



# Medical History

## Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

A0031554W

Fifth series

Number Seventy-eight

August 2022

### The President's page

In the middle of the year the Society sponsored a Health and Medical History Stream at the Australian Historian Association, at Deakin Waterfront Geelong. Convened by Effie Karageorgos, Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen, and myself, the stream was a resounding success, with a full program of papers over three days covering innovations and treatments, ethical controversies around care and dying, medical practice in the context of humanitarianism, reproduction and disability, pandemics and vaccines, and striking episodes in the history of psychiatric knowledge. Of particular note were the Picturing Medical Histories session led by Effie, featuring six brilliant presentations by early-career researchers and postgraduate students and the War and Care panel which the Society co-presented with the War and Conflict stream sponsored by the Australian Army History Unit. The stream concluded with a superb plenary panel in which Professor Warwick Anderson, Dr Peter Hobbins and Professor Emma Kowal, moderated by Dr Anthea Hyslop, participated in a fascinating discussion about how historians and other scholars have been responding to covid-19.

At the New South Wales Premier's History Awards in early September, Professor Frank Bongiorno, the President of the Australian Historical Association – echoing a comment of Warwick's at our panel – suggested that Australian historians had been more reticent than we might have hoped in making sense of

this world-shaking pandemic. In a commentary piece for the next edition of the *Australian Book Review* I will suggest some reasons for that reticence, but here and in that commentary I also call historians to make the most of this peculiar moment of vulnerability, not only to the virus but to a sense of history. Historians of health and medicine are uniquely placed to lead the urgent and thoughtful historical work of placing the pandemic, and our psychological and social responses to it, firmly in social, ecological, and historical context.

Warm regards,  
James

[james.dunk@sydney.edu.au](mailto:james.dunk@sydney.edu.au)  
@JamesHDunk



Letters, photographs and articles for publication in the newsletter are always welcome. We prefer electronic submission via email to [ANZSHM@ANZSHM.ORG.AU](mailto:ANZSHM@ANZSHM.ORG.AU). The deadline for our next issue is 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

# Members' news

Phillipa Barr NSW Rita Bogna SA  
Gemma Smart NSW Alison Clayton VIC  
Sophie Templer NSW Jack Wall VIC  
Sam Manger Qld Hooshang Lahooti WA  
Suzanne Wood NSW

A very warm welcome to our new members!

## Vale

### Dr Margaret Anne Naylor

17.04.1930 - 23.07.2022

### Dr Roy Frederick Rhodes Scragg AM OBE

19.02.1924 - 23.06.2022

## Congratulations

Queen's Birthday Honours, 2022

### Dr Margaret Beverley WOOD, VIC

MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION  
OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

For significant service to community nutritional  
health, and to tertiary education.

## In this issue....

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## Exhibition



### Kill or Cure? A Taste of Medicine

From the influence of the stars and the phases of the moon, to healing chants and prayers, to the knife-wielding barber-surgeon and game-changing scientific experiments, *Kill or Cure?* takes you behind the curtain of western medicine's macabre history.

Explore our many treatment rooms with instruments that will make your skin crawl. Hear quack doctors spruiking dangerous cures from behind the interactive walls. Meet the bloodletting man and learn why veins were opened to restore health.

The Library's extensive rare books collection reveals some of the powerful and enduring ideas from western medicine that have since been debunked, and those we take for granted today.

How far would you go to feel better?



Saturday 30 July 2022 to Sunday 22 January 2023

ADMISSION: FREE



## Mystery object

Can you identify this object?  
See page 9

## New Zealand news

The Wellington and Dunedin Medical History Societies have been active over the year, whether on zoom or in person. Past talks in the Otago Medical School Alumni Association can be accessed at: [https://www.otago.ac.nz/\\_medicalalumnus/lectures.html](https://www.otago.ac.nz/_medicalalumnus/lectures.html).

The Auckland Medical History Society has an attractive website which can be visited here: <https://amhs.co.nz/>

The history of women in New Zealand medicine is being recorded in the Early Medical Women on New Zealand Project which may be found here: <https://www.earlymedwomen.auckland.ac.nz/>

One of those who graduated in 1936 was Claudia Lillian

## Medical History Society of Victoria (MHSV) news

The Society held its second lecture meeting of the year, on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> August, at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

The meeting was addressed by Professor Wayne Morrison AM, formerly the Hugh Devine Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne, and Director of the O'Brien Institute at St.Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

Shand (nee Weston). Now her daughter, Carol Shand, a Wellington GP and activist for women's health, has published an engaging memoir of her 56 years in practice entitled *Things I remember or was told* (Writes Hill Press, 2022).

