a dinner on the 25 April (ANZAC Day) to coincide with the Australian Society of the History of Medicine Conference in Melbourne.

The dinner will be at 7pm in the upper function room of Trotters Restaurant, 400 Lygon Street, Carlton.

Please RSVP to Anna Fairclough by 22 April 2003

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THE STORY OF THE 'BOTH' PORTABLE CABINET RESPIRATOR



Edward Thomas Both (left) with his wife Eileen and brother Donald, at his home in Neutral Bay, Sydney, in 1987. Photograph by Dr Richard Bailey

Both Equipment Limited

Edward Thomas Both was a young man in his twenties when he set up a laboratory to develop scientific and medical apparatus at Adelaide University in the early 1930s. At that time he had a staff of one, his wife Eileen, but by the mid-1930s they had been joined by his younger brother, Donald (D.J.R. or Don). The company became known as Both Equipment Limited. Over the following few decades Edward (often referred to as E.T. or Ted) developed and produced a huge number of different kinds of instruments ranging from a portable electrocardiograph in the 1930s to electric delivery vans in the 1950s and an electric tennis score board for the Davis Cup and the Melbourne Olympic Games in the 1950s.

When the severe epidemic of poliomyelitis or 'infantile paralysis' broke out in 1937, health authorities in South Australia approached the Boths to see if they could produce a breathing machine to help polio patients who were dying of respiratory paralysis. At that time the only system of mechanical respiration considered satisfactory for polio patients was the Drinker 'iron lung' developed in the USA. It was a large steel tank or cabinet that was cumbersome, heavy, expensive, and not able to be serviced outside the USA. There were only a few examples of the Drinker respirator in Australia.

The Boths were able to design a simple, inexpensive respirator. Working non-stop with the help of several other enthusiastic young men, the Boths produced sufficient machines to cope with the polio epidemic in South Australia.

The Drinker 'iron lung,

The Both machine worked on the same principle as the Drinker respirator, which had been developed in the late 1920s by Philip Drinker at the Rockefeller Institute in the USA.

The Drinker had gone into commercial production in the early 1930s. It operated on the principle of *intermittent external negative pressure ventilation*. This means that the apparatus was a sealed chamber in which a patient was placed if their respiratory muscles were paralysed. Only the patient's head protruded, and a soft collar around their neck maintained the seal. Inside the chamber the air pressure was rhythmically lowered and restored. The changes in air pressure caused the patient's chest to rise and fall, thus drawing air in through their mouth and pushing it out again. The rhythmic breathing that would normally be produced by a person's chest muscles was instead produced by the machine.

The chamber of the Drinker respirator where the patient lay was a larger, cylindrical metal tank. At some stage it was given the nickname 'iron lung' and this term stuck.

The Both 'iron lung,

Although it operated on the same principle of external negative pressure, the Both respirator was much simpler and cheaper to produce than the Drinker. One of its features was that it was made of plywood. This contributed to the cheapness of its manufacture. It also meant that the unit was lighter and, since it was mounted on wheels, it could be moved about. In fact it was called the 'Both portable cabinet respirator'. However, hospital staff and the general public were apparently used to referring to polio respirators as 'iron lungs'. The term continued to be used for Both respirators even though they were not made of iron. Apparently the Both brothers themselves called their machines 'iron lungs'. In addition, some hospital staff even referred to the Both respirators as 'Drinkers'.

The mechanism that created the negative air pressure inside the Both respirator was separate from the cabinet. It consisted of an electric motor connected to a large cylindrical bellows mounted on a wheeled stand. The bellows in turn was connected by a wide flexible tube to the patient's wooden cabinet. The rhythmical expanding and contracting of the bellows produced the necessary changes in air pressure inside the cabinet. In some hospitals the bellows of each unit was located on the verandah and the flexible tube passed through the window to the patient's cabinet in the ward.

The Nuffield connection

William Morris, later Sir William Morris, and later still Lord Nuffield, started with a bicycle shop in Oxford, England, but in 1913 he made his first motorcar, the Morris Oxford. He went on to have a long and fruitful career as a manufacturer of Morris and MG cars and gave much of his resultant wealth to practical philanthropic works. There are still many charities today that bear Lord Nuffield's name.

During the 1930s Lord Nuffield became involved with the manufacture and distribution of Both artificial respirators. Mrs Eileen Both (Edward Both's wife) has written her recollections of how Lord Nuffield came to learn about the Both machine in 1938:

Edward was in London with a direct-writing portable electrocardiograph which he hoped to introduce to the medical profession when he heard an S.O.S. on the B.B.C. radio for an "iron lung" for a poliomyelitis patient. He contacted the South Australian Agent-General ... and offered to produce his own model ...

He hired a garage ... and set to work ... Soon he assembled a cabinet and a motor unit in the garage and had it accepted by the health department of the London County Council. One complete unit aroused considerable interest in the South Australian showcase [in Oxford Street, London].

Another respirator was lent to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, where a film was made of its operation. Lord Nuffield, a motor car magnate, who was a philanthropist, saw the film and was so impressed with the simplicity of operation and its design, he decided to manufacture and give away a "lung" to any hospital who asked. The generosity of the gift was heralded by the press.

Respirators to Both's design were subsequently mass produced at the Morris Cowley works. Professor Peter J. Morris of the Nuffield Department of Surgery at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford writes:

Nuffield ... offered to produce 5000 and provide one for every hospital in the British Empire that wanted one, when told that one or two people would die each year because of the lack of one. Until the war brought the production of the iron lungs to a halt just on 1800 had been built and distributed to hospitals throughout the British Empire.

Both Equipment Ltd after the war

After working for the Australian Army Inventions Directorate during World War II, E.T. Both set up an office in Sydney, while his brother continued to manage the factory in Adelaide. Respirators became an important product amongst the many kinds of equipment manufactured by Both Equipment Ltd. The Nuffield model was modified and improved in various ways over the years. There were also baby incubators, and emergency respirators for transport by plane. Eventually E.T. sold the business to Drug Houses of Australia (DHA), which took all the workers, including Donald Both until he retired.

Sometimes hailed as 'the Edison of Australia', E.T. Both died in 1987. The story of his many wartime, commercial, sporting and medical inventions is a fascinating one, deserving more space than can be spared in *The HaMMer*. Because of the role he played in the production of 'iron lungs', he had been honoured with an OBE by King Edward VI. Sadly, however, the Both brothers seem not to have been given the recognition they deserve in their home state.

This article has been based on published and unpublished material, letters and photographs held in research files at the Powerhouse Museum and in the private files of Dr Richard Bailey (Australian Society of Anaesthetists).

Megan Hicks

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For a comprehensive history of artificial respiration in Britain, including the Both-Nuffield story see:

Hill, Richard, 'A being breathing thoughtful breath: the history of the British Iron Lung 1832-1995' (Winner of the 1995 Lord Brock Memorial Historical Essay Prize, Guy's Hospital, London)
<http://www.geocities.com/ironlungmuseum/ironlung.htm>

DISPLAY AT ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL, SA

Rose Wilson, who has been archivist at The Royal Adelaide Hospital for just over six months, is a strong believer in making the presence of the archives felt in whatever organisation she is working. So she has been alert to any display opportunities that she could find in the real RAH environment, as opposed to the idealised environment of 'one day when we get a proper display area' which, Rose says, is the attitude of many archivists.

