



# Museum Matters

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December 2020

IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.

Committee :

Chairman: M. Parcell  
Secretary: J. Kingston  
Treasurer: C. Marre

## Chairman's Chatterings

Well, 2020 was certainly an unusual year but amongst the uncertainty has come a clear vision of what can be achieved using virtual health care. Covid has been a fantastic catalyst and a key driver in shifting health from traditional face to face care provision to offering completely virtual appointments with a range of specialists.

Whilst you cannot replace a physical assessment or 'hands on' care like administering medication, etc there are many uses of virtual care as an alternative or adjunct to traditional care. I am confident we will continue to expand our expertise and use of new technologies to support clinical care. I look forward to keeping you up to date in this space.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Ipswich Hospital Museum volunteers and supporters for a very productive year.

Please enjoy the Christmas period and the promise of hope and new beginnings that this season brings. New calendars remind me of the endless possibilities that a new year offers and I am sure 2021 will be wonderful.

## Inside this issue:

Ipswich to RFDS	2
A Real Trump	3
The Ducks & Dr Dorsey	3
Sweltering in Hospital	3
Doctor's Residence	4
Christmas Greetings	4

## What's for (Christmas) Dinner?

Matron Alice Wilcox kept detailed handwritten lists of Christmas food ordering in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The amount of food ordered would ensure that patients and staff enjoyed an ample Christmas dinner.

For example, her notes for Christmas 1939 stated:

*Turkeys: 13 sent in—one not used, 7 fowls killed, 2 fowls sent to Epidemic, 1 turkey to each other ward, 3 turkeys carved for NDR\*, 2 turkeys carved for KDR\*, 1 turkey carved for Matron and Drs, 1 ham used for domestic staff. 12 shoulders sent to each ward except Children's.*

A list for drinks included:  
*24 dozen mixed small ordered from Barnes and same from Livermores  
9 dozen returned full to James  
8 1/2 dozen returned full to Livermores.  
7 dozen Bon Bons ordered from Nestles for Nurses, 3 dozen for Domestics, 1 dozen for Matron (not used).*

Fruit comprised:  
*2 cases cherries, 6 cases passion fruit, 1 case bananas (1/2 is enough), 2 cases peaches (1 half green), 1 case plums, 1 case apricots, 1 case apples, 1 case mangoes, 6 water melons, 3 rock melons.*

At Christmas 1938 sweets included:  
*5lb box of Old Gold chocolate, 1lb chocolates donated by Cribb and Foote, 6lb liquorice all sorts from Nestles. Chocolates were also used from boxes donated to staff. On the Male and Female wards each patient received 1 bottle of drink, 1/4 (2lb) mixture, Xmas cake, fruit, sweets, nuts and muscatels. All had Xmas pudding and jelly with cherries in with custard. Children's ward patients each received a bottle of drink but no bananas, nuts or muscatels.*



*The marble top cabinet was a feature in children's ward for many years and every Christmas was beautifully decorated. The cabinet has been restored by the Ipswich Men's Shed and now sits in the Jubilee Building where it used for museum display purposes and is now usually decorated by museum volunteers every Christmas. Unfortunately because of Covid restrictions this year the marbletop has not been decorated.*



*Christmas in the surgical ward 1952 includes Val Wombold, Sister M. Jeffries, ?Gloria Pedley and an unknown nurse.*

NDR\* Nurses Dining Room  
KDR\* Kitchen Dining Room

Our weekly features depicting the nurses' graduation photos on our Friends of Ipswich Hospital Museum page have proven immensely popular. They have not only shown the deep friendships that Ipswich Hospital trained nurses have retained and nourished over the years but also some interesting tales.

Many of our nurses have remained at Ipswich Hospital throughout their careers whilst others have gone on to other branches of nursing all over the country.

