



Museum Matters

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March 2020

IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.

Committee :

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

Chairman's Chatterings

Ipswich Hospital is thrilled to be celebrating 160 years of patient care. It was 160 years ago on March 3rd that Ipswich Hospital admitted its first patient thus commencing a long and proud history of caring for the community of Ipswich and West Moreton. The Nursing and Midwifery Staff of West Moreton are also celebrating 200 years since the birth of Florence Nightingale who is considered the founder of nursing and midwifery professional practice. It is a wonderful coincidence that the Nightingale Home and Training School for Nurses opened its doors to trainees the same year that Ipswich Hospital opened its doors in 1860. Like Ipswich Hospital, St Thomas's Hospital in London continues to operate and provide access to nurse training.

At the conclusion of nurse training at Ipswich Hospital all nursing graduates would take the Florence Nightingale pledge that honours the founder of nurse education. This pledge reads:

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

Ipswich Hospital provided training for registered nurses for 88 years from 1904 until 1992 when nursing education transitioned completely to the tertiary sector. Ipswich Hospital today routinely hosts students in nursing and midwifery from a variety of Universities.

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Happy Birthday Ipswich Hospital

On 2 March 1860, 160 years ago, our hospital opened for business.

Today we can look back on the many changes, additions and redevelopments on this site. Nothing remains of the original building. It was extensively modified over the years and finally demolished in 1984. However, it is one of the few hospitals in Queensland built in small towns that later became cities, to remain on its original site. It is also believed to be the first public hospital opened after Queensland became a state.

A news item in the Moreton Bay Courier on Thursday 23 February 1860 heralded the opening of the Ipswich Hospital:

"This institution will be opened for the reception of patients on Friday next. A considerable outlay is still required to render the establishment complete. It is to be hoped that the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood will feel stimulated to give such pecuniary assistance as may be necessary to render the institution efficient in every respect."

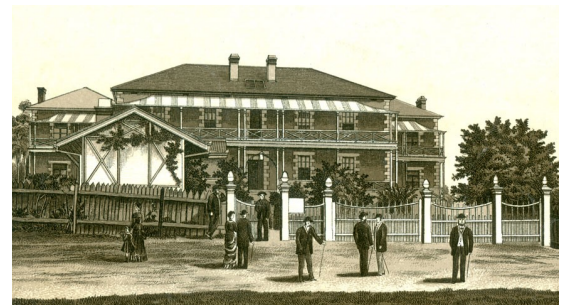
But there are no reports of an official opening.

The first patient, Thomas Tindale Makepeace from Moggill, was admitted on March 3. He was working in the mines at Redbank at the time of his admission.

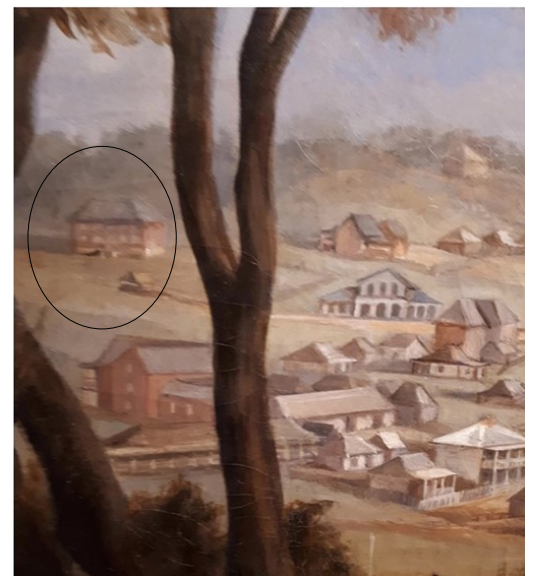
The two-storey brick building with a slate roof was completed in November 1859. On the ground floor were three wards with accommodation for 13 patients, dispensary, a matron's office, matron's bedroom, a servant's room and a storeroom. The second storey had three 8-bed wards. Cellars under the ground were used as storerooms. Toilets were fitted with buckets which were emptied into a cesspit 150m from the main hospital. There were no bathrooms and if a patient was ordered the treatment of a bath a galvanised tub was

bought into the ward. Most wards had fireplaces.