Anyone interested in the history of nursing will find Pamela Wood's *New Zealand's Nurses: Caring for Our People 1880-1950* ((Otago University Press, 2022) an absorbing and enlightening read.



Barbara Brookes MNZM, FRSNZ  
Professor Emerita, University of Otago,  
Dunedin

His talk was entitled “‘Scientific’ observations on the reattachment of body parts and skin grafts”. He described the many attempts to replace or re-attach digits, noses and other body parts, dating from Roman times. He was able to discern the earliest hints at some modern practices, among the many charlatan procedures. He also discussed the evolution of skin grafting, from the use of animal skin to modern synthetic approaches.

Thirty-seven members and guests stayed after the lecture to enjoy dinner and convivial conversation.

The Society continues to attract new members, and the next lecture meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Rod Westhorpe, Hon Secretary

## Public lecture

Join us for an insightful public lecture by  
**Dr Alex Mold (LSHTM)**

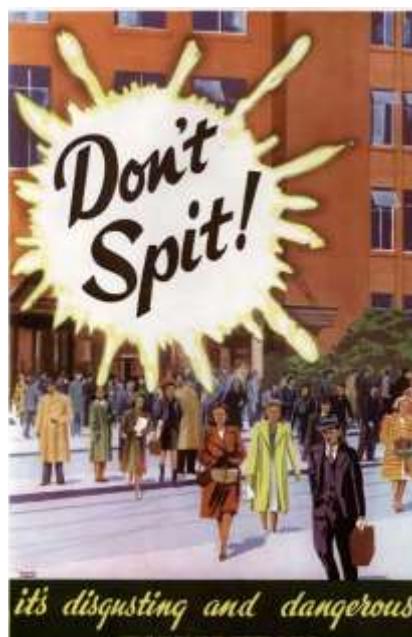
on public health messaging in Britain, 1980s-2020s.  
This public lecture is cohosted by the Laureate Centre for History and Population at UNSW Sydney and the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine, NSW Branch.

**‘The public speaks back: health communication in Britain, 1980s-2020s’**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2022**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-public-speaks-back-health-communication-in-britain-1980s-2020s-tickets-406550723157>

## Medical iconography



1940s Health promotion poster from the New Zealand Department of Health, aimed at reducing spread of tuberculosis and promoting good manners.

Nancy Swarbrick, 'Manners and social behaviour - A guide to modern New Zealand manners', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/ephemera/39860/dont-spit> (accessed 29 August 2022)

## NSW Branch news

In March 2022, the NSW Branch met for its AGM at the Toxteth Hotel in Glebe. Michelle Bootcov, a doctoral candidate at the University of New South Wales gave a fascinating talk on "First Nations' Blood, 'First World' Science: An Australian Twist in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Infectious Disease History". New Committee members were elected for 2022 as follows: President: Georgia McWhinney; Vice-President and Immediate Past President: Charmaine Robson; Secretary: Chi Chi Huang; Treasurer: Shayne Brown. Other Committee Members are Richard White, Ben Skerman, John Sinclair, Lorna Barrow and Diana Jeffries.

In August, we were delighted to have Prof. Warwick Anderson deliver the 2022 Ben Haneman Memorial Lecture at the State Library of NSW. His lecture on "Virus on the March? Military Metaphor and Model in the Covid-19 Pandemic" was well attended and we were honoured to have members of Ben Haneman's family in attendance.

Coming up in September 2022, we will be co-hosting a public lecture with the University of New South Wales History Department. Dr Alex Mold, Associate Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will be talking on "The public speaks back: health communication in Britain, 1980s-2020s".

Chi Chi Huang

## History week 2022

### History week 2022: Hands On Community Mental Health in Sydney in the 1980s

Organised by the Re;Minding Histories Research Group on the History of Community Mental Health in Australia and Inner West Council Libraries.

Balmain Library  
Thursday 15 September, 2022

6.30pm-7.30pm

Join us for a discussion on the development of community Mental Health. Starting in the late 1970s, several initiatives were undertaken to provide mental

health care in the community rather than in mental hospitals.

Mental health nurses played a central role in these; during this event, we will interview two pioneering nurses in the field. **Matina Pentes** was involved in a pioneering community health initiative in Waverley-Woollahra, as part of the Health Commission of NSW. She was the director of the Bondi Junction Community Health Centre from 1976 to 1986.

