

The President's page

It is an honour to be elected President of the ANZSHM, and I believe we have assembled an excellent Council to take the Society forward – thanks to everyone who put their hand up to contribute in this way. I wish to thank Maggi Boulton for all her work as secretary over the past four and a half years, and welcome Chi Chi Huang as our new secretary. I am also appreciative that John Sinclair has agreed to carry on as Treasurer.

We had a fantastic conference this year in the beautiful (and, as locals reminded us, non-convict) city of Adelaide. I wish to thank Ian Roberts-Thomson and his team for making this the success it was, and all who participated. I certainly came home energized and inspired by the vast range of research taking place and represented within the membership of our Society.

I wish to take a moment to reflect on one session which I myself did not attend (as is usual with such conferences, so many choices on offer) but which I learnt about from our UK keynote speaker Gayle Davis. The session was called “Better Together” with the panel of speakers, I understand, including those with medical degrees and history degrees or both. From the audience, suggestions were made that the panel should have included others engaged in medical history, such as museum curators who have neither PhDs nor MDs but have much to offer. Other health professionals also considered the focus on medical and academic historians too narrow, excluding nursing and the allied sciences for instance. While I understand some felt aggrieved by the exclusions, I also think it shows the strength of our Society in that it brings together such diversity. As we move forward, and think about our next conference, this is a conversation which we need to continue and embrace. I wish to thank and



congratulate the conference organisers for starting that conversation. Of course our Society is not alone in grappling with that inter-disciplinarity; both Gayle and I were invited participants in a similar panel hosted by the British Society of the History of Medicine in Edinburgh in 2017,

and again at a follow-up in the joint conference of the British Society and the Society of the Social History of Medicine in Liverpool in 2018. This is an ongoing and international conversation within our discipline, and such variety can only add depth to our studies and understandings.

At the Adelaide conference I also had the pleasure of announcing the inaugural biennial ANZSHM book award. Having suggested at a Council meeting in 2022 that this would be a great way of celebrating our members' achievements, I soon found myself chairing the judges' panel. Eligible books for the first award were those published in 2021 and 2022. I am delighted to announce the winner this round was Charmaine Robson, for her book, *Missionary Women, Leprosy and Indigenous Australians, 1936-1986*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022. Citations for finalists are included later in this newsletter. Here I wish to give a big congratulations to Charmaine on her achievement.

Linda Bryder
l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz

The Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, the Torres Strait, and Aotearoa New Zealand and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

All About Ourselves

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests.

Stewart Parkinson MB BS (QLD)

I am a semi-retired medical practitioner, gradually progressing towards full retirement. With more time on my hands earlier in 2023, I was asked to volunteer at the local Ipswich Hospital Museum which has allowed me to share my interest in medical history and to some extent military history. Well before I graduated in 1976, I read quite extensively on these two areas. While studying at university and after graduation I had less time to devote to such extracurricular interests due to being employed in various positions – Medical Superintendent in rural practice, as a Senior Medical Officer in orthopaedics and ultimately as a Medical Surgical Assistant in private practice. With more time on my hands, I have been able to rekindle these interests.

Nearly 15 years of employment at Ipswich Hospital gave me great insight into the history and workings of the hospital as well as contacts with hospital and visiting staff and this has been of significant benefit to my association with the Hospital Museum as have my medical contacts around the district.

Since joining with the other volunteers at the museum I have been “assigned” some interesting tasks, the first of which involved deciphering and transcribing some handwritten doctor’s notes from 1881 that had recently been discovered by the museum volunteers. One of the notes involved the treatment of a young man following a fracture of his femur. This immediately alerted my Orthopaedic brain and led to me writing a short notation “Black Ingratitude” describing the management and unfortunate outcome of his treatment at the time. I was grateful to have this published in the Society’s *Medical History Newsletter* earlier this year.

As ANZAC Day approached this year, I was asked to design a display for the Ipswich Hospital Anzac Day commemorative service. Researching those doctors and nurses associated with the Ipswich Hospital who served during World War 1 provided details for the display “Ipswich Hospital Doctors and Nurses Who Served During the Great War”. I was also invited to present “Ipswich’s Great War Doctors” at a meeting of the West Moreton Health Staff. I intend to submit a manuscript on this topic for possible publication.

My enthusiasm possibly has seen me being delegated other administrative tasks. I have been nominated to represent the Museum at the local Ipswich Heritage Network Group as well as becoming involved in the maintenance of the Museum’s new website. Various photographic and videographic tasks also seem to come

my way.

When not involved in museum tasks I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my grandson, fishing, photography (macrophotography in particular), and cooking. As well as membership of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine I am also a member of the Australian Senior Active Doctors Association.

It seems that my retirement will have plenty to occupy my time.



Editor’s note: In the May issue we were delighted to include an article titled “...black ingratitude”. We inadvertently omitted the name of the contributor who was Dr Stewart Parkinson. We apologise to Stewart for this oversight.

ANZSHM Council members 2023

Members of the Executive

President: Linda Bryder
Vice-President: Neville Yeomans
Secretary: Chi Chi Huang
Treasurer: John Sinclair

Members of Council

Kate Irving
Charmaine Robson
Maggi Boulton
Cate Storey
Madonna Grehan
Samantha Kohl Grey
Ian Roberts-Thomson

Appointed Members of Council

Kathryn Weston | Newsletter
Paul Sendziuk | Webmaster
Hans Pols | *Health & History* Journal
To be determined | 2025 Conference convenor
Shayne Brown | NSW president
Meredith Temple-Smith | VIC, *vice* Neville Yeomans

New members

Australian Capital Territory

Ashley Watson

New South Wales

Benjamin Higginbotham

New Zealand

Wendy Maddocks

Queensland

Sandra Dash

Victoria

Brittany Moller

Louise Falconer

Laurence Harewood

Jenny Alexander

Apology: We misspelt the name of a new member in our last issue. We welcome **Brian Stagoll** from Victoria.

A very warm welcome to all our new members!

In this issue....

Page	Item
1	The President's page
2	All About Ourselves ANZSHM Council members 2023
3	New members Congratulations NSW branch news
4	Medical History news New Zealand Medical History Society of Victoria news Mystery object
5	Journal watch and members' publications South Australian Medical Heritage news Simmelweis at Harold Pinter theatre
6	Fumigating mail
7	Sushrutha: RACS collection
8	Conference report and survey snapshot
9	Book award
10-13	Images from the 2023 ANZSHM conference
14	ANZSHM NSW Book club Book launch; ISHM news
15	Book notes
16-17	Ipswich doctors who served in the Great War
18	Artefactual news
19	Ex libris Animalia; Mystery object revealed

Congratulations

ANZSHM member **Warwick Anderson** has been awarded the 2023 John Desmond Bernal Prize by the Society for Social Studies of Science. The Prize is awarded annually to an individual who has made distinguished contributions to the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS), a field closely related to the history of medicine.