## From Ipswich to RFDS

**Adele Lingard (nee Sbeghan)** graduated from nursing training at Ipswich in 1966.

Adele is of Italian heritage and one of five children. She was born at the Lyndhurst Private Hospital in Rosewood and attended primary school at St Brigid's in Rosewood and then St Mary's in Ipswich, catching the train into the city.

After graduating from Ipswich Hospital Adele, completed her midwifery certificate at Mater Mothers Hospital and Maternal & Child health in Brisbane.

In 1971 she started working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service at the new base in Mt Isa.

One of Adele's memories of this time could have had a tragic outcome:

"We got a call late at night to the Northern Territory to see a very small aboriginal baby who was suffering from gastroenteritis. The baby was brought to the airfield by the owner of the station and the baby's mother. They came in a cattle truck with no sides and we decided to operate to find a vein as the infant was very dehydrated.

"After finding a clean sheet and placing it on the tray of the truck, which gave us the right height to perform the task, we set up a drip. As I was holding the torch, I could smell smoke. I looked up and saw one of the flares had tipped over and the runway was alight.

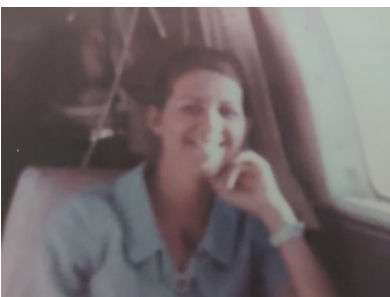
"We had to hastily put all aboard. As I was pulling up the stairs and closing the door I could see the fire so close to



A doctor attending a patient with a RFDS plane in the background. The flying team consisted of the pilot, doctor and Flight Sister. The plane was a Beechcraft Queenair twin engine aircraft specifically modified for medical evacuation to carry one stretcher and two walking patients.

the aircraft.

"A good outcome, however, as the baby survived and we decided to install a stronger light in the aircraft.



Adele on board a RFDS plane

"Great days as I did enjoy my time working with the RFDS in Mt Isa."



Working in child and maternal health at Mt Isa

Adele had her first child in 1974 so that ended her flying days but she continued to work at the Mt Isa Maternal and Child Health Clinic.

Adele and her husband, Graham, met while working with the RFDS. He was a pilot and later they moved around Queensland and NSW with his postings as a commercial pilot. They moved to Toowoomba, Caboolture, Sydney and Bowral. Adele worked in child health at these various places. While in Caboolture they also fostered children.

In Bowral, Adele became deeply interested in art and completed a Diploma in Fine Arts. She also volunteered as an art gallery guide.

Using her skills in nursing and art, Adele has developed an Art Therapy program for palliative patients which she delivers at a new palliative care unit in Wauchope.

Today the couple live in Port Macquarie and Adele also teaches art for U3A (University of the Third Age).



Adele delivering her art therapy program for palliative patients.

Adele has good memories of her training at Ipswich Hospital:

"I loved nursing and made many friends."

She recalls her worst memory however under the auspices of Matron Wilcox's tenure.

Whilst working in Male Medical, one of the more senior nurses, who was working a split shift, had asked her to keep an eye on the steriliser she had turned on in the pan room. Some time later she was summoned to Matron Wilcox's presence. Matron had received a call to say that water was cascading down Court Street into East Street. Bed pans and other sundry items were floating around. Adele had forgotten to turn off the steriliser. She was, of course, severely reprimanded.

In 2014 Adele and Graham were invited to help celebrate the 50 years of operation of RFDS in Mt Isa. Adele related her runway fire tale for an interview for ABC radio.



Adele (left) with museum volunteers, Elizabeth McNalty and Jane Kingston, both former nurses.

## A Real Trump"

A story in the Queensland Times on 28 September 1950 illustrated the first reunion of past trainees arranged by the Ipswich Hospital Trained Nurses' Association.

Matron Wilcox received the 150 guests, some of whom came from Tara, Bundaberg, Sandgate, and other parts of Queensland; Sydney, Wagga, and other New South Wales centres. For many it was the first time they had seen one another since they completed their training at the Ipswich General Hospital.