Outer buildings included two brick water closets erected over a cesspit 150 metres from the main hospital for general use. A "bathhouse" was created for patients that needed a bath before being admitted to the ward. The kitchen was a separate building with the cook's bedroom attached. The morgue was called the "deadhouse" – a distinct building situated to the rear of the water closets. A wooden "water tight" hay shed was where the hay for patient bedding was kept.



The above postcard photo shows the hospital building between 1865 and 1875.



A portion of the painting by W.F. Emery – View of Ipswich from Limestone Hill 1861/62 - shows Ipswich Hospital in the top left.

Ipswich Art Gallery Collection

Early Days

Ipswich Hospital's early staffing included Drs Challinor, Rowlands and Lucas (Honorary Medical Officers), Mr Hambrook (Resident Dispenser) and Miss Ellen Raymond (Matron). Three nurses and other doctors soon followed. These included Drs A. Dunlop, J. Flynn, W.H. Von Lossberg, R. McDonald, J.A. Cameron and H.M. Lightoller (Visiting Medical Officers); and Dr R. Thompson (Ophthalmic Surgeon). Dr Phillip Thornton became Medical Superintendent during the 1880s.

Ancillary Staff: Secretary, General female servant, Laundress, Cook, Wardsman, Assistant Wardsman, Manservant, Gatekeeper.

From its opening on 2 March until 31 December 1860, 63 patients were admitted; 36 were discharged as cured or "relieved"; 3 dismissed as irregular in their conduct; 9 died and 15 patients still remained.

The first operation was performed by Dr Lucas, assisted by Drs Rowland and Challinor, who amputated the leg of a patient, John Sheridan, who was suffering from a fungoid tumour on the lower leg. Two weeks later the patient was making a fast recovery.

The first case of the new and deadly diphtheria was treated in April 1860.

Terms of admission to the Hospital:

By subscriber's ticket – board members, members of the public (mostly business owners who took them out to benefit workers) and members of the clergy paid an annual fee of £1/1/0 or life subscription of £10 and would provide a ticket of admission for people who were impoverished and unable to pay.



The building c1947. Note that the bottom verandah on the male medical ward on the right has been closed in.

The female ward on the left was added in 1890.

Crisis Averted

In June 1870, 10 years after opening, Ipswich Hospital faced its first crisis.

The Queensland Times reported:

"We observe with extreme regret that the committee of the Ipswich Hospital has been compelled by want of funds, to announce that no more patients can be received and, what is far worse, we hear that the institution is likely to be closed altogether in a few days."

On June 28 the Ipswich Hospital inserted the following public notice:

"The Acting Committee hereby notifies that in consequence of being without funds to carry on the institution, no more patients will be received nor relief issued to the outdoor poor from this day, June 23, 1870."

But on July 2, an editorial said:

"We are sure that the whole of our readers will receive with great

pleasure the intelligence that the Government has wisely stepped forward in the nick of time and by moderate, timely assistance, relieved the committee of the Ipswich Hospital, temporarily at any rate, from its painful position.

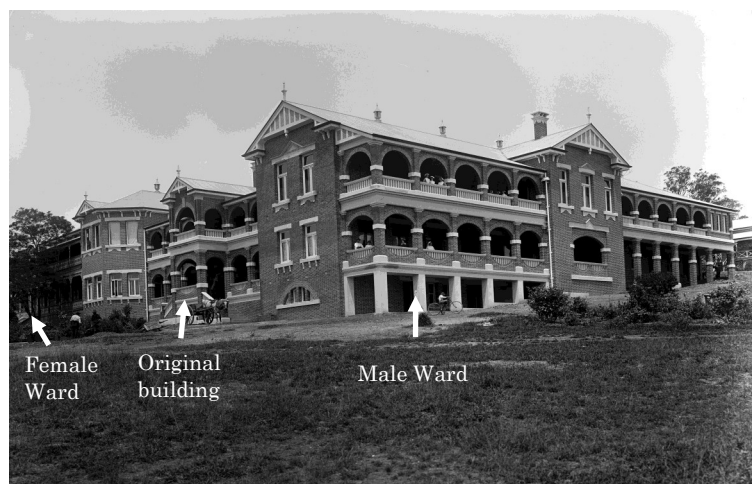
"It would have been a sad reflection on the colony if it had been found necessary to shut up such an institution as this, and not only cast the present inmates helplessly adrift, but prevent other unfortunates from obtaining like advantages."