Past winners have included founders of STS, along with outstanding scholars who have devoted their careers to the understanding of the social dimensions of science and technology, including Emily Martin, Sheila Jasanoff, Steven Shapin, Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, Mary Douglas, Joseph Needham, Robert Merton, and Thomas Kuhn.

Prize citation:

Warwick Anderson is the Janet Dora Hine Professor of Politics, Governance and Ethics in the Department of Anthropology and leader of the Politics, Governance and Ethics Theme in the Charles Perkins Centre, a biomedical research institute, at the University of Sydney. Additionally, he is an honorary professor in the Centre for Health Equity (which he founded) in the School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Beginning in the 1990s, Warwick Anderson has published path-breaking research on recent histories of science, medicine, environment, immunity, whiteness and modernity. He has been a major contributor to postcolonial STS through detailed studies of race, colonialism and citizenship, and in a series of profoundly influential programmatic works. Among his five award-winning monographs is *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen*, which was honored with the Fleck Prize in 2010. He has led multiple STS programs, mentored scores of now-prominent scholars and convened multiple workshops that have shaped STS, and also modeled interdisciplinary scholarship with scientists in diverse fields. His works have challenged eurocentrism in STS, pushing the field to engage with global histories of science and medicine with a focus on Australasia, the Pacific, Southeast Asia and East Asia. In the time of COVID-19 and in the midst of massive degradation of the Earth's life-support systems, he is also recognized as a notably insightful and critical public intellectual.

NSW Branch news

There was a good representation of NSW members at the recent **ANZSHM Conference** in Adelaide. We would like to congratulate the organisers. It was wonderfully run, and the lectures were a fascinating mixture with something of interest for everyone who attended. Congratulations to Dr Charmaine Robson winner of the inaugural ANZSHM Book Prize for her recent publication, *Missionary Women, Leprosy and Indigenous Australians 1936-1986* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2022).

The NSW **Executive Committee** held a productive meeting on 11 July at the offices of the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO). The Committee agreed on a draft events calendar for 2024 which will include - on a rotational basis - book clubs, lectures and historical walks. We will

also be holding the 2024 Ben Haneman Lecture. Dates for these events will be finalised within the next couple of months.

We held a **Zoom lecture** on 10 August where Meagan Dickerson gave a fascinating talk, 'An Overview of Approaches to the Art of Dying, Grief and Loss and Implications for modern-day mental healthcare'. It was well attended and created interesting, and - excuse the pun- a soul-searching discussion. My thanks to Assoc Prof Alison Moore who stood in as Chairman in my absence.

Our next **Book Club** will be held on Thursday 7 September at the Roseville Club, Roseville 28 where we discuss Siddhartha Mukherjee's 'The Song of the Cell: An exploration of medicine and the new Human'.

Shayne Brown AM,
President

Medical History news New Zealand

The Auckland Medical History Society had three fascinating talks in July. Retired orthopaedic surgeon, John Cullen, addressed the history of walking sticks. Two third-year medical students gave presentations, Megan Kuan on the 'History of the Anti-Vaccination Movement', and Claudia Hall on the 'History of Lobotomy'. The series continues with talks on 7 September and 2 November.

The Wellington Medical History Society's most recent monthly meeting heard an address by David Hamilton on the History of the Oncology Department at Wellington Hospital. In July, the History of Medicine and Science Lecture series sponsored by The Otago Medical School Alumni Association hosted a lecture by retired anaesthetist, Dr Mathew Zacharias, on 'the Influence of the Great War on the practice of Anaesthesia'.

On 24 September, Professor Emerita Barbara Brookes will give an address at the Otago Museum for Mental Health week entitled 'Caring for the Mentally Ill: Insights from History'.

Barbara Brookes

Medical History Society of Victoria news

Having moved beyond the Covid-19 era, the Medical History Society of Victoria has returned to full activity and held three successful meetings so far this year. Each meeting has been followed by a subscription dinner attended by between 40 and 50 members and guests.

On 17th May, Assoc. Prof. Catherine Kovesi, spoke on the subject "Unicorns, Rhinoceroses, and the Search for the Most Sovereign of Remedies in the Early Modern

World". She uncovered the stories behind the mythical unicorn, and the continuing problem of the "medicinal" use of animal horn.

On 16th August, the Society was addressed by Dr. Julia Bowes on the subject of American anti-vaccination activism in the period 1890 to 1918. It was surprising how similar the movement was, to the activism one hundred years later.

The Society is planning a return of the biennial week-end Country Meetings next year, in Bendigo, in early September.

Rod Westhorpe, Hon. Secretary

Mystery object

Can anyone identify this mystery object?

To find out more, go to page 19



Journal watch and members' publications

Bruce Short. *Fever: The Mysterious Scourge of the 18th Century*. Bellingen, NSW: North Bank Institute, 2023. ISBN 9780645773101.

Toby Raeburn, *The Remarkable Mr and Mrs Johnson: Founders of Modern Australia's First Church, Schools and Charity and Friends of Aboriginal People 1788-1800*. North Melbourne, Victoria: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2023. ISBN 9781922952790. While not wholly a medical history, the book includes chapters

relevant to Aboriginal healthcare and mental health in the colony.

Meagan G.A. Dickerson, Darren Conlon and **Toby Raeburn**, 'Ars Moriendi: An Overview of Approaches to the Art of Dying, Grief and Loss for Nurses Working in Mental Health'. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 44:1, 2023, 27-34.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01612840.2022.2128>.

Australian College of Nursing and **Lesley Potter** (ed.) *No Longer Silent: Voices of 21st Century Nurses*. Gold Coast, QLD : Ocean Reeve Publishing, 2023.

Please send details of your recent publications to anzshm@anzshm.org.au

South Australian Medical Heritage Society news

Members and guests of the South Australian Medical Heritage Society (SAMHS) have continued to enjoy many stimulating medical history talks this year. In May, Colonel Bruce Perks, described his experiences in Australia with the SAS and overseas as a Regimental Medical Officer with 9RAR in Vietnam during his talk 'RMO@War: Medical Aspects'. The audience learned that soldiers in Vietnam saw an extraordinarily high rate of action per year compared to, for example, the very low rate in the Pacific in WWII, helping to explain the high incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among Vietnam veterans. In June Professor Robert Penhall described 'The development of geriatric services in South Australia'. Services were based, in part, on pioneering work by Dr Marjorie Warren in the 1930s who evaluated, mobilised and rehabilitated bedbound and neglected elderly patients in a London infirmary. Her results demonstrated that most patients were able to leave their beds and others discharged. Efforts to improve geriatric care in South Australia were realised

by Dr Michael Burr following a visit to the UK in 1972. At the July SAMHS meeting, Professor Helen Marshall AM, the 2022 South Australian of the year, discussed 'Vaccinology in South Australia'. Professor Marshall AM focussed on the development of a vaccine for invasive meningococcal B disease. In addition, she described a complex major study which showed the vaccine has no impact on carriage of invasive bacteria. She credited success to partnerships and a collaborative spirit in SA. The August talk, given by Penny Paton AM, featured 'The curious J. B. Cleland: Medico and Polymath', a scientist who worked in the fields of parasitology, microbiology, forensic pathology, anthropology, botany and ornithology. Thanks as ever to all our wonderful speakers.