Rose noticed an empty long glass-covered noticeboard adjacent to the lecture theatres and obtained permission set up displays in it. She has subsequently prepared several displays - one on medical balls through the years, the second on medical students' celebrations and, more recently, one on a subject important in Adelaide, the Both

brothers. They were responsible for many medical inventions and seem to be almost unknown in Adelaide. The archives of the RAH feature some of their equipment and Rose believes it is time their work was widely known.

Staff from the Foundation Office of the hospital have enjoyed the display and have brought tours of donors past it on their way to the museum at the RAH Heritage Office. Rose has discovered that most of these people had never heard of the Boths.

For further information contact:
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TANK 'IRON LUNG' RESPIRATORS AT FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL, VICTORIA

Fairfield Hospital acquired its first respirator in 1936, for treatment of diphtheritic paralysis (a partial paralysis that sometimes follows diphtheria, chiefly affecting the soft palate and throat muscles). This was a Drinker respirator (the original 'iron lung') and was imported from London.

In June 1937 a severe poliomyelitis epidemic created an urgent need for more respirators to treat respiratory paralysis. All acute cases were sent to Fairfield and the Medical Superintendent, Dr F.V.G. Scholes, set aside 230 beds. Respirators were developed and installed by Professor Aubrey Burstall, the Professor of Engineering at the University of Melbourne. They consisted of a wooden 'tank' plus a pulsator and fan to create the required intermittent negative pressure. No examples of the 'Burstall' respirators remain, but descriptions and available photos indicate that the 'Burstall' was similar to the 'Both', which originated in Adelaide.



A rare picture of 'Burstall' respirators at Fairfield Hospital in 1937. *All photographs on this page are courtesy of Bryan Speed and the Fairfield Hospital Historical Collection*

The initial six respirators increased to 23, with up to 47 patients having to 'time share'. A further 36 'Burstall' respirators were distributed to regional centres in Victoria. A total of 1,275 patients were treated. Most were less than 14 years old, 140 had respiratory paralysis, 106 required respirator treatment and 37 of these died.

Some time after 1937 the 'Burstall' respirators at Fairfield were superseded by 'Both Equipment Ltd' respirators, probably in the 1950s. From that time all respirators have had the modification of the 'alligator' or 'bivalve' construction, allowing the lid of the tank to be lifted, thus providing easier access to the patient.



A young patient at Fairfield Hospital in 1958, with Both 'alligator'-type respirators in the background.

For many years there were 10-15 individuals in the long-term ward, using respirators of the 'Both' type, often manufactured and always maintained in the hospital workshop during the 1950s to 1970s. In addition, there were several patients at home with Both ventilator support.



A polio patient beside her iron lung at Fairfield Hospital in the 1970s.

During the 1980s positive pressure nasal ventilation opened new possibilities for patients tied to their cumbersome respirators. By 1994 there were 50 long-term patients, most at home using positive pressure ventilation. Since their transfer to the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre in 1996, over 200 patients are now being supported in this way with only five now using tank ventilators, three at home. Several backup ventilators still exist while one ventilator painted in the red and black Essendon football colours by its last user has been donated to the Melbourne Museum.

Bryan Speed
Chairman
Fairfield Hospital Historical Collection Committee

ASSESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A BOTH RESPIRATOR AT GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM, NSW



The Both 'iron lung' in the hospital building at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum. *Photograph courtesy of Shirley Norris and June McGrane.*

Recently Griffith Pioneer Park Museum staff and volunteers joined with workers from several other Riverina museums to attend workshops on Assessing Significance. Presented by the Museum of the Riverina, the workshops introduced us to the concept of 'significance' which, we were to learn, had been widely used in heritage work for many years.

Griffith Pioneer Park (GPPM) is an open-air museum set on eleven hectares with over 30 buildings on display. It has been operating for 30 years and currently has three staff members and a strong band of volunteers. The idea of assessing significance was at first very daunting, even though we realized that the outcomes would be beneficial in many ways. Now that we have assessed the significance of several items in the collection we find that we have a documented provenance for each object, a statement of its value to the collection, a guide to its conservation, interpretive benefits, a guide to deaccession decisions, and an awareness of what is required when choosing new acquisitions.

Under the guidance of Regional Museums Officer, Madeleine Scully, we have taken on the assessing of ten items in the collection. One of the items we chose was a Both Bros respirator, or iron lung, that is currently an exhibit in the GPPM Hospital Display. With no information on hand regarding this object we virtually had to start from scratch. This involved many hours of work and volunteer time researching, however the end result has been well worth the effort. We now have an extensive file of information regarding the iron lung, and even though we have compiled a report we feel sure there is more information out there. We will never close the file completely.

It has been a rewarding project and we hope you enjoy reading why this object is important to the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum's collection.

Shirley Norris – Curator

June McGrane – Volunteer and Committee member
Griffith Pioneer Park Museum

Mail: PO Box 1035 Griffith NSW 2680

Phone: 02 6962 4196 Fax: 02 6964 2815

Statement of significance – Iron lung

During the 1930s, 40s and 50s Australia was very badly affected by outbreaks of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis). As early as 1928 several cases were recorded in Griffith.

People with this disease whose chest muscles were affected were placed in an 'iron lung' so that they could breathe. At various times the lid of the machine was lifted and during this time the patient was taught to 'frog breath'.

[A paragraph here, summarising the history of the invention of the Both 'iron lung' and its distribution by Lord Nuffield, has been omitted for space reasons. Ed.]

Griffith, like so many other communities, experienced the reality of the polio epidemic. In the 1930s-40s the local school was closed after two admitted children were diagnosed with poliomyelitis. In 1954 Doctor N. Cardwell of the Department of Public Health addressed the community on the source of dangers associated with this disease. He also conducted inspections of all cafes and facilities.

Griffith District Hospital had two iron lungs, the first being a donation from Lord Nuffield. The second is the one held in the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum collection. It was purchased by the community in Griffith and the surrounding area in 1954 and was made by Both Bros of Adelaide. Constructed of ply, it is referred to as the 'alligator' style respirator because, unlike the one donated by Lord Nuffield, which patients had to be slid in and out of, the 'alligator' style has a lid that works on a counter-weight. This system was said to be a lot more user-friendly. It is not known how long this machine was used for, as fortunately the Salk vaccine was released not long after it was purchased. In October 1956, Dr Burrell and Dr McFadzean injected over 600 children on the first day of Griffith's anti-polio campaign.

Griffith Pioneer Park Museum's iron lung is significant to our collection because it is a reminder of the severity of polio epidemics and it represents the charitable and social strength of our community.

On 15 August 1954 the local radio station 2RG ran an appeal to raise money to purchase one of the Both Bros iron lungs/ respirators. The appeal exceeded all expectations. Four hundred pounds was raised by 11 a.m., more than was needed to purchase the iron lung. The appeal continued throughout the day with an overall amount of 2,200 pounds being raised. The extra funding was put towards other equipment urgently needed at that time including a Both Insul-Cot Humidicrib. The community was thanked publicly by Dr R.A.J. McGregor, Secretary of the Medical Board, for giving so generously to this cause.

