



Museum Matters

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IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.



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Chairman's Chattering

Welcome to the first edition of Museum Matters for 2023. A big welcome to Dr Stewart Parkinson who has recently joined the museum team. The article that Dr Parkinson wrote in this edition is startling when you reflect on just how much our cultural norms have changed over the years. I dare say that the approach of the clinical staff is not a current expectation of assessment and treatment today.

It is also interesting to reflect on the 1998 year book. As you peruse this book one thing that really strikes you, is just how long a commitment staff had made to Ipswich Hospital.

We see much about staff who served at Ipswich Hospital for well over 20 years. This commitment can be seen across all areas of the hospital. The pages of the year book are full of examples of how staff at Ipswich Hospital have provided service to their fellow colleagues and the broader Ipswich community but with fun and enjoyment. There are many examples of staff connecting over social activities such as swimming carnivals, parties and balls. Each page outlines the various contributions of individuals as you read about their lifetime of loyalty and service to others. I am not sure that other workplaces have enjoyed such loyalty of its staff over a sustained time. It will be interesting to watch when another year book is published, what differences in workplace culture may surface.

"Only a life lived in the service of others is a life worth living"..... Albert Einstein.

Dr David Trumpy

Ipswich Hospital's third, and longest serving Medical Superintendent, was Dr David Trumpy, whose legacy and name is still part of the town's history.

David Ernest Trumpy was born in 1893, the middle son of Dr David and Margaret Trumpy, in Warragul, Victoria. His elder brother, Christopher died as a baby and his younger brother, Oswald Robert, also became a doctor.

His father, Dr David Trumpy Snr (or Trumpi) emigrated from the German-speaking district of north Switzerland in 1882. In about 1911 he and his wife initiated and built the Cooinda Private Hospital in Warragul and continued to run it through the Great Depression and after. His younger son, Oswald, took over his practice when he retired in 1926. He died in Warragul on 22 June 1942.



David Ernest married Beatrice Ellen Hall in Victoria in 1921.

In 1920 he was selected from 23 applicants as the new hospital superintendent, succeeding Dr

Gilmore Wilson. He had graduated with first class honours from the University of Melbourne in 1917 and then became a resident medical officer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for 12 months before volunteering with the Australian Infantry Forces at the 6th Australian General Hospital at Kangaroo Point. While there he was promoted to Commanding Officer and then held that rank at the 17th Australian General Hospital, Enoggera before coming to Ipswich Hospital.

Dr Trumpy led the medical staff from

1920 to 1967 and was affectionately known as "Trump", "Pop", and Cardy". He was highly regarded by not only the hospital staff at the time, but also the broader Ipswich community.

Dr Trumpy, whilst looking after all patients, loved children the most and was always mindful to call in to the paediatric ward on his way to and from the general wards. He and his wife did not have any children of their own and it was quite common for Dr Trumpy to phone down to the children's ward to enquire about a child that he could hear crying from his house. He would be adamant that the source of crying be identified and addressed so the child could be comforted.

Margery Elvery, former Deputy Director of Nursing, recalls "Dr Trumpy phoned every ward and department in the evening of every day to speak with the Registered Nurse on duty. This was to check on all new admissions, their diagnosis and condition and for a full report on all patients who had given concern that day and evening. Believe me, he knew if you missed one ...you did your homework before 7p.m!"

He was faithfully supported by Matron Alice Wilcox who served alongside Dr Trumpy for 40 of his 47 years as Medical Superintendent.

Dr and Mrs Trumpy shared a warm relationship with Matron Wilcox outside of the workplace and spent many a Saturday following horse races.



Left, portrait of Dr Trumpy (by Lola McCausland) in his later years. Donated to the hospital by the Ipswich Trained Nurses' Association and, above left, as a young man.

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Dr Trumpy ctd

The Trumpys initially lived in the original Medical Superintendent's house on East St which was later removed to build the maternity hospital. They then moved to the new superintendent's house on the corner of Court and Nicholas Street in 1941. This remains as part of the Ipswich Hospital campus today.