The next talk, on 28 September, will be given by Dr Philip Allen, about the life and career of Archibald Watson and titled 'From Biblical Scholar to Blackbirder: Adelaide's First Pathologist'. The meeting starts at 6:00 pm in the Royal Society Rooms near North Terrace, Adelaide. New members and guests are welcome. Enquiries should be directed to the Secretary Joy Copland (jgcopl@bigpond.net.au).

Maggi Boulton

Theatre anyone?

Visiting London?

Interested in a live performance celebrating antiseptic medicine? A play in London's West End tells the story of one of the pioneers of infection control, Dr Ignaz Semmelweis. This Hungarian-born doctor discovered the cause of puerperal fever and introduced antiseptics into obstetric practice. The play is at the Harold Pinter Theatre until 7th October 2023.



Fumigating mail

One of our members, John Pearn, responded to a question from a member of the public who was trying to locate a paper presented at the 1995 ANZSHM conference on Norfolk Island. The topic of the paper was the fumigation of mail.

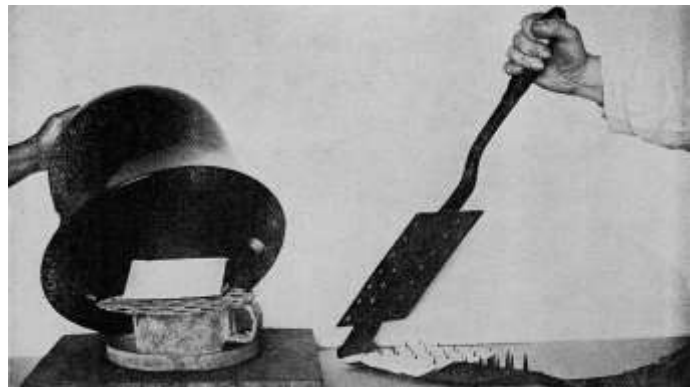
Professor Pearn noted that the paper given at Norfolk Island was by Denis Vandervelde. As a young boy, Vandervelde did not collect stamps, due in part to being colour-blind and lacking sufficient funds. Rather he developed an interest in the bureaucracy that managed the movement of mail around the world. His collection includes a treasury of disinfected mail: letters that were punctured, perfumed, or otherwise purified to prevent the transmission of disease. Together with an international group of hobbyists and collectors Vandervelde formed the Disinfected Mail Study Circle. John Pearn, an enthusiastic philatelist, was a member of this society which had some 90 members worldwide. The official journal of the society was *Pratique*, after the name of the certificate given to all international ships arriving in a foreign port once the medical or health officer has given health clearance for the ship to berth and the sailors and passengers to go ashore.

Fumigated mail has a long history — particularly from the mail that was smuggled out of besieged cities from mediaeval times. Pearn suggests that colleagues will know that the adjective for “being besieged” is “obsidional”. The collection of obsidional philatelic items is of special interest to Pearn, and other specialist philatelists.

Plagues and other epidemics often occurred within such besieged towns and cities and mail had to be smuggled out through the lines of the besiegers. For hundreds of years, slits were cut into envelopes which were waived over burning sulphur in the belief that this killed the miasma or infectious agents which were thought to be the source of the contamination, and hence would spread the plague. The technical term for such agents are “fomites”, with the singular noun, “fomite”.

Fumigated mail has a significant history here in Australia. During the smallpox epidemics in Launceston, Tasmania, for example, mail was fumigated before being released for onward passage to addressees elsewhere. Specific postal

cancellations and cachets were affixed to such fumigated mail. These are significant and desirable collectors’ pieces for philatelists (and command a premium at auction!). There is a surviving fumigation barrel, for fumigated mail, on display at the Museum on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria.



‘Rastels’ (top image) or wooden paddles with nail-studded leather (middle image) were used to puncture mail prior to fumigation (Wellcome collection; National Postal Museum, Washington DC). Bottom image shows an 1878 letter with two rows of fumigation puncture holes (American Philatelic Society).

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/07/disinfected-mail-history-quarantine/619475/>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/mail-handlers-used-poke-holes-envelopes-battle-germs-and-viruses-180975020/>

<https://stamps.org/news/c/collecting-insights/cat/postal-history/post/american-fumigation>

SUSHRUTHA

A unique donation to the RACS collection

An ancient physician from India has formed an important connection with Melbourne. Sushrutma, the most revered physician and surgeon of ancient India, is enshrined in the-east wing of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Melbourne and has many visitors from the Indian community.

The statue of Sushruta is made of marble with a granite base, is 1.2 m high and weighs a massive 550Kg. It was donated by Dr.K.M Cherian FRACS in 2017, a leading cardiothoracic surgeon who was responsible for India's first coronary artery bypass surgery in 1975 and its first heart lung transplant. Dr. Cherian is based in Chennai, where he served as honorary surgeon to the Indian president (1990-1993). In 2010, he became the first Indian President of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

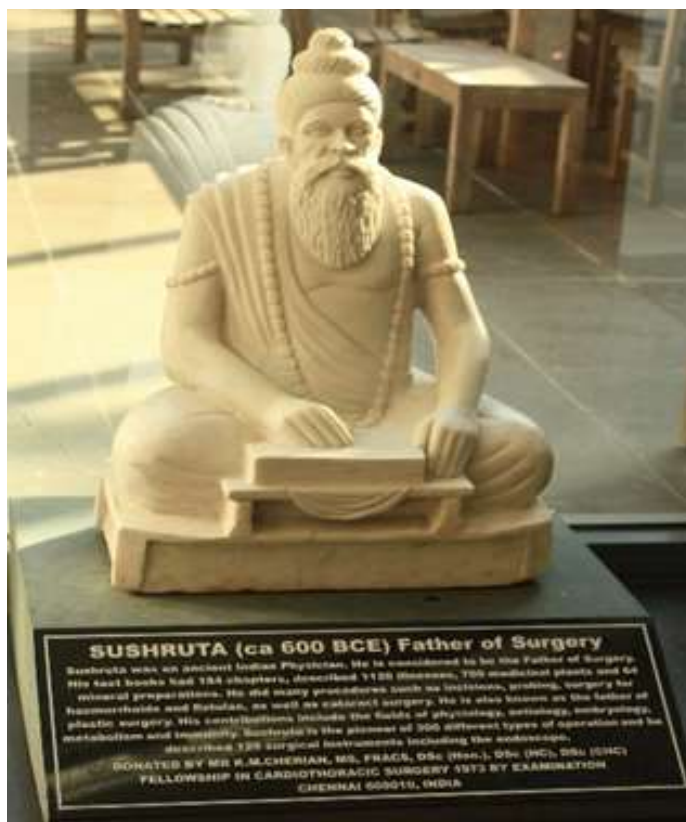


Image: Sushruta at the Royal Australasian College of the Surgeons, Melbourne

Sushruta known in India as the Father of Surgery, lived, and practiced medicine from 600 BC to 1000 BC. He was a disciple of *Davidos*, who was a descendant of *Dhanvantari*, the Lord Deity of Ayurveda, the ancient Indian healing science.