RESPIRATORS AT THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, NSW



Nurse Margaret Comtesse with a patient in a Both 'iron lung' in the Hall Ward at Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney, during the polio epidemic of 1937.
Photograph lent by Dr Richard Bailey.

Until its recent relocation to Westmead as the New Children's Hospital, the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children was situated at Camperdown, an inner suburb of Sydney. The hospital's annual reports from the early 1930s refer to a Drinker respirator that was on loan from the Commonwealth Government for use during the summer polio epidemics.

But in September 1937 preparations were made in expectation of the severe epidemic that was already affecting Victoria. Hospital authorities expected that the one Drinker respirator would not be sufficient. A special ward (the Hall Ward) was set up and an order was placed with manufacturers in Melbourne for a unit of four respirators "of the most modern type". In addition, two trained nurses were sent to the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in Melbourne for training "in the specialized nursing care of poliomyelitis, and particularly of respirator cases".

The anticipated influx of cases did indeed occur. Fortunately the respirators that were ordered from Melbourne were promptly delivered and "assembly, installation and testing of the respirators under the supervision of Dr. Ratcliff was completed only 24 hours before one was required for a patient severely affected by poliomyelitis".

The epidemic peaked in January-February 1938 when 60 beds were required for acute cases. A stage was reached when three of the four respirators were in continuous use so "another unit of four respirators ordered by the Hospitals Commission was installed, and again only in time".

A photograph taken in the Hall Ward during the 1937/38 epidemic indicates that the machines were Both respirators.

Based on material on file at the Powerhouse Museum and in the private files of Dr Richard Bailey.

Megan Hicks, Curator of health and medicine
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

NUFFIELD RESPIRATOR AT BERRIMA, NSW

At **Berrima Museum**, in the Southern Highlands of NSW, there is a Both respirator on display donated by the nearby Bowral District Hospital. This machine was originally given by Lord Nuffield to the Berrima District Hospital and was first demonstrated to staff and interested members of the public in May 1939. Some time after this it was loaned to Royal North Shore Hospital during a poliomyelitis emergency but by March 1949 it had not been returned despite numerous requests. After reports in several newspapers and questions in Parliament it was eventually returned and it was always tested weekly to ensure it was ready for use.



The 'Both' respirator in Berrima Museum was restored by Dawn Savell, a great granddaughter of Mr W.A. Savell, who was once a member of the Committee of Management of the Cottage Hospital at Berrima.

Information based on text accompanying the display at Berrima Museum

RESPIRATORS AT PRINCE HENRY HOSPITAL MUSEUM, NSW

During the 1940s, a Both cabinet respirator that had been donated by Lord Nuffield to the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club was in turn presented to the Sydney's Prince Henry Hospital at Little Bay. Using this one as a model, respirators were made in the hospital workshop, with modifications and improvements incorporated in the design. These were used during the major polio epidemics of 1947-48 and 1951-52, and the last epidemic in Australia in 1961.

The museum at Prince Henry Hospital currently has a cabinet respirator on display, complete with a 'dummy' patient. The respirator is still in working order, and is sometimes turned on, the rhythmic action of the bellows helping to give visitors some understanding of the machine's operation.



The respirator on display at Prince Henry Hospital Museum.

The Prince Henry site is to be redeveloped and during the winding down of the hospital's operations, more respirators have come to light. The museum has acquired four of these in working order, complete with bellows. Three of them are the wooden box-like machines in the style of Both respirators, but one has a curved metal cabinet.

Megan Hicks, Powerhouse Museum
Maylean Cordia, Prince Henry Hospital Museum

PRINCE HENRY IRON LUNG STILL IN USE

There is probably only one person in New South Wales who still uses a Both cabinet respirator. In 1995 the Sydney Morning Herald ran an article about Ms Gaby Hannemann, 'one of Australia's last polio victims to rely on an old-fashioned iron lung to support her breathing'. Contracting polio in 1961 when she was 4 years old, Ms Hannemann took her Both respirator home with her when she left Prince Henry Hospital in 1967.

Ms Hannemann works at Paraquad and gets about in an electric wheel chair, but at night she uses her Both respirator because her body 'forgets to breath' when she is asleep. The newspaper article reported that Ms Hannemann 'has refused to switch over to modern respirators because she prefers the security of the machine she has slept in for as long as she can remember'.

Based on information in:
Sweet, Melissa, 'Trying to bury the steel coffin', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 April 1995, p.11.

POLIO EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

An 'iron lung' will feature in an exhibition opening at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, in 2004. Focusing on the worldwide polio eradication project, the Rotary Australia Centenary Exhibition (RACE) will commemorate and celebrate the centenary of Rotary world service.

Running from December 2004 to February 2005 the exhibition will include:

- photographs of National Immunisation Days (NIDs) from Rotary International, WHO and UNICEF
- objects associated with traditional medical treatment of polio (including an operating iron lung)
- items used in NIDs
- old film on polio epidemics, a video on Sister Kenny, and a video on the polio eradication program worldwide
- storytellers
- interactive electronic communication with Rotarians who worked on NIDs.

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Mobile 0408 697 971

RESPIRATORS IN PERTH, WA

WA Medical History Museum in Subiaco has one 'Both' cabinet respirator, or iron lung, in the collection, complete with a compressor, bellows and GEC electric motor. It is recorded as having been made around 1940 in Great Britain and came to the museum from nearby Shenton Park Infectious Diseases Hospital.

That same hospital, now known as Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital, still has three working 'iron lung machines'. One is used by a resident patient, while the others are on standby.

Gladys Clark
WA Medical History Museum

OTHER AUSTRALIAN LOCATIONS WITH CABINET RESPIRATORS

Queensland Museum, Brisbane QLD
Barcaldine and District Historical Museum QLD
Toowoomba Hospital Health & Medicine Museum QLD
Jamestown National Trust Museum SA
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney NSW
Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum NSW
Land of the Beardies History House, Glen Innes NSW
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney NSW
Museum of Victoria, Melbourne VIC

Information mainly from Open Collections, the national database of museum and gallery collections, on AMOL <http://amol.org.au>

Travellers' tales

Some HMM members just can't help seeking out more health and medicine collections

HUNT FOR NURSES IN NT COLLECTIONS

University of the Third Age (U3A) in consultation with Museums Australia (NT) organised a museum and monument tour down the track from Darwin to Alice Springs in October/November 2002. A party of eight from Darwin met up with twenty-two from Prague U3A for several days in the Alice region.

This trip was a crawl of historical sites and collections along the Stuart Highway – three days to Alice, four in Alice and four returning to Darwin, with Janie Mason of Northern Territory University's Nursing Museum as driver. The Alice-Darwin railway construction was a significant feature of travel along the bitumen, marvelling at the engineering and admiring the bridges. It was fun to drive over and have to stop at the impressive rail crossing at Katherine.

Rather than give an outline of the many historical markers and interesting places, this brief article has focused on sites or artefacts that are relevant to nursing and nurses in the Northern Territory.