Dr David Trumpy, Medical Superintendent, said to the guests that "nursing is a hard life and a noble life".

Mrs W. M. McLean (nee Nunan), president of the Ipswich Hospital Trained Nurses' Association, thanked Matron Wilcox for making the gathering possible and that it was her pleasure and privilege to say a few words concerning Dr Trumpy.

"As we grow older we realise that he is in every sense of the word a real trump," she said, adding that Dr Trumpy had helped to build up the good reputation that the Ipswich Hospital enjoyed in the medical profession throughout Australia.

Dr Trumpy responded and said that if ever he seemed hard or stern to the trainees, he could assure them that his bite was never as bad as his bark. "I have always tried to do all I could for the nursing profession and for our own trainees in particular," he said.

He paid tribute to his immediate predecessors, the late Drs Thornton and Gilmore Wilson, who had established the training school for nurses in Ipswich. He also complimented the sisters on their assistance in the training of staff.

## The Ducks and Dr Dorsey

Dr William McTaggart Dorsey, an Edinburgh graduate, was the first active private medical practitioner in Moreton Bay. He came to Brisbane in August 1842 and bought one of the first blocks of land offered for sale in Ipswich in 1843. He set up a small hospital at Little Ipswich (now One Mile). When plans for Ipswich Hospital were raised, Dr Dorsey donated twenty guineas (\$42) towards the project.

In 1860 however, Dr Dorsey, who was also the first police magistrate in Ipswich, became infamous for another reason.

As told by Harold Peacock, - author, historian and detectorist—on West Bremer Radio this year : Arthur Morrison, an Ipswich shopkeeper, and his wife, Ellen (believed to be the former convict Ellen Doyle who had been transported for seven years), charged the Magistrate, Dr Dorsey, with stealing his two ducks in September 1850. Dr Dorsey initially refused to issue a warrant against himself or appear in his own court, but finally the charge went ahead and Edward Manley, the Ipswich chief constable, spoke for the defence helping to acquit Dr Dorsey.

A few months later Constable Manley was walking down East Street when Mr Morrison began shouting from his store veranda in "blasphemous and profane language". Morrison was still incensed by the alleged duck stealing incident and was shouting for all to hear that Dr Dorsey was a 'duck stealing scoundrel' and Manley was 'Dorsey's minion', embellishing the claims in colourful terms. An iron pot was thrown at Manley who claimed it would have killed him had it hit him.

Inside the store Constable Manley jumped on top of Morrison. Mrs Morrison then began belting Manly over the head with a steel saucepan and jumped on him trying to pull his eyes

out.

Constable Connor ran in to help and jumped on top of Mrs Morrison. A huge crowd gathered—Morrison was on the ground, Manley on top of him, Mrs Morrison on top of Manley and Constable Connor on top of her.

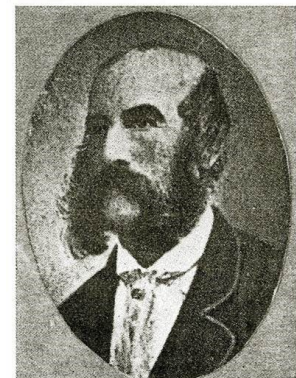
The wide-eyed spectators included George Fairholme, who was another local magistrate, famous for being on expeditions with Ludwig Leichardt and was described by his contemporaries as 'the most handsome man ever to come through Cunninghams Gap. He later married an Austrian baroness.

Fairholme tried to intervene in the fight and Mrs Morrison gave him a black eye; Randolph Want, who later became a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council; and John Dillon, who was the NSW crown solicitor. Both men were visiting for the first time.

The public brawl resulted in an assault case being brought against Morrison in the Brisbane Circuit Court before the NSW Chief justice, Sir Alfred Stephen. He was the most senior legal man in the Australian colonies.