He is known for his encyclopedia of medical knowledge,

known as the *Susruta Samhita* (*The Compendium of Sushruta*). Composed in Sanskrit, the *Sushruta Samhita* is considered one of the oldest works of medical science in the world. The It has 184 chapters, featuring 1120 medical conditions, 300 surgical procedures, 125 surgical tools, and an inventory of 700 medicinal plants - a testament to its enduring legacy as one of the oldest works of medical science in the world.

Sushruta described surgery under eight headings: Chedya (excision), Lekhya (scarification), Vedhya (puncturing), Esha (exploration), Ahrya (extraction), Vsraya (evacuation), and Sivya (suturing).

A great deal of emphasis was placed on the importance of understanding anatomy. He was one of the first to engage in a systematic study on cadavers. Sushruta advised anyone interested in becoming a surgeon to study anatomy by observing the various structures in the body.

Following investigation of injuries during war, Sushruta developed a classification scheme for joint fractures and dislocations. However, his most enduring achievements were in the field of plastic surgery where he developed techniques such as pedicle flap for covering loss of skin and gave a detailed account of nasal repair (rhinoplasty).

Sushruta's book was widely acknowledged in ancient India as a definitive medical text. It was not known in the Western world until the eighth century when it was translated into Arabic and then into several European languages.

The College's Cowlshaw rare book collection includes a copy of the English translation of the works *Sushruta Samhita* by Kaviraj Kunjalal Bhishagratna, who published it in three volumes between 1907 and 1916 (reprinted 1963, 2006).

Meera Shaju, Deakin University Museum Studies student and

Helen Laffin, Acting Curator, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

References

Singh V. Sushruta: The father of surgery. *Natl J Maxillofac Surg*. 2017 Jan-Jun;8(1):1-3.. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5512402/>

Puthumana PP. Through the mists of time: Sushruta, an enigma revisited. *Indian J Plast Surg*. 2009 Jul;42(2):219-23.. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2845368/>

Bhattacharya, S. Sushruta—the Very First Anatomist of the World. *Indian J Surg* 84, 901–904 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12262-022-03578-y>

An English translation of the *Sushruta samhita*, based on Sanskrit text, edited and published by KAVIRAJ KUNJAL BHISHAGRATNA <https://www.rarebooksocietyofindia.org/>

Conference report

ANZSHM CONFERENCE, Adelaide, July 2023

The 18th biennial conference of ANZSHM was held in Adelaide in mid-July. The location was the Health and Medical Sciences Building of the University of Adelaide, close to the centre of the city with ready access to hotels, entertainment, and cultural facilities. Invited speakers addressed the themes of the history of reproductive and mental health, the history of nursing and the challenge of health care for indigenous Australians. Our international visitor was Professor Gayle Davis from the University of Edinburgh who focussed on the Abortion Act of 1967 [UK] and subsequent attempts to repeal or amend the Act by conservative or religious activists. Thus far, these attempts have been largely unsuccessful. In a related symposium, Gayle Davis, Barbara Baird and Linda Bryder addressed the history of abortion in the UK and Australia and the enhanced role of midwifery nurses in obstetrics in New Zealand. In other invited lectures, Hans Pols outlined the history and challenges of

Community [outpatient] Mental Health in Australia while Charmaine Robson highlighted the role of nurses in the care of indigenous patients with leprosy in the Northern Territory. The symposium, “First Nations-Making History” included Professor Steve Larkin, Dr Dylan Coleman and Mr Kym Thomas and addressed the history of “closing the gap”, the recruitment and mentoring of Indigenous medical students and cultural issues surrounding medical care for indigenous Australians.

An email survey of satisfaction with various aspects of the conference was completed by 46 registrants [51%]. All aspects of the conference were rated as “excellent” or “good” by most participants with 47% indicating that the conference “exceeded my expectations” and another 47% indicating the conference “met my expectations”. One downside was a lower-than-expected number of registrants. This appears to have affected a number of post-COVID conferences, perhaps because of the lingering presence of COVID or changes in the way we communicate and learn. Issues for Council include the frequency [currently biennial] and timing of the conference [currently mid-winter] and its relationship to other conferences that may overlap with medical history.

Ian Roberts-Thomson and Maggi Boulton

Conference survey snapshot

Delegates were invited to complete an evaluation survey. Responses came from 46 delegates.

Most of the speakers were inspirational and still have much to contribute to society. Their wisdom and research topics were mostly relevant to contemporary society. Transformative learning was evident encouraging critical reflection and critical review of our past and contemporary beliefs and understandings.

The top three responses for the most valuable aspect of the conference: Networking (44%); Presentations (27%); Plenary and Panel sessions (20%). [Barista and catering =13%]

Venue was superb, both in its central location and the standard of facilities. The range of attendees-academic historians, doctors, nurses and midwives, museum and archives sector-was pleasingly diverse. It helped create more interesting discussion, with a greater range of viewpoints and expertise to feed in.

Quality and diversity of presentations; collegial atmosphere; great food (healthy, plentiful and the barista).

Suggestions for improvement included making water available for speakers, providing a book stall where people could buy delegate’s books, circulating a delegate list, having better spaces for conversations, and reducing costs by allowing people to self-cater. One respondent described the conference as expensive.

There were also some comments about the panel, *Better Together*, which ran concurrently with three other sessions. However, this reflected a deeper problem resulting from the number of people who had to leave the conference early, in part due to higher airfares later in the week.

Thank you to all contributors.



Book award

The 2023 inaugural Australia and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Book Prize winner was announced at the Society's biennial conference in Adelaide in July 2023.

The judges for 2023 ANZSHM Book Prize (covering the period 2021 and 2022) were Linda Bryder (chair), Cate Storey and Anne Westmore. In announcing the finalists and prizewinner, Linda thanked all those who submitted their books or were nominated for consideration for this inaugural book award. The sub-committee was tasked with drawing up a short list of 3 finalists and determining the winner. Linda explained that this was no easy task. "Each one that we received is a gem and being given the opportunity to read them was a privilege. All form a significant tribute to the history of medicine and the discipline which this Society represents. We thank them all and celebrate their success in publishing their work. But judges of course have to make a decision. We unanimously chose three books which we believed stood out in terms of the specified criteria of academic merit, accessibility to a wider audience, and contribution to the field."