The Government announced that £750 (\$1500) had been forward to enable the Ipswich Hospital to carry on.

Later, at a Hospital Committee meeting at the end of July 1870, the Rev. Dean Brun and A.J. Burkett stated that they had visited 146 houses, collecting for the funds of the hospital the sum of £9/18/3 and promises to be paid within a fortnight of £9/19/-.



The hospital in 1913 when the octagonal wing on the left was added as the first operating theatre.



The hospital in the 1920s.

International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

2020 has been designated as the year of the Nurse and Midwife. The global celebration is in recognition of the indispensable role of nurses and midwives in bringing health care to people everywhere.

It is also the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale (born May 12, 1820, died August 13, 1910), OM, RRC, DStJ, was an English social reformer and statistician, and the founder of modern nursing. Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers.



Hospital staff in 1891 with nurses wearing the first uniforms issued.

Nurses Remember

In 1996 the Ipswich Hospital Nurses' Association celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a reunion and the publication of a booklet containing memories and stories of members.

Many nurses who completed their training at Ipswich Hospital went on to distinguished careers in other hospitals, health departments and the community. Some remained at Ipswich Hospital for most of their career.

These snippets of memories give a colourful insight into the life of a nurse in the 1940s and 50s:

"And there was this rather large lady in Women's Surgical being lifted onto a bed-pan with great effort—and being encouraged to use the receptacle with the words 'Come on dearie, do get on with it, I'm in a hurry'. So the lady gently slid off the pan saying, 'Oh well luv, if you're in a hurry you use it first and I'll wait!'"

"And how Sr Harkness barricaded herself in Epidemic and was a law unto herself. She loved her garden and the junior was frequently sent out on the road to follow the milkman's horse and cart to collect the manure for the garden—and there wasn't a lot of hand washing done between gardens and patients—but I don't think there was any cross-infection and the diphtherias, scarlet fevers and whoopers all recovered."

"We should all remember the trials of trying to keep the babies quiet in Children's ward at night. If a child cried twice, Dr Trumpy would hear it and the phone would ring and you'd have to give an account of your stewardship!"

"Remember the young nurse who was told to give a 'high up enema' - so she stood on the patient's locker to give it!"

"Do you remember old Mr Thomas who came to the wards every Sunday with his old gramophone and played hymns for us and then gave us that lovely twisted barley sugar for the 'kids' in Children's Ward."

New Museum Exhibition

Ipswich Hospital Museum will open its latest exhibition "A Tribute to the Ipswich Hospital Nurse in 2020—The International Year of the Nurse and Midwife" on May 12.

The exhibition will also showcase the stories of "ordinary nurses accomplishing extraordinary things" with photos and storyboards.

Other aspects of the exhibition will include a 1950's ward scene, a 1904 classroom scene and displays of nursing requirements and tools.



Nursing Stalwarts

Four long serving Charge Sisters who all contributed much to nursing at Ipswich Hospital.

From left:

Shirley Jack was a student nurse from 1955-59, registered nurse 1970-71 and 1972, Charge Nurse Intensive/Coronary Care 1972-91, Charge Nurse Consultant December 1991 until her retirement in 1998.

Elizabeth (Libby) McNalty came to Ipswich Hospital as Sister in Charge of the Operating Theatres in 1972 and retired 39 years later in 2010 as the Nurse Unit Manager.