Never Never country

The **'We of the Never Never, Museum'** is run by the Mataranka Local Government Council. Its name, of course, refers to the 'Never Never' country made famous by Jeannie Gunn's stories of her brief sojourn here pre WWI. It is rich in displays and artefacts related to local history, settlement and pastoral life and includes a display featuring Sister Ruth Heathcock. Her photograph has featured on cards printed and sold by our own Nursing Museum at the Northern Territory University.



At the 'We of the Never Never' Museum Janie Mason of the NT University Nursing Museum reads a display about Ruth Heathcock, a famous Territory bush nurse of the 1920s. *All photographs in this article courtesy of Janie Mason*

Leaving Mataranka and taking a detour onto the old road, the party also visited the **Elsey Cemetery** and National Park. Many of the characters of Jeannie Gunn's stories of Elsey Station are buried here, including her husband, the Maluka.

Gravesites were given permanent markers and renovated and fenced by the military during WWII. A few hundred metres on there is a marker erected by the **Australian Inland Mission** to indicate the site of the original homestead of the stories. This Mission played a significant role in health services in early Territory days.



Some of the Darwin party at the Elsey Cemetery where many characters from Jeannie Gunn's *We of the Never Never* are buried.

Tennant Creek Hospital

The **Tennant Creek Museum** is run by the National Trust (NT) and is the only remnant of the old hospital there. It was built during WWII and initially served the forces. It later became maternity and general wards, and finally served outpatients, before being saved from demolition by town protest. Most of its artefacts relate to hospital care and local health and disease. There is a Boyles anaesthetic machine that looks like it could still work!



A Survey Sister's bag from the 1950s-1960s in Tennant Creek Museum.

In the collection is a Survey Sister's bag. These leather suitcases were still in use by Community Nurses into the mid-seventies. Survey Sisters were visiting nurses, usually to settlements without a clinic. They were significant for being often the only contact that many Aborigines had with health services, in the era before the good roads of today and airstrips for every community, and before everyone had a four-wheel drive troop-carrier. Ellen Kettle describes her life as the first Survey Sister in her book 'Gone bush'.

Doctors only!

The **National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame** is a community museum in Alice Springs. It has an excellent presentation of Australian women who were first in their professions or first as pioneering white settlers. There is of course an emphasis on locals but regrettably, under the heading of 'Doctors and nurses', there are doctors but no nurses.

There is an excellent display featuring the pioneering flying doctor in the Territory, Doctor Clive Fenton, in the **Katherine Museum** run by the local historical society.

'Museumed out,

After eleven days of roadside monuments, regional and community museums, WWII airstrips, gravesites and cemeteries and collectables in various watering holes along the way, the party returned to Darwin 'museumed out'. Collections seen ranged from motorbikes, quilting, minerals, gems, ruins, historical displays to paintings on canvas or rock. Extensive reading material was provided by the organiser, Yvonne Forrest of Darwin U3A. Many pubs and roadhouses also have a small information kits, providing some local historical and photographic information and these are worth perusing.

A full and tiring eleven-day trip, but terrific. When is the next U3A/Museums Australia (NT) tour leaving?

Janie Mason

Nursing Museum, Northern Territory University

HOLIDAYS AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Holidays are wonderful opportunities to potter about following your interests and various leads to hidden treasure. During July and August in 2002, Tony and I had a wonderful holiday that took us up through Central Australia across to the Gulf Country and then home down through Central Queensland.

When museums, and in particular the health and medicine variety, begin to take over your life it becomes difficult to pass any museum by without checking out the treasures inside, just in case there are hidden health and medicine items! It is not possible to include information about all of

the collections we visited, however I have kept my notes for use in a proposed national guide to HMM collections.

One of the early museums we checked out was the **Woomera Heritage Centre** in South Australia. Amongst all the memorabilia from the space program I was surprised to find some medical equipment from the early hospital that existed on the site. Included amongst the artefacts were a stretcher, croup kettle, respirator and ether mask. Regrettably there was little information about the circumstances of their use.

Alice Springs has several wonderful collections that we resisted, however a visit to the **Royal Flying Doctor Service Base** is mandatory and we happily browsed for a couple of hours.

We had an overnight stay in **Mt Isa** and the chance finding of an advertising brochure led me to Margaret Medley, the honorary curator of the **Beth Anderson Museum and Underground Hospital**. Margaret, and her colleague Greg, willingly opened the museum so that our tour group of 40 could spend some time looking through the museum and hospital.

Next came **Winton**, and the **Waltzing Matilda Centre** was a surprise. Not only does the centre have a wonderful animated depiction of the poem but there is also a small museum cottage, which is essentially a social history collection. Included are several early ambulance artefacts, information on World War I nurses, AWAs and VADs, and a medical kit belonging to the late Dr Scott Skirving.

The **Stockman,s Hall of Fame** at **Longreach** was not really where we expected to find health and medicine artefacts, but to my surprise on the mezzanine level (Gallery 3) in the 'Keeping in touch' display there was a very early and rare mail order catalogue from *A F Ahmed, Slalkot City*, open at a page illustrating the contents of a minor operations set as well as other operation and dressing sets. As the catalogue details were difficult to identify, I spoke to one of the curators who advised me that it had apparently been on display since 1988 when the museum was established and that there are no apparent acquisition or catalogue details for this item (and many others). Curators are currently working through the displays in the collection correcting the anomalies. The curator I spoke to was on secondment from the Brennan and Geraghty's Store Museum in Maryborough and he promised to send me a photocopy of the catalogue when they get to that section.

Q.A.N.T.A.S. Founders Outback Museum at Longreach was equally surprising because Display C, entitled 'Outback country' contained information about both bush nursing and Dr Arratta and also contained a travelling medicine kit from around the 1920s. Home remedies - "iodine for the outside, whisky for the inside" - were well illustrated. Display G 'Fruitful alliance' contained much history about both the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Australian Inland Mission health services.

Another of Longreach's hidden gems is the **Arts and Crafts Centre Gallery**. This centre is housed in the 1921 building of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Board (QATB), which has been adapted and refurbished. The ground level is used for craft workshops and the upper floor is a gallery. There is one room dedicated to a nursing sister who served with the Flying Doctor service after World War II. The collection includes badges, artefacts, uniforms, nursing texts, family memorabilia, and small items of furniture. Another room contains old QATB equipment, memorabilia, records and logbooks. An information booklet, 'Saved by the bell' has been compiled by E.A Britton.



Judith Cornell (HMM Membership Secretary) is pleased to find yet another display about a local nurse, this time in Longreach Arts and Crafts Centre. Photo courtesy of Judith Cornell.

Charleville Historic House Museum is a social history museum that includes some assorted medical equipment. We were excited to find the original Charleville Rail Ambulance and a short section of track that has been restored. In addition there is very early X-ray equipment, a c.1920 morgue trolley that was in use at the Augathella Hospital until the 1960s, and a horse-drawn ambulance litter (1920-1930).

Following our return from up north we headed south to northeastern Victoria where we came across the remains of the very beautiful **Ovens District Hospital** located in **Beechworth**.