Linda read the following citations for each of the three finalists in alphabetical order:

Shayne Brown, *Hindsight: The History of Orthoptics in Australia 1931-1960*, published by Orthoptics Australia Ltd, 2022:

In her book, Shayne Brown sets out the development of orthoptic education, clinical practice and its professional association from 1931 to 1960, and provides biographies of 121 Australian orthoptists from that period. I learnt a lot from this book; like my fellow judges I admitted total ignorance of the profession of orthoptics before reading the book, and was particularly interested in learning about its development as a female profession and its links to ophthalmology rather than optometry. Also noteworthy was its work for the air force during the Second World War, which considerably heightened its status. The book's blurb rightly points out that this is the first Australian orthoptic history and provides an authoritative account of the development of this all-female profession which, despite lack of support from some who did not value orthoptic therapy, succeeded in establishing Australian orthoptics practice and education as world-class. *Hindsight* is such a great title, by the way.

Brian Draper, *Dementia and Old Age Mental Health: A History of Services in Australia*, Australian Scholarly Publishing Ltd, 2022:

Brian Draper's book is a monumental study which contributes not only to the history of old age mental

healthcare and to the more recent rise of geriatric medicine (a seriously under-researched topic), but also the history of psychiatry, mental health and its institutions more broadly, social welfare and the family and the history of aged care. It has a local focus, considering each individual Australian colony and state in turn which will be of great interest to local historians, and yet it constantly casts the net more expansively as well, assessing international influences, particularly British, and the interconnectedness of medical developments. Brian uses primary sources, such as medical casebooks, to reveal the stories of past elderly inmates of institutions and the challenges they faced in the institutions and beyond. He addresses the separate and distinctive stories of Aboriginal peoples. In bringing these stories alive he sensitively and expertly interprets them through the lens of modern psychiatric knowledge.

Charmaine Robson, *Missionary Women, Leprosy and Indigenous Australians, 1936-1986*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022:

Charmaine's book brings together leprosy and Catholic missions, to explain the structures set up for Indigenous sufferers in four leprosaria in northern Australia between the 1930s and 1986 which were home to almost two thousand patients over that time. The study draws on archival sources including interviews to bring out perspectives of patients, nurses, doctors, bureaucrats, missionaries, along with Indigenous families and communities. Charmaine rightly points out that this female-centered missionary initiative has been overlooked in history, as has the history of leprosy in the Aboriginal population more broadly. While she explores Europeans' racial understandings of Indigenous people as a motivation for isolation and control, she also considers the Christian missions' understandings of leprosy sufferers in biblical terms. Her focus above all is on the Catholic sister nurses, giving them voice, albeit not in a hagiographic way, along with the patients they served. One of the strong points is that she does not treat Indigenous people as victims, but shows their agency and resilience in their formation of communities and relationships. The book forms a significant contribution to the history of health and medicine and to Australia's colonial history.

The 2023 book prize was awarded to Charmaine Robson.



Charmaine Robson and Linda Bryder at presentation of the book award to Charmaine.

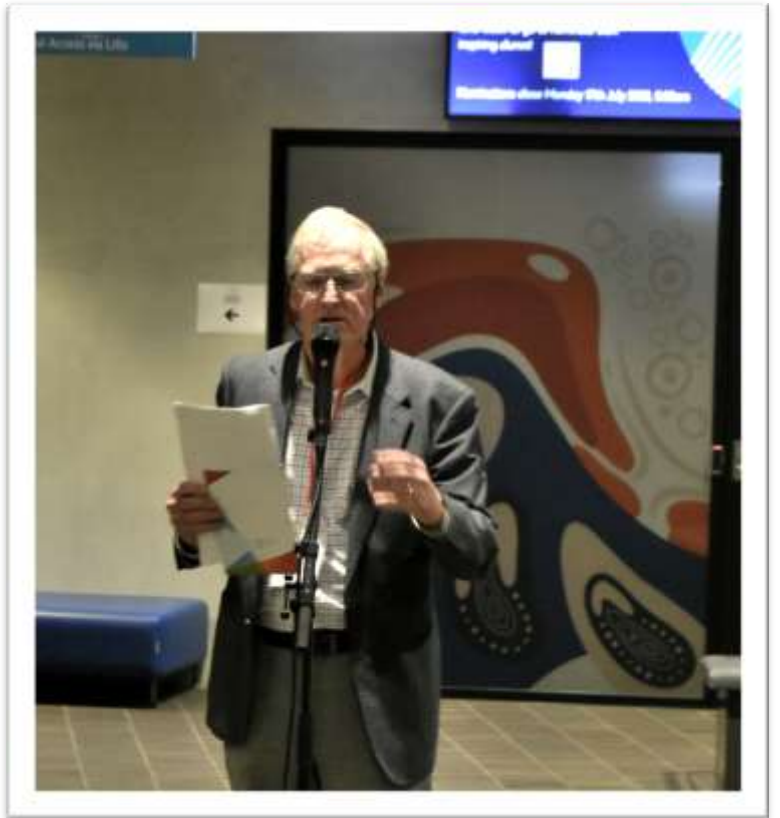
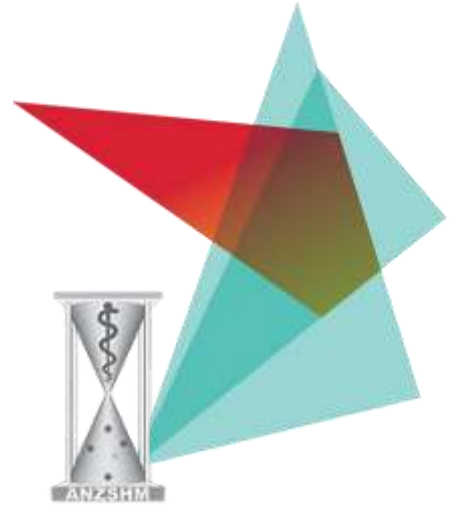


ANZSHM conference
2023
Images courtesy John Pearn



The 18th Biennial Conference
of the ANZSHM
**Second
Opinions**







The 18th Biennial Conference
of the ANZSHM
**Second
Opinions**





“The History of Medicine
is important”

Dr Ben Haneman



ANZSHM
conference
2023

*Images courtesy
John Pearn*

ANZSHM NSW Book Club

From the ANZSHM NSW Executive

Given the success of our first book club, we hope you can join us for our second iteration.

We will be reading **Siddhartha Mukherjee's 'The Song of the Cell: An exploration of medicine and the new Human'**. Mukherjee is a really engaging writer, who fuses his experience as an oncologist with writing histories of medicine.

From the author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, comes his most spectacular book yet, about the fundamental unit of life. Rich with Mukherjee's revelatory and exhilarating stories of scientists, doctors, and the patients whose lives may be saved by their work, *The Song of the Cell* is the third book in this extraordinary writer's exploration of what it means to be human.