**Graeme Curry** registered as a psychiatric nurse in 1980. He worked in hospitals, communities, residential care facilities, and in private practice; taught nursing; and was active in Sydney and Brisbane in advocacy, counselling, and community development.

Chair: Professor Catharine Coleborne, University of Newcastle. This event is free. To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/history-week-2022-hands-on-community-mental-health-in-sydney-in-the-1980s-tickets-404464904417?aff=historyweekpage>



# Artefactual news

## History of Prison Medicine exhibition

The State Corrections Museum at Cooma, NSW, now houses an exhibition curated by ANZSHM members Louella McCarthy and Kath Weston. The ‘Caring for the Incarcerated’ project explores the history of prison medicine in New South Wales over the past 200+ years. As well as information panels, there are interesting medical artefacts on display. The collection is housed inside a convict transport cell. This mobile wooden box ‘accommodated’ convict road gangs at night and could be moved to locations as needed.

The State Corrections Museum is located in the grounds of Cooma Correctional Centre, the oldest continuously operating prison in NSW. Members may be interested to know that there are a number of historic gaols across the country which house museum collections, including Dubbo and Maitland in NSW and Fremantle in WA to name a few. The health of prisoners features in many of these museum exhibitions and they are worth a visit if you are in the area.

The online version of the exhibition guide to this collection is available at: [https://issuu.com/uowresearch/docs/exhibition\\_guide\\_complete\\_dec\\_2019](https://issuu.com/uowresearch/docs/exhibition_guide_complete_dec_2019)



## Book review

Peter Curson

**A Time of Terror: The Black Death in Sydney  
2022, Xlibris AU**

“A Time of Terror: The Black Death in Sydney” is an absorbing collection of information about what Peter Curson calls “the greatest social disaster in Sydney’s 19<sup>th</sup> century history”. It describes the arrival and spread of bubonic plague in Australia, concentrating on the 1900 epidemic affecting Sydney. Descriptions of the desperate living conditions, urban filth, poor drainage and sanitation are supported by the many historical photographs presented.

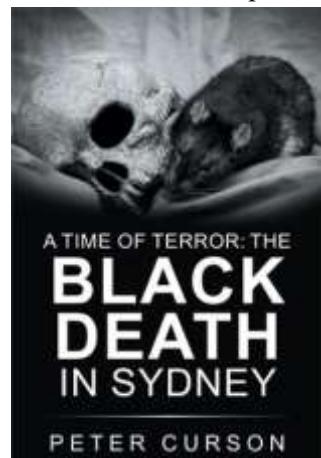
The chronology and intimate details of cases bring to life the human impact on the community, and the awful search for scapegoats is sobering. The book is far-reaching in its content, ranging from biographical details of important persons such as Dr Ashburton Thompson and his role in public health reform, to the various health responses such as antidotes and vaccines, to the role of the media, and efforts to rid the city of rats. Particularly interesting are the facts and figures, including the staggering mortality rates, but also the extensive detail

and data collected at the time. For instance, data reveal that the plague bacteria did not discriminate - the professions affected included butcher and bootmaker; plumber and printer; fishmonger and fruiterer.

Descriptions of events are fascinating yet horrifying. The treatment of the remains of Mr Tom Dudley, the first plague death in Sydney in 1900, demonstrate the desperate response of officials – his coffin was filled with disinfectant, then encased in sheets soaked in disinfectant and wrapped in sailcloth. It was then placed on a skiff and towed to the Quarantine Station where Dudley was buried.

Chapter 8 *Fear and Panic Rule* outlines the fear, panic and emotional reactions at the time. While most of us need no reminder of the impact of contagion, this interesting book about the bubonic plague in 1900 Sydney is another reminder of what life is like for those at the mercy of an infectious disease.

Kath Weston



# Scholarship

## “Herbert Michael Moran: An Australian Life, 1885-1945”

Dr Anne Thoeming

PhD, Department of History, University of Sydney, 2021. Supervisor: Julia Horne.

**ABSTRACT.** My thesis examined the life of Australian Irish-Catholic doctor, Herbert Michael Moran. Moran was a successful surgeon and prolific writer whose professional work focussed on cancer and the use of non-surgical means for its treatment. He travelled to Germany and France to learn about radiation and its use in cancer treatment and helped modernise Australia's approach by using radium and radiology alongside surgery. His twenty-five medical articles and other works about the disease highlighted the importance of working collaboratively with dermatologists and physicists to improve outcomes, and he advocated for greater public health policy engagement between the Commonwealth and States to improve cancer outcomes.