Judith Cornell
Hon. curator/ archivist
SPASM (Society for the Preservation of Artifacts of Surgery and Medicine)
and
NSW College of Nursing Archives

AROUND AUSTRALIA

News about health and medicine museums, exhibitions, activities, events

NEW SOUTH WALES

Paradise on earth

A recent exhibition at the **Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre** near Liverpool in NSW examined traditional medicine and healing practices within the Chinese and Vietnamese communities in Western Sydney. **Creating paradise on earth** featured eight artists who now live between two cultures. Each had employed a different medium to convey their impression of the traditional health practices used by their families.

Based on press release from
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
1 Casula Rd. Casula NSW 2170.
Phone: 02 9824 1121

Sport and health

The **Kenmore Hospital Museum**, near Goulburn, will open for its third season from 8 March 2003, weekends only, until the end of April. Apart from the permanent exhibition of a 19th century psychiatric asylum, the 2003 display will feature **Sport and health in the hospital**. The museum is open from 10 am to 4 pm, with tours of the hospital grounds at 11 am and 2 pm.

Further enquiries from
Leone Morgan
Kenmore Hospital Museum Committee
Phone: 02 4827 3412

Moving along but not moving

King George is dead! Well, closed anyway. No doubt many have seen and heard all the publicity about the changes to the King George V building at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. In my initial enthusiasm at the proposed move of the **RPAH Museum of Nursing** to the heritage-listed King George V building, I was foolish enough to believe what I was told, which was that we would be in our new (old) home within twelve months. Anyone who has had dealings with hospital buildings will know only too well that proposed completion dates are rarely reached on time. So apologies to all our HMM friends. We haven't moved ... yet!

But the Museum is powering on in its old (old) home in the Queen Mary building after a quiet start to 2002, owing in part to the early news of our relocation being fairly widely disseminated (by me). We continue to look forward to setting up in our new location, and we are working hard on planning, sorting and cataloguing for The Move.

People ask what we do now in the Museum. The answer is – lots! The Museum helpers, all volunteers, have been unstinting in their efforts to keep the Museum and its displays interesting and informative (also clean and dust-free, which is not easy with the large Chinese Consulate being constructed next door). We have attended seminars about publicizing museums and about caring for them and their contents, thanks to HMM. We have been asked for details of various nurses for the *Australian Dictionary of biography*. The German publication, *Museums of the world*, requested updated information about us for their new edition. University students carry out research here and undergraduate nurses visit with their tutors. We also receive many requests for genealogical information that are often accompanied by ancient photographs.

We are still selling *The second fifty years*. This history of nursing at RPAH since 1932 is a sequel to *The first fifty years* by Dorothy Armstrong published in 1965. Proceeds will help with the refurbishment of the Museum.

On top of all that, by the time this goes to press we will have mounted a display for a big Health Fair at RPAH in February.

Helen Croll

Hon. Curator, Museum of Nursing, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, NSW



Thousands of people attended a Health Fair at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney on 22 February. The historical display organized by the RPAH Museum of Nursing in the foyer of the main hospital building was particularly successful. An 'iron lung' from the hospital's own stores attracted a great deal of attention.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mock disasters and real births

In 2002 we commenced a project on Documentary Collections Preservation at the **WA Medical History Museum**. We also implemented a Disaster Program (including the purchase of a bin) and planned a mock disaster to test our readiness. The project is funded by a grant from Community Heritage 2001 and we will be seeking a further grant to fulfill all the recommendations for documentary preservation.

When our exhibits were reviewed by a professional curator it was recommended that windows be treated with UV barrier film. We have applied for a grant from local sources to fund this improvement.

At the Annual Leavesley Lecture in July guests enjoyed wine and cheese before the talk by our President, Dr Jim Leavesley, on 'Caesars, birthing stools and forks: a brief history of midwifery'. Dr Leavesley's talk was illustrated with items from the Museum and his stories sparked memories amongst audience members of cold bicycle rides through the English night to home deliveries.

Gladys Clark

Secretary, WA Medical History Museum
King Edward Memorial Hospital
Barker Road, Subiaco WA 6008

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Interaction of enthusiasts

During November 2002 the **History and Heritage Committee of the Royal Adelaide Hospital** invited members of the **Women's and Children's Hospital Archives Committee** to visit them. It was both interesting and informative to see how other medical heritage groups display, label and store their collections. The interaction between the two groups enriches the knowledge and enthusiasm of members from the two hospitals.

Graham Truman

History and Heritage Committee
Royal Adelaide Hospital

VICTORIA

Busy bees at The Alfred

Things are humming along with **The Alfred Archives** and the **Caulfield General Medical Centre Archives Program** (CGMC) in Melbourne. I am now involved in the set-up of a records management program for the entire hospital network (The Alfred, CGMC, and Sandringham Memorial & District Hospital). This project is being run by The 'Bayside Archival Records and Retrieval Steering Committee'. We are looking at the establishment of a scanning solution to

convert medium term retention paper-based records to an electronic format as one of the outcomes.

We will also be streamlining records management procedures to ensure that all of the hospital departments are compliant with the relevant legislation and are incorporating records management practices for electronic records.

The benefit to heritage activities is that the collection will grow in a rational manner rather than the chocolate-box approach to collecting that has happened in the past, and that heritage will become more deeply embedded within the organisational structure of the hospital. The advantage of dovetailing heritage and records management is that it ensures that items of social and evidential value are systematically captured and protected. One of my 'powers,' as archivist, is the authority of compulsory acquisition of any item I deem to be of 'significance'.

Alfred Heritage has released its Vision and Objectives for 2002-2004 and these have been endorsed by The Alfred executive. In addition, the general manager, Ms Lea Pope, has given her assent for us to commence fundraising for heritage activities.

Several events are planned for 2003. The first will be a reunion of ex-patients of one of our surgeons. C.J. Officer-Brown pioneered open-heart surgery in the 1940s and 50s.

We also hope to develop a display to commemorate the life and work of our first president, James Service. Service was a Scottish migrant who developed a successful import business, founded the Emerald Hill Council (the first metropolitan council after Melbourne), helped to establish The Alfred despite intense opposition, was a parliamentarian of the first Victorian parliament and a Premier twice over, and was one of the earliest voices for free trade and a father of federation.

As part of Alfred Heritage's communication program, I am developing a brochure that can be used to introduce heritage to patients, friends and relatives, staff, local community and others.

Ben O'Loughlin

Archivist, Alfred Heritage
The Alfred Hospital
Commercial Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
Phone: 03 9276 2022 Fax: 03 9276 2424
Email: B.O'Loughlin@alfred.org.au

[Anyone wanting to meet Ben in person could try standing in the middle of the road somewhere between Echuca and Port Fairy in the last weekend of March. Ben is taking part in the Murray to Moyne team relay cycling event, which covers 520km in less than 24 hours. It is a fundraiser for medical charities and research and Ben is riding in the Caulfield General Medical Centre team. Ed.]

HMM DOINGS

What has your Special Interest Group been up to?

HMM opinion sought on CSL collection

Late last year, HMM was invited to express its views on the CSL collection. The invitation came from the Heritage Collections Advisory Committee, which advises the Board of Heritage Victoria. Given the concern that HMM has expressed about the CSL collection over the years, it was gratifying that our national committee was consulted on this matter.

Some HMM members are lucky enough to have viewed the remarkable CSL Museum when it existed in the Jennerian Building at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories site at Parkville in Melbourne. After the organisation was privatised to become CSL Ltd, the museum was closed in 1996, and negotiations commenced with Museum Victoria to take the collection.