When the high rise building at Ipswich Hospital was constructed in 1979, the paediatric unit was called the "David Trumpy Paediatric Unit" in recognition of the doctor's dedication to Ipswich Hospital and particularly to the children of Ipswich. The current children's ward also bears this name as does Trumpy Home, nurses' quarters, which still remains on the Nicholas Street side of the campus.

Dr Trumpy is also remembered with the legacy of the David Trumpy Bridge



Above, Trumpy Home was built in 1957 and originally meant as accommodation for domestics but after much heated debate was transferred to nurses. This building still stands although two other accommodation quarters, Barnett Home and Chelmsford Home, were demolished in the early 1990s to build the current main ward block.

Right, in June 2015 Dr Trumpy's great nephew, Dr Robert Lawrence, and his father, Ian, and the two year old boy featured in the photograph far right, Peter Merrell, were guests at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the opening of David Trumpy Bridge. Picture: Kate Czerny Queensland Times 23 June 2015

which crosses the Bremer Bridge from East St across to North Ipswich. The bridge was officially opened in June 1965 by the Administrator of Queensland, Sir Alan Mansfield, and glowing tributes were again paid to Dr Trumpy who was the guest of honour of course. A street in Silkstone also bears his name.

In 1961 Dr Trumpy was awarded a Member of the British Empire (MBE), receiving his decoration from the Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Abel Smith at Government House. Part of the citation read "*Besides being an administrator of outstanding merit, his deep knowledge of medicine and surgery and his clinical acumen have placed him high in the esteem of his medical colleagues throughout the state.*"

Dr Trumpy was the foundation member of the Ipswich and West

Moreton Medical Association formed in 1926 and in 1928 was elected a member of the Council of the Queensland branch of the British Medical Association. A week before his death he was made a lifetime member of the Australian Medical Association.

Dr Trumpy did not retire until the age of 74 in 1967 after 47 years in the job and was farewelled and honoured at many functions. He continued to live in Ipswich and died in his hospital on 26 August 1971. His attending physician at his time of death was Dr Llew Edwards who, later that year, was elected to state parliament, becoming health minister and deputy premier and treasurer during his political career. In 1988 Dr Edwards was appointed chairman of Expo 88 and also became deputy medical superintendent of Ipswich Hospital for a period.



Above, the opening of the David Trumpy Bridge in June 1965. Dr Trumpy was the honoured guest.



Above, Dr Trumpy with one of his patients, two year old Peter Merrell who was being treated for a kidney disease and spent several weeks in hospital in 1960. After several courses of treatment of new drugs Peter reached adulthood and became a teacher. Photo by Nurse Beth Sneyd.

25 Years Ago

A perusal of the 1998 Ipswich Hospital Yearbook, a compelling read for many present and former staff members, illustrates the enormous changes that can take place over 25 years.

Photographs show many staff members who have moved on or passed on (sadly) and those that are still here now are ageing. It is not only changes in people we see but also buildings, systems and organisation.

Staff at that time were dealing with interruptions during the hospital's biggest redevelopment as they moved from old to new buildings.

The security department, now an integral part of hospital life, was implemented in about 1994. In that same year Information Technology reared its head

with the introduction of computer systems in all departments and a new learning curve for staff.

A new mental health acute unit had

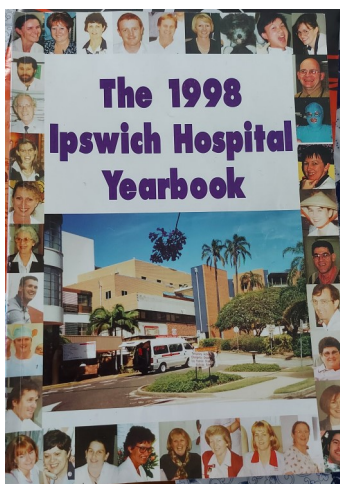
recently opened—to be replaced this year by the completion of a new multi-storey unit across the road.