Moran welcomed new technology and other ways of thinking about the world. His sixty-nine written works range widely and illustrate an event-filled life, complete with football, politics, religion, public health policy, and visits to Italy and with Mussolini. In writing about his World War 2 experience as a medical board examiner in Colchester, England, Moran gave Australian and British readers rich insight into the different and sometimes difficult world around them.

As an aspirational and successful post-Federation man, Moran encouraged others to think more deeply and broadly about life, culture, nation, and politics.



Somewhat opinionated, he was not narrow-minded and had a deep awareness of human frailty. His stories captured moments of technological change, political rupture, public health challenges, social and cultural differences, and showed glimpses of the private lives of otherwise ordinary people who became entangled in behaviours and activities often beyond their control.

Image: Composite created by Louise Thoeming from the author's own photograph of the doorway to 171 Macquarie Street, Sydney, and a 1932 image of Herbert Moran supplied by Fairfax Syndication.

# Animalia



# Request for content

Please get in touch if you have ideas for content or would like to be added to our list of book or collection reviewers.

We would also love to include your photos, research or other experiences in the newsletter. Short articles with an image are perfect.

*Thank you from the editors*

LEFT: Three leeches in the role of physicians attend a grasshopper in the role of the patient and propose diet and bloodletting. Coloured lithograph after J.J. Grandville, ca. 1832. Wellcome Collection.

# Over a century ago...

## NITROUS OXIDE ANALGESIA – IS CLIMATE CHANGE ENDING ITS HISTORY?

The first time nitrous oxide was used as an anaesthetic drug in the treatment of a patient was when dentist Horace Wells demonstrated insensitivity to pain from a dental extraction on 11 December 1844. In the following weeks, Wells treated the first 12 to 15 patients with nitrous oxide in Hartford, Connecticut, and, according to his own record, only failed in two cases. In spite of these convincing results having been reported by Wells to the Medical Society in Boston in December 1844, this new method was not immediately adopted by other dentists.

Breathing the pure gas often caused hypoxia and sometimes death by asphyxiation. Eventually practitioners became aware of the need to provide at least the same percentage of oxygen as in air.

In 1911, the American anaesthetist Arthur Ernest Guedel was the first to describe self-administration of an N<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>2</sub> mix. A commercially available 50% N<sub>2</sub>O 50% O<sub>2</sub> mix, known as Entonox has been used for labour analgesia in the United Kingdom since the 1930s. Its analgesic effect is strong (equivalent to 15 mg of subcutaneous morphine) and characterised by rapid onset and offset; i.e. it is very fast-acting, and wears off very quickly.

N<sub>2</sub>O is inexpensive and can be used safely at any stage of labour. It is useful for women wanting mild pain relief while maintaining mobility and have less monitoring than would be required with an epidural. However, it is a greenhouse gas almost 300 times as potent as carbon dioxide, and its use in anaesthesia, obstetrics, dentistry and many diagnostic/scanning procedures results in its excretion into the atmosphere, unlike expired CO<sub>2</sub> and other anaesthetic gases which are scavenged. Using Entonox for four hours emits the



Wellcome Library, London. Nitrous oxide for a dental operation. Anaesthetics and their administration Hewitt, F.W. Published: 1901

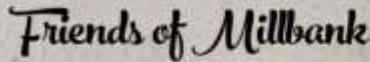
equivalent of 237 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, or the equivalent of driving about 1,350 km.

Because of these concerns the future uses of N<sub>2</sub>O are currently under review by the Colleges of Anaesthesia and OB/GYN in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the EU and elsewhere. It is proposed that ALL pregnant women should be fully informed of all the options of analgesia in labour, and the environmental impact of Entonox compared with epidural or opioids. However the use of Entonox has not been discontinued in obstetrics, but is likely to be minimised in anaesthesia for other procedures. Development of a scavenging method is another possibility.