At that stage, people who had been concerned for years about the future of the CSL Museum began to fear that the company might be planning to demolish the Jennerian Building, and that the collection might be culled in its transfer to the Museum of Victoria.

In response to submissions from interested parties, including HMM, Heritage Victoria (that is, the Heritage Council of Victoria, a statutory body which provides advice to the Victorian Government on the preservation of heritage places and objects) became involved. In 1999 Heritage Victoria placed the Jennerian Building on the Heritage Register of Victoria, but there was no ruling on the collection.

The status of the collection has been in limbo ever since, although Museum Victoria staff have been preparing a list of selected items to be acquired for the Museum's collection.

The Heritage Collections Advisory Committee (HCAC) remained concerned that the collection might be broken up, and in 2002 the Committee contacted HMM to ask its opinion about the collection. HMM prepared a long and detailed submission, arguing that the whole of the collection was significant, and that all of the objects in the collection had a connection to the heritage-listed Jennerian Building during one or more of the phases of its existence.

HMM was able to provide the HCAC with a beautiful set of photographs taken in 1996 of the thoughtful exhibits in the CSL Museum. These photographs helped underline HMM's argument, because it would be easy for people who had never seen the CSL Museum to think that much of the collection now packed away in boxes is simply 'generic laboratory equipment'.

Following its deliberations, the HCAC recommended to the council of Heritage Victoria that the council reassess the significance of the collection, and that it write and ask Museum Victoria to reconsider its approach to the collection.

As *The HaMMer* went to press in March 2003, Nurin Veis, the Senior Curator of Human Biology and Medicine at Museum Victoria, confirmed that the museum had received a letter from Heritage Victoria and was currently in the process of assessing all the objects offered by CSL.

Amanda Bacon, the Heritage Projects Manager of Heritage Victoria reiterated that the CSL collection does not have a status in terms of heritage protection under the Heritage Act (Victoria). Nevertheless, Heritage Victoria is interested in seeing the collection looked after but has not yet commenced any discussions with CSL.

HMM will continue to lobby for the CSL collection, arguing that it should be heritage-listed and retained in its entirety. Watch this space for news of further developments in the saga.

HMM NSW Chapter

An October workshop at the St John Ambulance Archives in Marrickville saw HMM members and friends feverishly composing exhibition labels after a presentation by Kimberley Webber, the Powerhouse Museum's senior curator of Australian history and society. *Developing a display: first aid for the inexperienced* was attended by 20 people.



People attending the HMM workshop at the St John Archives in Marrickville had no trouble identifying the venue with its distinctive mural featuring cool St John officers.

A bonus on the day was a tour of the St John archives led by archivists Betty Stirton and Loredana Napoli, and an illustrated presentation on the history of St John. Betty and

Loredana also provided an array of objects from the St John collection around which workshop participants developed their hypothetical displays.

The end-of-year event for HMM (NSW) is traditionally shared with the NSW Society of the History of Medicine, and in 2002 it was the historians' turn to organize it. A lovely afternoon tea at the Riverwood Community Centre followed an illustrated talk by historian Brian Madden on an almost-forgotten episode in Sydney's history – the immense United States military hospitals at Herne Bay during World War II.



Brian Madden just happened to have copies of his book *Hernia Bay: Sydney's wartime hospitals at Riverwood* on hand at the NSW Society of the History of Medicine event in December. Stefania Siedlecky (right) shows interest, while Lesley Muir (Brian's wife) looks on.

The HMM (NSW) committee has bid farewell, at least temporarily, to Allison Bartlett and Tiina Hendrikson while they pursue other interests. In their stead Faye Maron (Heritage Collection, The Canberra Hospital) and Sharon Ganzer (Central Sydney Area Health Service) have graciously offered to join the committee. An interesting program is being planned for HMM (NSW) members and friends in the coming year.

Megan Hicks

Hon. Secretary, HMM (NSW)

HMM Victorian Chapter

HMM members and friends in Victoria visited the Cunningham Dax Museum of Psychiatric Art in Parkville on the evening of August 28. The recently appointed director, Dr Koh, showed examples from the collection and led discussion on the many medical, ethical and moral questions surrounding the collection.

In September HMM members met with the Victorian Society of the History of Medicine for a talk on 'Indigenous medical practice in Guangxi Province, China', given by Du Liping at the new Myer Asian Centre at the University of Melbourne. Du did not speak from a medical background, but as a sociologist interested in the social meaning and function of medicine.

Anna Fairclough hosted an October visit to the Vision Australia Foundation, where she is the archivist/curator. Anna challenged members to consider the content, labeling

and access needs of the vision impaired when preparing exhibitions.

Currently the HMM (Victoria) committee is busy organizing a range of speakers for a seminar on *Hazardous materials in museum collections* to be held on 2 August 2003 in Melbourne. A preliminary notice for the seminar is on page 18.

Ann Brothers

Chair, HMM (Victoria)

HMM Discussion List

HMM members love to share their knowledge, and now the HMM National Committee is proud to announce there is email discussion group where you can do just that.

The HMM Discussion List (**hmm-discuss**) was started up in February. Already we have exchanged information about St John stretchers, Junior Red Cross, and war injuries archives, to name just some of the topics raised by members.

Are you missing out? Would you like to join the discussion group? It is open to all HMM members and subscribers. As a bonus, organisations that belong to HMM may nominate up to three people as Discussion List representatives. Send me your name and email address (and remind me what HMM member organization you work for, if any) and you will be added pronto!

Megan Hicks
HMM Discussion List coordinator
meganh@phm.gov.au

HMM National Committee

Following the elections at the last Annual General Meeting in February 2002, members of your National Committee are now located over the whole of Australia. The committee is getting used to the idea of holding 'meetings' on email and by (occasional) teleconference.

Nevertheless, HMM members enjoy getting together in person. So, following the success of the HMM event during the Museums Australia Conference in Adelaide last year, the HMM National Committee is planning two more events where members and other interested people can learn and socialize together. Both events, one in Melbourne and the other in Perth, present an opportunity to meet HMM President, Philip Thomson, and secretary, Anna Fairclough. Details are on pages 2 and 18.

READING MATTER

In print and on the Web

PERIODICALS

Design History

The *Journal of Design History* is published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Design History Society. A recently published Special Issue on the topic of Technology and the Body contains several papers of particular interest to custodians of health and medicine collections.

Al-Khalidi, Alia, Emergent technologies in menstrual paraphernalia in mid-nineteenth-century Britain, *Journal of Design History*, 14(4), 2001, pp. 257-274.

Thomas de la Pena, Carolyn, Designing the electric body: sexuality, masculinity and the electric belt in America, 1880-1920, *Journal of Design History*, 14(4), 2001, pp. 275-290.

Guyatt, Mary, Better legs: artificial limbs for British veterans of the First World War, *Journal of Design History*, 14(4), 2001, pp. 307-326.

Berney, Adrienne, Streamlining breasts: the exaltation of form and disguise of function in 1930s' ideals, *Journal of Design History*, 14(4), 2001, pp. 327-342.