The last hospital based midwifery course (after 53 years) was completed with a new model using a hospital/university approach being offered.

The Ipswich Hospital Foundation was launched and over the past 25 years has continued to support the hospital with fundraising, education and promotion and now looks after the strong volunteer component at the hospital and in the community.

The multi-level carpark was opened and since then has been expanded.

The yearbook provides an interesting capsule of life in the hospital at that time. It provides an insight to the way things were—better, worse or just different?



1937: Ipswich Hospital—halfway to the present

In 1937, 76 years ago, the Ipswich Hospital was newly recreated. The year before, after 76 years as a “voluntary” hospital, supported by local subscribers and the charitable generosity of the local community, the Hospital Committee had informed the Government that, as voluntary contributions from Local authorities could not be agreed upon, the Hospital was unable to carry on.

The Ipswich Hospitals’ Board was formed, administering not only the Ipswich hospital, but also Esk, Boonah, and Harrisville. The new board included members elected by contributors and local authorities, but government appointees were in the majority.

While the government now guaranteed funding of the Hospital—supplementing community contributions and a mandated local authority contribution—budgets, expenditures, appointments of medical staff and hospital performance were subject to the scrutiny and inspection of Government officers and approvals of the Government.

The Minutes Book of the Ipswich Hospitals’ Board, recently found in the hospital archives, details the Board’s activities and the changes implemented.

Staff Improvements (large and small):

- Nurses allowed to play tennis on the hospital court on Sundays.
- Trainees and assistants granted 4 weeks annual paid leave (matching the nurses’ entitlements).
- A clothes line was erected behind the nurses’ home for their exclusive use.
- A benefit concert by the National theatre company provided funds for a radio set to be installed in the

nurses’ home.

- Hot and cold water was piped to the washbasins in the nurses’ bathroom.
- Sisters in charge of departments were responsible for overtime worked, reporting daily to the matron.
- Sister should wear white uniforms, staff nurses blue, and trainees grey.
- A senior clerk, to be paid £250 p.a. (\$500), was appointed from 75 applicants.

Technology:

- X-ray units purchased.
- Electric lighting installed in grounds, ward balconies, and maids’ quarters.
- Electrical heated sterilizers replace unit with a primus burner at Esk. (primus was a heater using pressurised kerosene)
- Telephone extensions run to wards.
- “Frigidaire” (a brand of refrigerator) were placed in the epidemic and the children’s wards
- Money donated to Boonah hospital to instal a radio set with headsets at each patient’s bed.

Expansion:

- X-ray ward completed.
- Refurbishment of Esk hospital
- Plans for new Boonah hospital and Government special grant approved.
- East street closed and Board appointed trustee for that land.
- The opening of an eye clinic was investigated following representations from a board member and the Ipswich ALP branch.
- An Outpatients’ clinic at Kalbar was reopened on a trial basis following representations from the Kalbar CWA and Boonah Shire council.

- The Stanley Dam construction workers, through deduction from their wages were contributors to the hospital scheme. The board agreed benefits should include maternity benefit for wives, but did not include refunds for Whooping Cough vaccinations given to the workers.

Prices:

- The Senior clerk was paid £250 per year.
- A Frigidaire cost £110.
- Milk cost 1 shilling (10cents) per gallon (4.54 litres)
- The Boonah hospital estimated cost was £6,800. Including design costs of £350.
- The Board members were paid £1/1s for each meeting they attended plus expenses.

The Four Hospitals:

The relative size of the four hospitals administered by the board is illustrated by a 1938-39 report, from which the following was extracted.