This book is the story of the cell - past, present and future. Filled with writing so vivid, lucid, and suspenseful that complex science becomes thrilling, *The Song of the Cell* tells the story of how scientists discovered cells, began to understand them, and are now using that knowledge to create new humans. Told in six parts, and laced with Mukherjee's own experience as a researcher, a doctor, and a prolific reader, *The Song of the Cell* is both panoramic and intimate—a masterpiece on what it means to be human.

Meeting details

Date: 7 September, 2023 6:30pm - 8pm

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

**Venue: The Roseville Club, 64 Pacific Highway
Roseville**

RSVP: 24 August 2023

You should be able to get a copy of this book at some local libraries, or from bookstores like Dymocks, Amazon, and Booktopia for about 25-35AUD. If however, you are having issues getting a copy, please let Chi Chi know.

The aim of this book club is more of a social event using a book to start conversation. Please don't feel that you need to read the entire book to attend. Going forward, we would love to receive book suggestions from our members and expressions of interests if you wish to host/lead one of these sessions.

Sent by Chi Chi on behalf of the ANZSHM NSW Executive Committee



Book launch

No Longer Silent: Voices of 21st Century Nurses

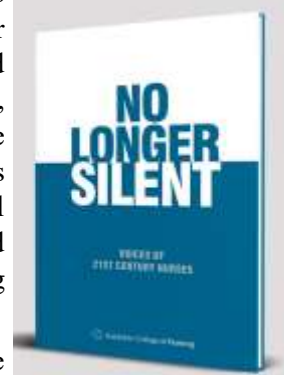
Published by Australian College of Nursing, 2023.
Edited by Lesley Potter

The book was launched at the 2023 National Nursing Forum in Adelaide. It is a celebration of the diversity in nursing practice in Australia today, which is so far removed from the Nightingale style of nursing Lucy Osburn and five English nurses brought with them to New South Wales in 1868.

Each of the twelve chapters is written by nurses who are

experts in their field of nursing. They are nurses who have walked hospital corridors as well as fulfilling roles of senior policy makers, nurse leaders and practitioners, military nurses, nurse trailblazers and nurse academics. The chapters demonstrate that the professional nurse of today is educated and can fulfill wide-ranging professional roles.

The book can be purchased online at shop.acn.edu.au



ISHM news

We are pleased to announce that **Neville Yeomans** will be the Australia and New Zealand representative at the International Society for the History of Medicine (ISHM). Thank you Neville for taking on this important role.



Book note

Failed Ambitions

Kew Cottages and changing ideas of intellectual disabilities

By Lee-Ann Monk and David Henderson, with Christine Bigby, Richard Broome and Katie Holmes, Monash University Publishing 2023 ISBN 9781922633781

The following is quoted in the foreword by Ronald Sackville OA KC:

A gripping history, both topical and timely.

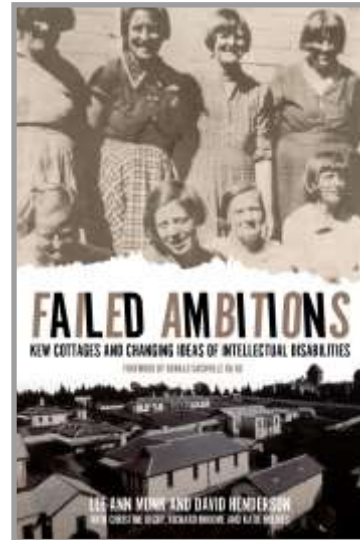
The history of Melbourne's Kew Children's Cottages (1887–2008) is the challenging story of an institution that failed its residents – and it is vividly relevant to today, when the rights of people with disabilities are the subject of a royal commission.

Those with an intellectual disability were historically the most vulnerable in our society and the least protected. Governments continually failed them by underdelivering on ambitious promises of reform. Failed Ambitions traces the development of Kew Cottages and the broader themes it gives rise to, including changing social ideas about intellectual disability. Australia saw a shift from a belief that those with intellectual disabilities were educatable to a view, which took hold in the 1920s,

that the 'feble-minded' were unreclaimable and a menace to society. It took until the 1980s to formally recognise the rights of disabled peoples, and demanded dismantling institutions like Kew and associated ideas of disability.

Throughout Kew Cottages' history, a cohort of journalists, parents, activists and residents fought for and finally gained greater rights and respect. This is a moving and powerful story that deserves to be read by all policymakers so we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

<https://publishing.monash.edu/product/failed-ambitions/>



Book note

Under Siege

The Spanish Flu in South Australia 1919-1920

By Rita Bogna

For many hundreds of years past a strange disease has from time to time appeared in various places on the habitable globe, has spread widely and usually rapidly, has devastated whole countries, killing multitudes, and causing much permanent ill-health among the survivors, and then has seemed to die out, only to re-appear, perhaps several times in the course of the next century.

—Dr. William Ramsay Smith (1919).

A novel influenza virus appeared in 1918 and caused a pandemic that is still the deadliest global epidemic of infectious disease in human history. It caused at least 50 million, and possibly as many as 100 million, deaths worldwide. The virus attacked and killed young adults in their prime of life with an unusual and unprecedented ferocity and rapidity and came at a time when there had already been millions of deaths resulting from the First World War. This book is a detailed account of what

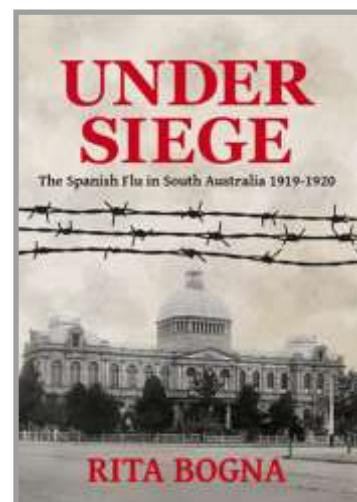
happened when that alien assassin attacked South Australia in 1919.

The book is available to pre-order in both print and Kindle ebook versions and will be released and dispatched on 30 June:

<https://www.openbookhowden.com.au/product/undersiege/>

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Under-Siege-Spanish-Australia-1919-1920-ebook/dp/B0C2TYJBYH/>

240 x 170mm; Soft Cover ISBN: 978-0-6457594-2-6



Ipswich Doctors Who Served in the Great War 1914-18

Dr Stewart Parkinson

At the outset of World War 1 Australia was a young nation, with a population of only 5 million. Despite this Australians were quick to respond to the call for troops and by the end of the War more than 400,000 Australians had served overseas.

Alongside the soldiers Australian doctors also played a vital role in the war effort. These doctors were tasked with providing medical care to the troops both on the battlefield and in hospitals established to support those troops.

Ipswich was established in 1827 as a limestone mining settlement and grew rapidly as a major inland port. It was initially named "The Limestone Hills", later shortened to "Limestone"; then in 1843 renamed after the town of Ipswich in England. It became a municipality in 1858. Ipswich had been a prime candidate to be the capital of Queensland from about 1847 but Brisbane was chosen due to its mercantile and colonial interests. Ipswich became a city in 1904.