Architecture Australia

A special issue of *Architecture Australia* published in July/August 2002 focuses on health buildings. There are articles by eleven authors, including one that will interest many HMM members – *Machines for healing: modernity, the hospital, and Arthur Stephenson* by Julie Willis (pp.46-47).

Other topics include evolving hospital types; new work at St Vincent's, Darlinghurst; Bear Cottage children's hospice; Wilcannia's health facilities; and Queensland's ten-year health infrastructure program.

BOOKS

Sandell, Richard (ed.), *Museums, society and inequality*, Routledge, London, 2002.

This book explores the wide-ranging social roles and responsibilities of the museum. It brings together diverse international perspectives, with its eighteen contributors originating from a number of countries, Australia included.

As the editor points out, debates claiming the museum's social role are not new, but in recent years they have come to the forefront. Fundamental questions are being scrutinized, about the museum's social purpose and responsibility, and its potential to impact on both the indicators and the causes of social inequality.

Some of the papers could be of particular interest to custodians of health and medicine. These include:

The HaMmer

Children's museums in hospitals by Despina Kalessopoulou (pp. 190-202).

Museums and the health of the community by Jocelyn Dodd (pp.182-189).

The therapeutic potential of museums as pathways to inclusion by Lois H. Silverman (69-83).

Buried in the footnotes: the absence of disabled people in the collective imagery of our past by Annie Delin (pp. 84-97).

Remembering ourselves in the work of museums: trauma and the place of the personal in the public by Gaynor Kavanagh (pp.110-124).

Camilleri, Jenny, *Some outstanding women of Broken Hill and district*, 2002.

This self-published book includes the story of Ida Lucy Croft, the first woman pharmacist in Broken Hill. Born in 1878, Ida Croft gained registration 1897 without a university examination because she was the daughter of a pharmacist. She was to go on practicing pharmacy until 1955. Another notable entry in the book is Annie Henrietta Allen, the first woman health inspector in Broken Hill. Trained as a nurse in England she later worked as an Inspector of Nuisances before arriving as a young widow in Australia in 1913. As Health Inspector in Broken Hill she fulfilled her brief of reducing infectious diseases, tackling diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever and Spanish influenza.

The book may be purchased for \$25 (including postage) from:
Jenny Camilleri
75 Pell Street Broken Hill NSW 2880
JJJ@ruralnet.net.au

Nugent, Maria, *Women's employment and professionalism in Australia: histories, themes and places*, Australian Heritage Commission, 2002.

As part of its commitment to ensuring the visibility of women in heritage the Commonwealth Government's Australian Heritage Commission is conducting research into the links between heritage places and the history of women's employment in Australia. Stage one of this research is found in this report, which examines the nature of women's paid work in the 'traditional' fields of nursing, teaching and manufacturing as well as the move into professional fields such as medicine, aviation and architecture.

The report is primarily a contextual history of women's employment and professionalism focusing on place, but it also includes an indicative list of significant heritage places associated with women's employment. It is interesting to note that some of these places are members of HMM.

Copies available from:
Australian Heritage Commission
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 02 6274 2111 Fax: 02 6274 2090
Also available on the Internet:
<http://www.ahc.gov.au>

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**Vellar, Ivo, *The doers: the history of surgery at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, 1890s – 1950s*, Publishing Solutions, Melbourne, 2002.**

This amply illustrated book actually begins with the founding of the Sisters of Charity in Dublin in 1815 and ends with a short history of anaesthesia and a short history of nursing at St Vincent's to the 1950s. But mainly it is concerned with the surgeons, as its title indicates, from George Syme, the foundation inpatient surgeon (photographed with his bicycling friends around 1885), to Harry Furnell, gynaecologist to inpatients 1947-1960.