**(Dr.) John A. Crowhurst B.Pharm., MB BS, Dip.  
(Obst.)RCOG, FANZCA, FRCA.  
Consultant Anaesthetist (Ret.)**

References available on request to Dr Crowhurst:  
[acrow43@gmail.com](mailto:acrow43@gmail.com)

## International event



You are cordially invited to the  
Poynter Meeting 2022

A combined meeting by the British Society for the History of Medicine and the Friends of Millbank  
Introduction by Air Vice-Marshal (retd) Alastair NC Reid CB OStJ  
**Friday 30 September 2022**  
At The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY  
1700 – 2000hrs: Reception, Two Lectures (£15, register below)  
2000 – 2300hrs: Dinner (limited spaces, £55, apply separately)

[www.bshm.org.uk](http://www.bshm.org.uk)   [www.friendsofmillbank.org](http://www.friendsofmillbank.org)

### Prior registration required

Register [HERE](#) for Reception and Lectures (1700 – 2000hrs)  
Email [chairman@friendsofmillbank.org](mailto:chairman@friendsofmillbank.org) to request place  
at Dinner (2000 – 2300hrs) (limited spaces)  
Dress code: Smart (Jacket & tie, or equivalent)

# Journal watch and members' publications

## Journal articles

Raeburn, Toby, Kayla Sale, Paul Sanders, Aunty Kerry Doyle, 'Aboriginal Australian mental health during the first 100 years of colonization, 1788–1888: a historical review of nineteenth-century documents', *History of Psychiatry*, vol 33, no.1, 2022, 3-2

Roth, David T., 'In Defence of William Chidley', *History Australia* vol. 19, no. 3, 2022, 450-467

Sendziuk, Paul, 'I, of the Storm: Volunteers and Australia's Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis', *Oral History*, 50(1), 2022, 84-92.

Pearn, John, 'Dominique Larrey (1766–1842) and Resuscitation of those Apparently Drowned on Military Campaigns', *Topics in the History of Medicine* [Open Access publication of the British Society for the History of Medicine], vol. 1, 2021, 89-97. <https://bshm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/thom-v1-89-97.pdf>

Ware, Cheryl, "“Remember Their Names”: Gay Men’s HIV and AIDS Death Notices, 1984–96”, *Australian Historical Studies*, vol. 53, no. 2, 2022, 308-326

## Recent books

Jones, Ross L., *Anatomists of Empire: Race, Evolution and the Discovery of Human Biology in the British World*, Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2020

Reynolds, Robert, Shirleene Robinson & Paul Sendziuk, *In the Eye of the Storm: Volunteers and Australia's Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis*. Sydney, NSW: UNSW Press, 2021

Ferber, Sarah, Nicola J. Marks and Vera Mackie, *IVF and Assisted Reproduction: A Global History*, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

A reminder to please send us details of your recent research publications so we can share your work in the newsletter.

Email details to  
anzshm@anzshm.org.au

## PhD opportunities

### Laureate Centre for History and Population, University of NSW Sydney, PhD Scholarships

The Laureate Centre for History and Population invites applications for a Laureate Doctoral Scholarship in population history. The successful candidate will join the Laureate research team, under the supervision of Professor Alison Bashford, within the School of Humanities and Languages, Faculty of Arts Design and Architecture, UNSW.

The scholar may research Australian, Pacific or international history related to population, and proposals can be discussed with Alison Bashford. They may, for example, explore various UN population programs in relation to climate change; changing migration policies in Australia; the intellectual history of environmental limit arguments in the Australian context; disease and Indigenous depopulation; Pacific attempts to manage fertility or mortality over the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Approaches are invited from medical, migration, Indigenous, gender, environmental, intellectual or political/economic history.

The scholarships (\$28,854 per annum for up to four years + travel subsidy) are available to Aus/NZ and international candidates with honours or masters qualifications in history, and will commence in

2023. Further particulars, including details on how to apply, are available via the UNSW Scholarships website: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/faculty-and-donor-funded-scholarships-0>. For information on the Laureate Centre for History & Population see: <https://historyandpopulation.com/>

-o-

### Cancer Culture Project PhD, Public Health Humanities, University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is seeking applications for a PhD position in an interdisciplinary public health humanities project to commence at the start of 2023.

The PhD is supported as part of an Australian Research Council Linkage Project LP210100204: “Cancer culture: understanding the historical links between research, advocacy, policy and behavioural change in Australian anti-cancer campaigns”.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to develop an original, complementary project under the supervision of project scholars and with support from the broader team, which includes historians, public health researchers, lawyers, and communications and advertising experts.