Morrison was fined £50 and given three months imprisonment. Chief Constable Manley was criticised for having aggravated the situation and was later transferred out of the district.

There was no mention of what happened to Dr Dorsey or the ducks that started it all.



Dr Dorsey

## Sweltering in Hospital

With current temperatures soaring into the high 30degrees and sometimes 40 or more, patients and staff at Ipswich Hospital should be thankful that they can recover and work in air conditioned comfort.

Up until the early 1990s this was not the case.

Thirty years ago controversy raged in the pages of the Queensland Times with both the Ipswich Hospital Board and

State Government blaming each other for the lack of air conditioning.

Two medical wards which were built in about 1950 catered for nearly 100 patients. They had been built to catch the breeze but there were days with no wind. Ceiling fans and evaporative coolers were used and staff had to ensure patients kept up their fluid intake to avoid dehydration.

Finally in early 1991 the member for Ipswich West, Don Livingstone,

declared that \$150,000 had been allocated for air conditioning in existing wards—as part of the Special Works Program to stimulate activity in the building industry.

The air-conditioning work was due to start in the May of 1991 and to be fully installed by that summer.

These wards were later demolished and a new ward block was built in the mid-1990s. The hospital now has air conditioning installed in every ward.

## Doctor's Residence

The second oldest building on the Ipswich Hospital campus is the residence on the corner of Court and Nicholas Streets.

It was completed in 1941 as the residence for the then Medical Superintendent, Dr David Trumpy, and his wife.

Excerpt from the book, *The Ipswich Hospital*, by Ross Patrick:

*"The Government assumed control of the Hospital via "The Hospitals Act of 1936".*

*In July 1936 the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr Hanlon agreed to proposals for future accommodation at the hospital. These included the closure of East Street between Court Street and Chelmsford Ave to provide a site for the expansion. This required the removal of the existing Superintendent's residence.*

*Architect Douglas Roberts was appointed Architect, but due to ill health, Conrad and Gargett became the new architects.*

*In April 1940 Cabinet finally approved the construction of:*

*. An Administration Block, to include a dental clinic and outpatients department;*

*. A laundry and boiler house;*

*. Nurses quarters*

*. A medical superintendent's residence*

*. A maternity ward.*

*A contract for the residence was signed in April 1941 and Dr and Mrs Trumpy were able to move in 6 months later in October.*

On 12 October 1940, the Queensland Times noted that the Hospital Board had inspected plans for the residence with an estimated cost of £2120. On 19 December it was noted that 11 tenders were

received but considered too expensive.

Soon after the board approved the amended tender of A. A. Newell of Chermside, Brisbane, £2117/17/6. It recommended that the Department of Health and Home Affairs accept the tender. Mr. D. F. W. Roberts, architect to the board, advised that he was proceeding with the plans and specifications for the boiler-house and also with amendments to the plans for the Medical Superintendent's house. In a later letter he forwarded amended plans.

On December 23 some board members met with Mr Roberts to discuss the proposed, alterations to the house plans to bring the price of the lowest tenderer within a reasonable distance of the amount originally allotted. Some deletions were made to the original plan, which reduced the amount by £200.