Copies available for \$35 + \$5 postage from:  
St Vincent's Hospital Foundation  
Locked Bag 41 Fitzroy DC VIC 3065  
Fax: 03 9288 3364

~~~~~

Tyquin, Michael, *Little by little: a centenary history of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, RAAMC, 2003*.

The pre-publication publicity for this book tells us that it is a lavishly illustrated and comprehensive history of the Australian army medical services from the Sudan War to United Nations deployments, detailing individual acts of heroism and collective contributions to the saving of lives on the battlefield, in hospitals and in laboratories.

Available in July 2003. Copies can be ordered from:
RAAMC Centenary Book
HQPSD, Latchford Barracks, MILPO, Bonegilla VIC 3693
(Special pre-publication price \$40. Postage free in Australia; AUD \$20 overseas)

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## **CDs**

Two books by Narelle O'Rourke (née Kaczmarowski) are still in demand by doctors, nurses and historians. They are out of print but have recently been scanned onto CD.

***Patient care in the operating room*** is still used in hospitals and libraries for research, having been the first Australian book on theatre work.

***A country nurse and midwife*** details the life, career and times of Mary O'Rourke Bowers MBE (1889-1973) from the Queanbeyan district of NSW and is a mine of medical and nursing history.

Each CD costs \$30 + \$5 postage, from:  
Narelle O'Rourke  
PO Box 137 Queanbeyan NSW 2620

## **NEW BODIES ON THE WEB**

### ***Dream anatomy***

Drawn mainly from the collections of the National Library of Medicine, this exhibition shows off the anatomical imagination in some of its most astonishing incarnations, from 1500 to the present.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/dreamanatomy/>

### **Anatomical wax models**

A redesigned website showcasing the magnificent models in the Clemente Susini collection at the University of Cagliari, Sardinia.

<http://medicina.unica.it/cere/>

### **The body revealed: Renaissance and Baroque anatomical illustration from William Hunter's Library**

An exhibition held in the Special Collections Department, University of Glasgow, now adapted for the web.

<http://special.lib.gla.ac.uk/anatomy/introduction.html>

### **Smallpox in Rochester: chronicle of an epidemic 1902-1903**

This exhibition is now on the website of the Baker-Cederberg Museum and Archives, Rochester General Hospital, NY USA.

<http://www.viaHealth.org/archives/>

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### **Is your museum listed in the Guide to Australian Museums and Galleries on AMOL?**

Health and medicine museums often suffer from a lack of profile. This is a shame, given all the hard work that goes into establishing and maintaining these museums and the collections in them. Your HMM committee suggests that one easy (and free) way to let the world know your museum exists is to have it listed on AMOL (Australian Museums and Galleries On-Line).

The award-winning AMOL website is accessed by hundreds of people from all over the world every week.

To add your museum to the Guide, see the AMOL website: <http://amol.org.au/guide/index.asp>

Or contact AMOL on:

Email: [amol@amol.org.au](mailto:amol@amol.org.au)

Phone: 02 9217 0563

Mail: National Guide Coordinator,  
AMOL Coordination Unit,

PO Box K3465, Haymarket NSW 1238

## NOTICEBOARD

### Network, network, network

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#### HMM site visit and dinner

**Friday 30 May 2003 – Perth**

HMM members and friends are invited to take part in a visit to the Western Australian Medical Museum followed by a dinner on Friday 30 May.

The event coincides with the Museums Australia conference in Perth. All interested people are welcome, whether or not they are attending the conference.

Venue details and times are to be confirmed.

Please contact Anna Fairclough for further information and/or to express interest in attending.

Tel: (03) 9864 9649

Email: [anna.fairclough@visionaustralia.org.au](mailto:anna.fairclough@visionaustralia.org.au)

#### HMM (Victoria) PRELIMINARY NOTICE



#### **Hazardous materials: is your collection safe?**

A seminar addressing the conservation, health, safety and legal issues involved in managing collections

Particular relevance to medical and scientific collections and museums

Saturday 2 August 2003  
Nurses Memorial Centre, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Enquiries: Sue Barnett, Hon. Secretary,  
HMM Victorian Chapter  
[msbarnet@ozemail.com.au](mailto:msbarnet@ozemail.com.au)

#### **Saluting their service grants**

Many of our HMM museums commemorate the work of nurses and medicos during wartime. Grants of up to \$4,000 are available under the Federal Government's *Saluting their service* program, for projects that preserve our heritage from wars and conflicts and encourage community participation in commemorative events. Museums are amongst organizations that are eligible. More information from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

<http://www.dva.gov.au/commem/sts.htm>

#### **Modernist hospital furniture**

Architect Arthur Stephenson, the designer of a number of health buildings, played an important role in the development of Modernist architecture in Australia. Stephenson hospitals include St Vincent's, Fitzroy (1933), Royal Melbourne Hospital (1942), Yaralla Military Hospital, Concord (1942), Freemason's Hospital, East Melbourne (1936), and King George V Memorial Wing of RPAH, Sydney (1941).

The Powerhouse Museum is currently conducting a research project on Modernity leading to an exhibition in several years' time. Social history curator Ann Stephen is seeking furniture and fittings from Stephenson hospitals dating from the time when they first opened. Ann welcomes suggestions of where the Powerhouse might borrow or acquire such furniture.

Ann Stephen, Powerhouse Museum  
PO Box K346, Haymarket NSW 1238  
Phone: 02 9217 0535 Fax: 02 9217 0355  
Email: [ann@phm.gov.au](mailto:ann@phm.gov.au)

#### **Cataloguing the catalogues**

Susan Barnett, a committee member of the HMM (Victoria) Chapter, is compiling a national listing of existing medical catalogues and where they are held.

Old catalogues can be an invaluable aid in identifying and documenting objects in health and medicine collections. Susan's list will help HMM members find where there are catalogues they can refer to.

Susan wishes to thank the people who have helped with the compilation of the list so far. If your collection, archive or library contains any medical, dental or other health-related catalogues, please let Susan know. You can contact her at:

Mail: 55 Guildford Road Surrey Hills VIC 3127  
Phone: 03 9836 0245 Fax: 03 9836 5346  
Email: [msbarnet@ozemail.com.au](mailto:msbarnet@ozemail.com.au)



TAX INVOICE

ABN 83 048 139 955

## APPLICATION TO JOIN OR RENEW WITH HMM

- ***Full membership of HMM is open to all members of Museums Australia Inc. including both individual and institutional members.***
- ***Other interested individuals or organisations are welcome to become non-voting subscribers to HMM.***
- ***The annual fee for both members and subscribers is \$16.50.***

Today's date .....

Name of person or institution that is joining/renewing with HMM.....

.....

Is this person or institution joining HMM as  a member or  a subscriber ?(please tick)

To join HMM as a member, please quote Museums Australia Membership No. ....

Contact person's name (if an institution is joining).....

Postal address.....

.....

Phone ( ).....Email .....

Would you like your email address to be added to the HMM Discussion List?  Yes  No (please tick)

*Enclose a money order or cheque made out to Health and Medicine Museums in Australian dollars.*

Australia \$A 16.50 (includes GST and postage)

Asia/ Pacific \$A 20.00 (includes postage)

Rest of world \$A 25.00 (includes postage)

*Send this form plus payment to:*

Hon. Treasurer, Health and Medicine Museums

PO Box A2339

Sydney South

NSW Australia 1235

*For other enquiries contact Honorary secretary, Anna Fairclough, at the above address, or:*

Phone (03) 9864 9649 Fax (03) 9864 9650 Email [Anna.Fairclough@visionaustralia.org.au](mailto:Anna.Fairclough@visionaustralia.org.au)

Website <http://amol.org.au/hmm>

Please photocopy extra copies of this form as required

***This information may be published in a directory of health and medicine collections unless you indicate otherwise***

## ABOUT HMM

### Purpose

Health and Medicine Museums is a Special Interest Group of Museums Australia Inc. It provides a network of contacts, a forum for ideas, practical advice and training, and mutual support for people interested in preserving the artefacts of health and medicine in Australia and New Zealand.

### How to join

Membership of HMM is open to all members of Museums Australia Inc. Other individuals and institutions are welcome to become subscribers to HMM. The annual fee for both members and subscribers is \$16.50. A joining form is included on page 19 of this newsletter.

### Website

Visit HMM at <http://amol.org.au/hmm>

### Newsletter

Two issues of *The HaMMer* are mailed to members and subscribers each year. All photographs in the current issue were taken by the editor, Megan Hicks, unless otherwise attributed. The editor welcomes articles on subjects that may be of interest to our readers, as well as notices of events and publications.

Deadline for the next issue of *The HaMMer* is 31 May 2003.

### Contacting HMM

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## DIARY DATES

### 23-27 April 2003

#### *Exploring the boundaries of medicine*

8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine  
University of Melbourne  
Further information from Bronwen Hewitt, Conference Management, University of Melbourne.  
Phone: +61 3 8344 6389  
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### Friday 25 April 2003

#### **HMM Annual General Meeting and Dinner**

7.00 pm  
Trotters Restaurant, Carlton, Victoria.  
This event coincides with the Australian Society of the History of Medicine Conference in Melbourne.  
*More details on p. 2.*

### Saturday 17 May 2003

#### *Two minute tales*

HMM (NSW) show-and-tell session.  
Details to be announced.

### 25-30 May 2003

#### *The other side*

Museums Australia Annual Conference  
Novotel Langley, Perth, Western Australia.

### Friday 30 May 2003

#### *HMM site visit and dinner*

Tour of the Western Australian Medical Museum in Subiaco followed by dinner.  
This event coincides with the Museums Australia Conference in Perth.  
*More information on p. 18.*

### Saturday 26 July 2003

#### **Workshop**

HMM (NSW) professional development opportunity.  
Details to be announced.

### Saturday 2 August 2003

#### *Hazardous materials: is your collection safe?*

HMM (Victoria) seminar addressing conservation, safety and legal issues.  
Nurses Memorial Centre, St Kilda Road, Melbourne.  
*Further information on p. 18.*

### Saturday 20 September

#### *The health heritage of the Blue Mountains*

HMM (NSW) one-day sightseeing bus trip.  
Details to be announced.

### Saturday 6 December

#### **End-of-year festive event**

for members and friends of HMM (NSW) and the NSW Society of the History of Medicine.  
Details to be announced

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Many thanks to all the contributors to this special 'iron lung' issue of *The HaMMer*. You wrote news items without needing to be asked, you responded to specific requests for articles, and you were patient when asked for photos that you had already sent. It is a shame our production methods cannot do justice to your wonderful photographs.

Please keep those articles, notices, and photographs coming.

**Deadline for the next issue is 31 May 2003**