World War I impacted the economic and social life of Ipswich. In general, the populace was patriotic, and men were keen to participate in the conflict. Many saw it as an opportunity for travel and adventure whilst others viewed their volunteerism as a patriotic duty to support the "Mother Country". Thousands of young men of Ipswich enlisted including several doctors practising in Ipswich and the surrounding district, as well as past students of Ipswich Grammar, who had gone on to establish medical practices elsewhere. These volunteer doctors saw service at Gallipoli, in the Middle East, and on the Western Front. They were tasked with providing medical care to the troops, both on the battlefields and in hospitals.

Dr Harold Vernon FOXTON. (Major)

Harold Foxton was born in Stanthorpe in 1878 and graduated Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MB BS) from the University of Melbourne in 1905. Following graduation, he spent three years at the Brisbane General Hospital and developed an interest in Psychiatry and move to the Goodna Hospital in 1909. In 1914 he became Medical Superintendent at "The Hospital for the Insane" at Sandy Gollop, Ipswich – the same year in which his wife died of TB.

In September 1914 he volunteered for the AIF, was appointed Adjutant to 1st Australian General Hospital (AGH) and sailed for Egypt in December that year. He served with the unit at Heliopolis until August 1915 when he was sent to Lemnos to join 2 Australian Stationary Hospital (ASH), where he remained until the Gallipoli withdrawal.

On return to Egypt, he was transferred to 1 Australian

Casualty Clearing Station (ACCS) at Tel el Kebir and proceeded to Estaires, France with this unit in March 1916. He was promoted to Major in November 1916 and 1 ACCS moved to Bailleul in early 1917 in preparation for the Battle of Messines. Foxton was posted back to 1 AGH at Rouen, where he served for over a year. He developed progressive deafness due to chronic ear infections and was sent back to England in June 1918 as a patient at 3 London General Hospital, and later repatriated to Australia on the transport ship *Baruaga*, which was torpedoed in the Bay of Biscay on 15 July 1918. He arrived safely back in Brisbane and was discharged medically unfit.

On return to Australia, he trained as an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon at The Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and was awarded the FRACS in 1932. He was appointed Visiting ENT Surgeon to the Repatriation Hospital, Greenslopes, Brisbane General, and Mater Misericordiae Hospitals. In 1946 he was appointed Professor of Surgery at the University of Queensland. He died in 1952 leaving his second wife Annie (Bell), Staff Nurse at 1 AGH whom he married in 1919 after meeting on the *Kyarra* on the way to Egypt in 1914.

Dr Roderick MacDonald. (Colonel)

Roderick MacDonald was born in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland in October 1861 and graduated Bachelor of Medicine, Master of Surgery (MB MCh) from Glasgow University in 1884. After graduation he served on a troopship conveying British troops to the Zulu War.



In 1897 he settled in Ipswich with an appointment as Visiting Surgeon to the Ipswich Hospital. He was commissioned as Captain in the Australian Military Force (AMF) in 1897 and promoted Major in 1907 to 2nd Light Horse. Dr MacDonald volunteered for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in October 1914, allocated to 1 Australian General Hospital (AGH) and embarked aboard HMAT *Kyarra* from Brisbane for Cairo in November 1914. On arrival in Egypt, he was posted to 2 Australian Stationary Hospital (ASH) at Tel el Kebir and then joined 2 Battalion on their return to Anzac in October 2015.

After the Dardanelles withdrawal MacDonald was Commanding Officer (CO) of 2 ASH from February 1916 until May 1917. 2 ASH moved forward from Port Said prior to the attack on Magdhaba and set up at Mahemdia in December 1916. In March 1917 it was established at El Arish supporting the Gaza campaign. At this time MacDonald was mentioned in Despatches by Sir Archibald Murray.

MacDonald was posted to 14 AGH as CO and promoted to Colonel. In mysterious circumstances MacDonald was sent home in October 1917. He served on a troopship of repatriated soldiers back to Australia in January 1918.

When World War 2 was declared he attempted to re-enlist but was told he was “far too old”. After repeated requests he was posted to Redbank Camp examining Army recruits. The story goes that soon after he keeled over following dinner in the Officers Mess and died with the satisfaction of having been involved in three wars.

Dr John MacDonald OBE. (Major)

John MacDonald was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1882 and graduated Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MB BCh), Licentiate of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (LRCP&S) (Edinburgh) and Licentiate of Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons (LFPS) (Glasgow) in 1908. He emigrated to Australia and settled in Ipswich. He was commissioned in March 1915 and allocated as Regimental Medical Officer to 11 Light Horse Regiment (LHR) and reassigned on Gallipoli to 2 LHR until late October that year when he was evacuated to England with dysentery until February 1916. From here to May 1917, he may have served on the Somme, but this remains unclear.

In May 1917 he was promoted to Major and posted to No 4 Convalescent Depot at Weymouth. In October 1918 he was transferred to the Reinforcement Depot at Hurdcott and then on to Sutton Veny. Following the Armistice, he remained in England caring for Australian soldiers and was awarded the OBE in June 1919.

He returned to Australia in March 1920 and set up practice in Ayr, North Queensland, and owner of the private hospital “Rosslyn”. The MacDonald family acquired the lease of Hamilton Island in 1928. MacDonald and his wife retired here in 1947, but returned to Ayr in 1950, where he died in April that year.

Dr Edward Elmslie Brown. (Lt Colonel)

Edward Brown was born in Perthshire, Scotland in February 1880 and graduated from Edinburgh University Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) in 1901. After serving as Ship’s Surgeon on two round-the-world voyages, he came to Australia sometime after 1905 and established a practice in Ipswich in 1907. He was a highly respected surgeon (having secured a position of Visiting Surgeon at Ipswich Hospital), a competent businessman (established the Ipswich Woollen Mills at Tivoli), and a valuable citizen.

Dr Brown purchased a house and converted it into a two-storey house for use as his residence and consulting rooms. This is now the site of the Country Women’s Association Hostel for Young Women. He later built his hospital “Oakdale” adjacent to his rooms.



Dr Brown joined the Australian Military Force (AMF) at the beginning of the War and volunteered for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in August 1916 and

commissioned Captain. Two weeks later he was promoted to Major and posted to 14 Australian General Hospital (AGH), where he served for the duration of the War. Initially 14 AGH was based at Abbassia, Cairo then relocated to Port Said in December 1917 to support the offensive in Palestine. Here the Hospital provided care for Australian soldiers evacuated from Palestine, a convalescent facility, and local care for British troops in the Port. It also served as the invaliding base for Australian soldiers classified for return to Australia.