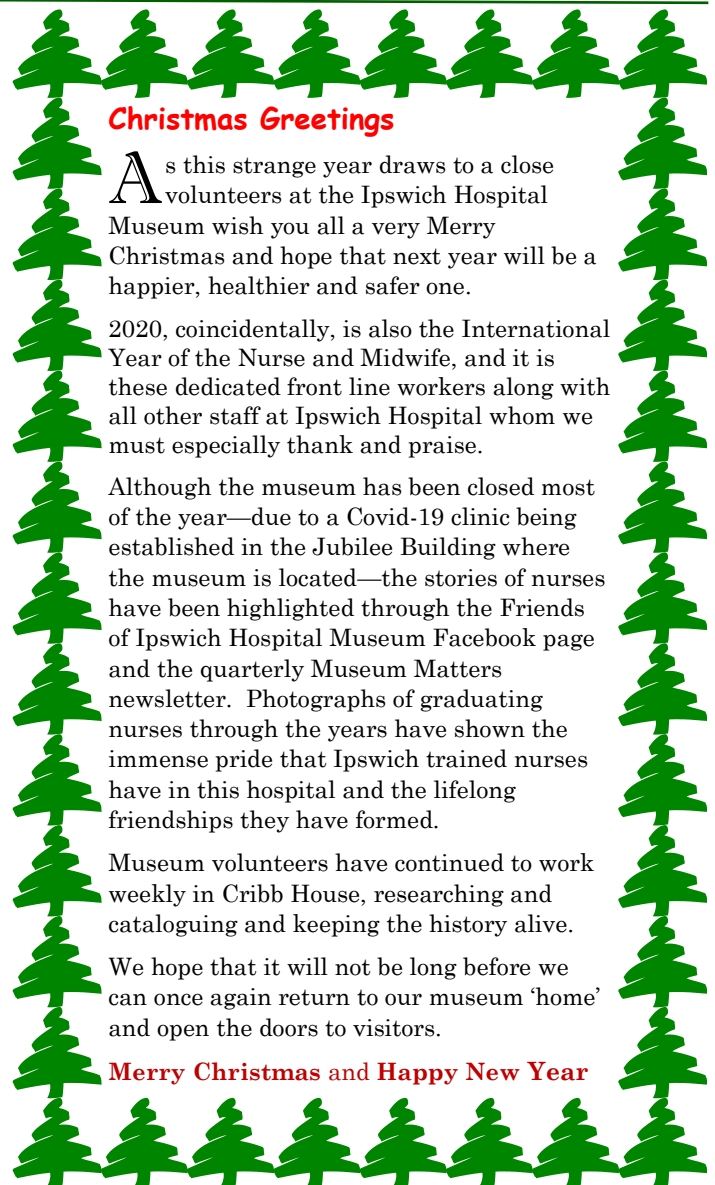
The ground plan remained as it was, although the amended specifications deleted the hot-water system and special tiling in the bathroom. The roof tiling was altered to fibro-cement sheeting; the laundry roof was altered from tiles to tin; and wooden frames for the windows would be substituted for steel. The fencing would not be done; it could be attended to later as a budgetary item.

Dr Trumpy moved into the residence in October 1941 and lived there until his retirement in 1967,

The oldest building on campus is Jubilee Building – built in 1887 as the Jubilee Children's Ward, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Victoria, with just a single storey. A second storey was added in 1908.



*The former medical superintendent's residence on the corner of Court and Nicholas Streets.*



### Christmas Greetings

As this strange year draws to a close volunteers at the Ipswich Hospital Museum wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that next year will be a happier, healthier and safer one.

2020, coincidentally, is also the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and it is these dedicated front line workers along with all other staff at Ipswich Hospital whom we must especially thank and praise.

Although the museum has been closed most of the year—due to a Covid-19 clinic being established in the Jubilee Building where the museum is located—the stories of nurses have been highlighted through the Friends of Ipswich Hospital Museum Facebook page and the quarterly Museum Matters newsletter. Photographs of graduating nurses through the years have shown the immense pride that Ipswich trained nurses have in this hospital and the lifelong friendships they have formed.

Museum volunteers have continued to work weekly in Cribb House, researching and cataloguing and keeping the history alive.

We hope that it will not be long before we can once again return to our museum 'home' and open the doors to visitors.

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

#### Charge Sisters 1981

Back: O.Estella, S.Jack, S.Brown, S.Shannon, M.Riley, J.Stevens, E.McNalty

Front: A.Weatherhead, J.Blinco, M.Elvery, L.Garrard, P.Bourke, M.Boulter, B.Stephens



#### CONTACT US

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