#### EoIs due 9 September 2022

<https://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/en/job/909769/phd-opportunity-in-public-health-humanities>

# Request for information

## History of nursing in the North Kennedy region project

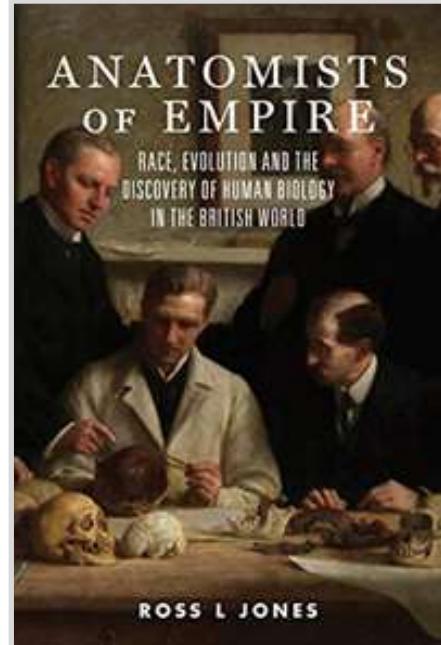
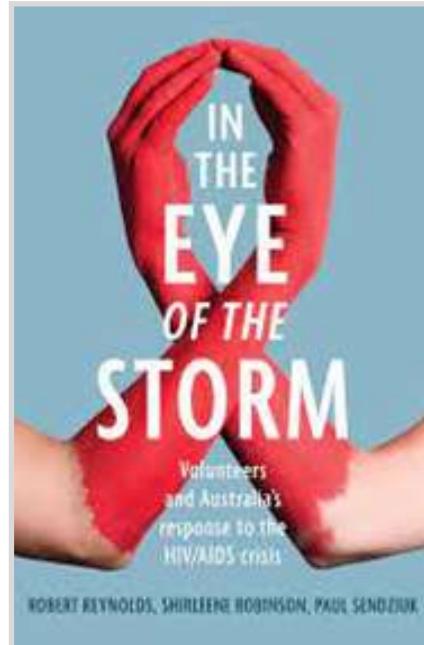
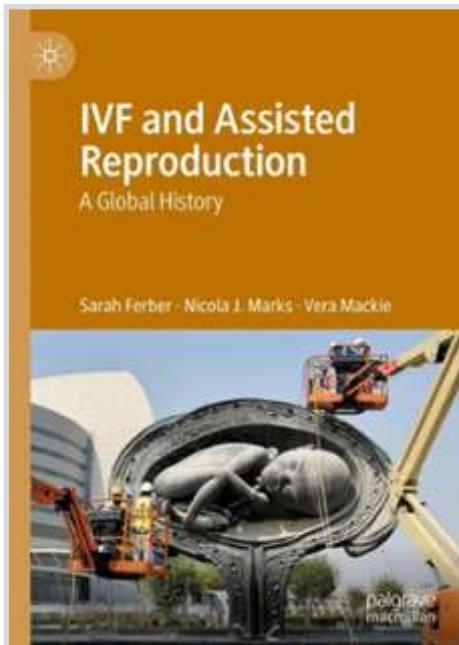
Sandra Dash from James Cook University is seeking information for a project on the history of nursing in the North Kennedy region (Townsville, Charters Towers, Ingham, Ayr and Home Hill) between 1910 and 1925, exploring the shift from nursing as an untrained, female vocation to a professional career.

Sandra is interested in any leads on people who worked in hospitals or other health facilities in these regions between 1910-1925.

Please get in touch via [sandra.dash@jcu.edu.au](mailto:sandra.dash@jcu.edu.au)

The **mystery object** (page 2) is a Maddox-type chloroform inhaler, London, England, 1847-1900. Science Museum, London. Wellcome collection.

## Ex libris



*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. Currently edited and compiled in Australia; printed and posted in Melbourne.

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PO Box 4092, University of Melbourne VIC 3052. E-mail: [anzshm@anzshm.org.au](mailto:anzshm@anzshm.org.au)

For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM Internet Website: [www.anzshm.org.au](http://www.anzshm.org.au)  
LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ARE WELCOME, PREFERABLY IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.  
DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 13 NOVEMBER 2022

# Call for papers



## Call for Papers 2023 American Association for the History of Medicine

The American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) invites abstracts for papers in any area of the history of health and healing for its 96th annual meeting, to be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 11-14, 2023.

The AAHM welcomes papers on the histories of medicine, disease, and health broadly defined, including the history of medical ideas, practices, institutions, technologies; history of healing, disability, illness, disease, pharmaceuticals, public health; and the history of peoples' experiences of health, illness and disability.

We welcome proposals related to all eras and regions of the world that engage with biomedical and non-biomedical therapeutic systems and traditions.

**Abstracts must be submitted by midnight, Pacific Time (US), September 30, 2023.** No late submissions will be considered. <https://www.histmed.org/cfp2023>