Average number of in patients each day, and the average daily cost per patient:

Ipswich Hospital: 126 patients; 11 shillings and 5 pence (\$1.15) per day’

Boonah: 18 patients; 13 shillings and 4 pence (\$1.33) per day

Esk: 13 patients; 18 shillings and 3 pence. (\$1.82) per day

Harrisville: 2 patients; 1 pound, 18 shillings and 4 pence. (\$3.83) per day

Sources. 1937 Minutes Book; “The Ipswich Hospital 1860-1991, Ross Patrick; The Hospitals Act 1936 Qld.

Black Ingratitude

Sir William Arbuthnot Lane (1856-1943) has been attributed to the quote “Bone is filled not with good red marrow, but with black ingratitude” and it seems this was certainly the case for one Julius Friske aged 16 who was admitted to Ipswich Hospital on 23 July 1881, having been knocked down by a trolley and sustaining a fracture of the middle third of his right femur. He was treated in a “long splint” until 14 August when his “limb was taken down”. He was discharged from hospital on 29 August 1881. Julius was readmitted on 25 November

1881 with “angle at seat of fracture” of previously treated right femur. Treatment consisted of “chain saw put on and bone cut through – long splint”. Invented in 1780, this was a hand-cranked chainsaw with small trimming teeth on a chain. In the days following he was very restless – “will not keep quiet”, “is doing all he can to distort his limb”, “patient still obstreperous: tied down”.

On 2 December it was noted “limb in good position”, however on 10 December plentiful discharge was noted once the drain was removed. On 15 December “splint taken down: wound looks well: union doubtful.” The

splint was reapplied, and resin ointment applied to the wound. 22 December “this lad is the most perverse fellow I ever knew. It is impossible to keep his limb at rest”. 25 December “limb taken down: no union has taken place”. 30 December 1881 “amputation effected after his friends consented”.



Transcribed from handwritten notes of Dr L.G Thompson, Resident Surgeon, held by the Ipswich Hospital Museum. Compiled by Dr Stewart Parkinson, the museum’s newest volunteer.

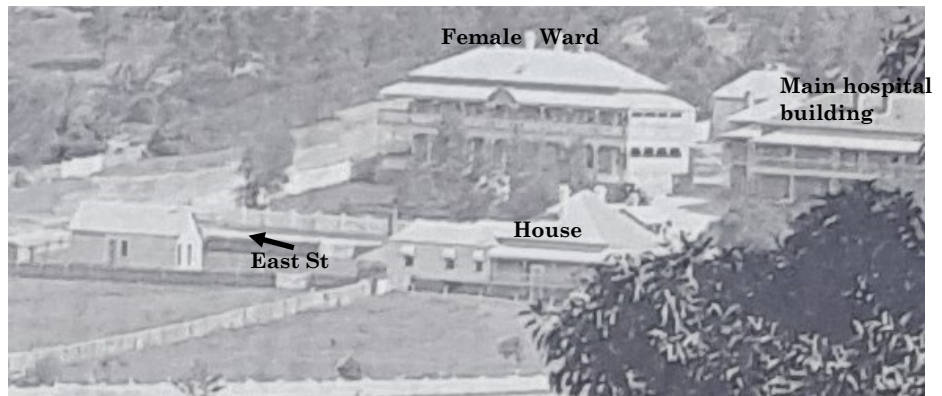
Medical Superintendent's House

When Ipswich Hospital was originally built it fronted East Street which ran through to Gray Street (now Chelmside Avenue). In 1883 a piece of land across the road was resumed. The Board of Management decided to build a residence on the resumed land, hoping to attract married doctors. The Colonial Secretary refused to approve funds for this building and the Board of Management decided to fund the project from general funds. The house was designed by architect Samuel Shenton and was a "handsome villa residence with nine rooms of generous proportions—the main bedroom being 18ft by 16ft 6ins. It was built of wood on a brick base and roofed with hardwood shingles". A separate building included a two-stalled stable, a man's room, a fodder room, a buggy house and two Scott's patent air closets. Mr Peter Brown erected the residence at a cost of £1219.

In 1901 £139 was spent in 'reroofing' the house replacing shingles with iron and painting the whole house.