Shirley Brown was a student nurse in the early 60s, worked in Casualty and Outpatients before and after having children, appointed to senior RN of this department in 1980, a role she continued when the Emergency Department was created until she retired from Ipswich Hospital in 2006.

Noela Boileau was born in the new maternity ward at Ipswich Hospital and was a student nurse from 1962-66. Her nursing continued intermittently around family and her husband's RAAF duties. On their second posting to Malaysia in 1976 she was commissioned and worked at 4RAAF Hospital as a Reserve Officer. She returned to Ipswich Hospital in 1978 and became the sister in charge of Central Sterilising Unit in 1980, a role she held until her death in 2002.

Latest Exhibit:

The current exhibition, **"The Infections, Epidemics and Fevers of Ipswich"** will end on April 15 to enable the mounting of the new exhibition, **"A Tribute to the Ipswich Hospital Nurse in 2020—The International Year of the Nurse and Midwife"** which opens on May 12.

**Open: Wednesdays
9 am– 12 noon or
by appointment for groups**

Location:
Ground floor, Jubilee Building,
Ipswich Hospital Campus,
Adjacent to Court Street
Ipswich

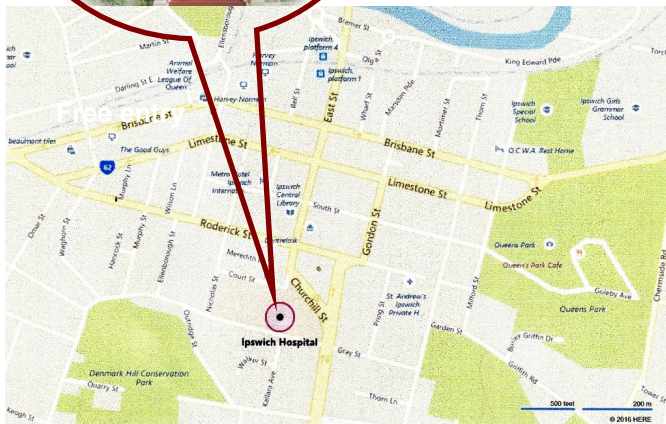
FREE ENTRY

**Interested? -
join us as a volunteer**

**Ipswich Hospital
Museum Inc**



**LOCATION:
Ipswich Hospital
East St Entrance**



CONTACT US:

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Email: info@ipswichhospitalmuseum.com.au
Phone: **0460683677**



**Friends of Ipswich Hospital
Museum**

Please note new phone number above

Museum Birthday Too

Coincidentally the Ipswich Hospital Museum will be 10 years old on March 3, the same day the hospital received its first patient 160 years ago.

Housed in the A.E. Wilcox Room on the bottom floor of the Jubilee Building, the museum opens every Wednesday morning and other times, such as the Great Houses of Ipswich Open Days, or by appointment. It is staffed by volunteers who collate and catalogue items and photographs, who research and record the buildings timelines and staff history, who inform and educate visitors to the museum and community groups and who are passionate about archiving and keeping the hospital's history alive.



Museum volunteers Christine Marre, Jane Kingston, Ross Blinco, Libby McNalty, Judy Blinco and Helga McCutcheon on the front verandah of Jubilee Building.



Judy Blinco and Keryn Francis cataloguing and archiving items in one of the museum's storage areas.



The then West Moreton District Manager, Pam Lane, and local MP, Rachael Nolan, were joined by a large group of former nurses at the opening of the hospital's museum on 3 March 2010.

From left:

Back, : Margaret Macfarlane (former Director of Nursing/Matron), Annette Kirwood, Ray Scrivener, Betty McDonald, Pam Lane, Margaret Boulter, Rachael Nolan, Jan Wilton, Margery Elvery.

Front: Barbara Kopelke, Barbara Stephens, Barbara McMinn, Beryl Oldham, Helga McCutcheon, Daphne Beutel, Marjorie Bulmer