14 AGH returned to Cairo in January 1919. Brown was promoted to Lt Colonel and appointed Senior Surgeon. The Hospital closed in July 1919. Brown was granted leave to undertake postgraduate studies in Gynaecology at the London Hospital from July to October and returned to Australia and his Ipswich practice in December 1919. He remained active as a reservist in the Australian Army Medical Corps until his death in 1941.

Dr Basil Lloyd Hart. (Captain)

Basil Hart was born in Indooroopilly, Queensland on 17 February 1877, graduated from University of Sydney Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MB BCh) in 1901 and completed his residency at Sydney Hospital in 1901-02. He moved to Gladstone, Queensland and entered General Practice. In 1912 he married and moved to Ipswich, where he was appointed to the staff at Ipswich Hospital as a Surgeon.



In February 1918 Hart volunteered for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and sailed in July to arrive in London in September, where he was attached briefly to 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital (AAH) at Harefield before being transferred to 3 Australian General Hospital (AGH) in Abbeville France in October. However, he soon went down with influenza. Following his recovery, he was posted to 2 Field Ambulance (Fd Amb) in December and detached to 1 Field Artillery Brigade in January 1919, subsequently being transferred to 1 Fd Amb in February.

In April 1919 Captain Hart returned to England being posted to 1 Group at Longbridge Deverill and as Adjutant to the Australian Army Medical Corps Training Depot. He returned to Australia in September and resumed his appointment at Ipswich Hospital. He became a well-respected general practitioner in Ipswich and was one of the founders of St Andrews Private Hospital, where his memory persists in the naming of the Basil Hart Ward. He died in 1957.

Sources:

The Australian Doctors at War Series. Col. Robert Likeman CSM, Retd. Slouch Hat Publishing/Rosenberg Publishing.

The Ordinary Doctor. Stuart Patterson. Amphion Press.

The Australian War Memorial. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/understanding-the-memorials-collection/researching-a-person>

Virtual War Memorial Australia. <https://vwma.org.au>

Artefactual news

Our Health Journeys – Aotearoa New Zealand’s e-museum of healthcare history

www.ourhealthmuseum.org.nz

In 2017 the museum opened its doors both physically and virtually with Brave Hearts – the New Zealand Cardiac Story. The exhibition toured a number of venues throughout the country in its mobile shipping containers and attracted over 100,000 visitors. From that success, the idea of expanding the online museum grew and we now have stories and contributions from medical professionals and museums around the country. What once was hearts is now also minds, opinions, epidemics, trailblazers, regional healthcare.

We continue to grow, building partnerships in our goal to highlight the history of health and medicine in

Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. If you have something you are passionate about and want to share, we are always looking for guest authors. Contact curator Caitlin Timmer-Arends at caitlin@ourhealthmuseum.org.nz for more information.

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua – I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.



Artefactual news

Ipswich Hospital Museum - Reopening.

The Ipswich Hospital Museum celebrated its reopening on Wednesday 7th June 2023 after a closure of over 3 years with the theme:

The Historic, Aesthetic, Scientific, Social, and Cultural Items of Significance in the Museum's Collection.

This theme is based upon a Significance Assessment that was undertaken before the closure of the museum to evaluate the historical, aesthetic, scientific, research, and social or cultural importance of the collection. The museum undertook a Preservation Needs Assessment, which provided valuable recommendations on storage, care, and preservation techniques. Both assessments were possible thanks to heritage grants.

Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with notable artefacts and stories related to various aspects of the hospital's rich history after 7 June. The museum is located at Jubilee House, west of the East Street Entrance to the Ipswich Hospital and is open each

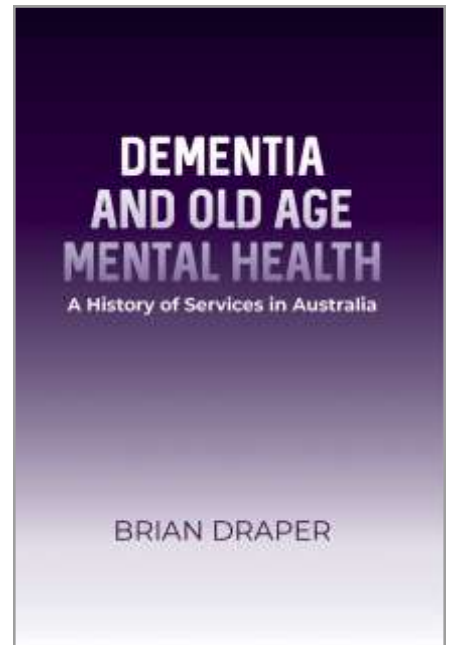
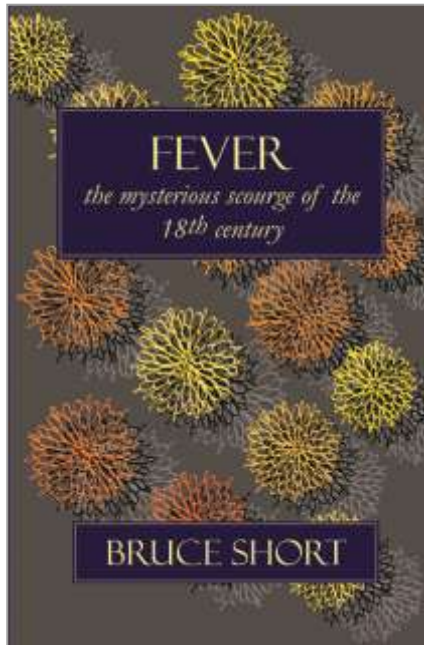


Wednesday from 9am to noon, or by appointment. Details for appointment can be found on our “Friends of the Ipswich Hospital Museum” Facebook page.

Contributed by Dr Stewart Parkinson



Ex libris



Animalia

When we think of animals that have saved the lives of humans throughout history it's natural to include rescue dogs, horses, and of course, canaries used in mining. However, readers might be interested in the opinion of Ben Garrod, Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement at the University of East Anglia. He claims that the Atlantic horseshoe crab, *Limulus polyphemus*, is a candidate for most lives saved. In the 1950s, scientists isolated *coagulogen*, a clotting agent that binds to fungi and endotoxins, from these crabs.

This led to a method to detect impurities in medical equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Readers are welcome to submit their own ideas for animals that have significantly impacted

human health. Pigs providing insulin in another example.

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/marine-animals/which-animal-has-saved-the-most-human-lives/>



Mystery object revealed



This device was used in the 19th century to remove bullets.

<https://www.empr.com/slideshow/slides/20-fascinating-medical-instruments-of-yore/>

Medical History Newsletter is the news bulletin of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Incorporated. It is published quarterly, in the months of February, May, August and November. The opinions of the authors of articles in this *Newsletter* are their own, and are not necessarily the views of the editor or the publisher, Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Inc. Every care is taken in the preparation of the *Newsletter*, but the publisher can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. The *Newsletter* is currently edited and compiled in Australia.

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For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM website: www.anzshm.org.au

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ARE WELCOME IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS **1 NOVEMBER 2023**