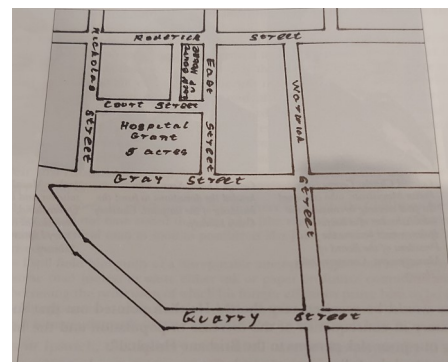
In 1936 this section of East street was closed to provide for hospital expansion including a maternity ward on the site of the superintendent's house which was removed.

A new Medical Superintendent's house was completed on the corner of Court and Nicholas Streets in 1941.



Above: showing the original Medical Superintendent's house on the bottom right with the hospital behind (the Female Ward is on the left). East Street, between the hospital and the house, used to run through to Gray Street (this section now Chelmsford Avenue). This photograph is a cropped copy of a photograph at the Queen's Park Café.

Left: the Medical Superintendent's House

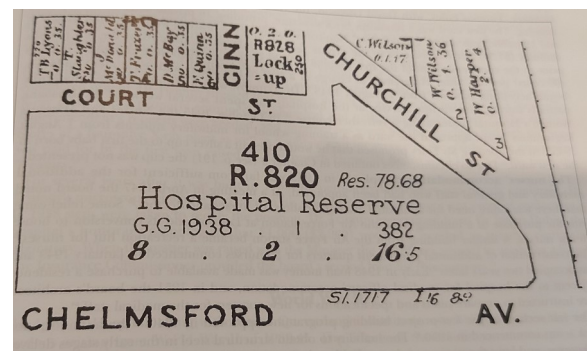
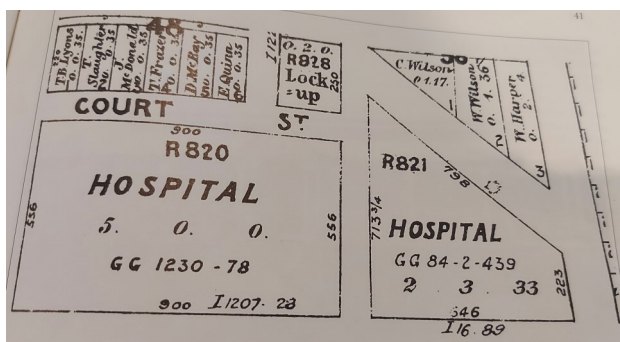


Street maps supplied by the Dept. of Lands showing:

(left) original site of the hospital between Court and Gray Sts bordered by Nicholas and East Sts.

(below left) original hospital site left and additional land granted in 1883 right. Used initially for the first Medical Superintendent's house.

(below) hospital land after portion of East St was closed in 1937 and the section of Gray St changed to Chelmsford Ave.




Ipswich Hospital, 100 years ago, in the 1920s. From the far left is the Female Ward built in 1887, then the Operating Theatres opened in 1913, the original hospital building and on the right is the medical wards which also included pathology and doctor's rooms. Just visible to the right is the Fever Ward which later became the Children's Ward before the Sunshine Ward was built on the same site.

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Museum Opening Delayed

The public opening of the Ipswich Hospital Museum has been delayed until Tuesday 6 June. The theme of the new exhibition is "The Ipswich Hospital Museum's Items of Significance".

The opening will be followed by the inaugural 'Friends of the Ipswich Hospital' annual reunion luncheon on Saturday 29 July. It will continue the tradition started by the recently wound-up Ipswich Hospital Nurses' Association of an annual get-together of past nurses of the hospital. The 'Friends of the Ipswich Hospital' reunion is open to all past Ipswich Hospital employees.

On September 20 the museum will host a theatre night at the Incinerator Theatre as a fundraiser.

We look forward to welcoming back visitors to the museum with a regular open day at the museum.