



Museum Matters

Volume 7, Issue 3
September 2023

IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.



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Chariman's Chattering

The Ipswich Hospital Museum is delighted to be able to shine a light on the many dedicated staff that have been deeply committed to the people of Ipswich. I can think of none better to highlight than Dr Terry Mulhearn. I was fortunate enough to have worked alongside Dr Mulhearn in the operating theatre and surgical wards. He had an obvious love of teaching and was always very generous with his time and knowledge to all those seeking to learn. Dr Mulhearn was a key part of the hospital based nurse training program where he lectured in surgical procedures. I also understand that Dr Mulhearn held the role of Government Medical Officer and was therefore required to perform post mortems. He often carried these out in the presence of police officers. During these procedures he provided any attending police officers with intricate details of what he was examining and how he was drawing conclusions. This is just another example of his dedication to teaching others.

Dr Mulhearn was also a gentleman and sensitive to the people he worked with. I remember on one occasion when I was allocated to scrub for him in theatre—he dismissed me from one of his last urological cases of the day and asked me to sit out of the theatre. At this request I was a little dismayed and thought I must have not been diligent enough in my duties or upset him in some way. But I soon learned this was not the case. Having only turned 21 at the time, Dr Mulhearn sent me out of the theatre to protect my delicate sensibilities as the last patient of the day apparently had quite an obscene tattoo near his private anatomy and Dr Mulhearn was shielding me from this coarseness.

Dr Mulhearn was not only a dedicated surgeon but a very active member of the Ipswich community.

In this edition we look at three men who had a profound impact not only on Ipswich Hospital but also on the City of Ipswich —Dr Terrence Mulhearn, Colonel George Gray and Dr Henry Challinor.

Dr Terrence Mulhearn

Terrence Rodney Mulhearn was Ipswich Hospital's fifth Medical Superintendent and the last to bear that name.

During his 20 years tenure he guided the hospital through three redevelopments and introduced new patient care innovations along the way.

Dr Mulhearn was born in Townsville, in 1940 and later attended St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace in Brisbane.

He was the son of Clarence (a vet) and Yvonne, and had one sibling—Barbara, who was a nurse.

Dr Mulhearn was a Queensland university graduate (1962) and served as a resident medical officer and surgical registrar at Royal Brisbane Hospital. Obtaining further surgical experience his three years or more in England included a stint as a registrar at the Chester Royal Infirmary, England. He gained his fellowship at Edinburgh and later at the Australasian College of Surgeons. In 1970 he came to Ipswich Hospital as a surgical registrar and in 1971, was appointed Medical Superintendent, a position he held for the next 20 years. During this time, he was able to combine his love of surgery with medical administration.

He identified the need for expansion at the hospital as the population grew and would contribute to three major building expansion projects during his time. Dr Mulhearn also served as a principal medical officer in the Reserve Unit of the Royal Australian Air Force, rising to the rank of wing commander.

He successfully negotiated with the RAAF Amberley Base to enable seriously ill patients to be transported by helicopter from Ipswich to Brisbane. This

all happened long before the air ambulance helicopter services we know and take for granted today. Taking on the vital role of supervisor of training at Ipswich Hospital, he ensured Ipswich Hospital was officially recognised as a teaching hospital for advanced surgical trainees. He was appointed clinical senior lecturer by the University of Queensland and was involved in teaching medical students at Ipswich Hospital for 25 years. Dr Mulhearn was instrumental in establishing a Breast Screen Unit in Ipswich and was appointed designated breast surgeon at Breast Screen Queensland Ipswich Branch. He was a member of the Queensland Council of the Royal College of Surgeons for two five-year terms and served in the roles of president, secretary and treasurer of the Ipswich Branch of the AMA. In 1980, Dr Mulhearn introduced surgical audits at Ipswich Hospital which continue to this day. He also received two grants for Ipswich Hospital to assist research into peptic ulcer disease and road trauma, and was a member of the road trauma committee.



Picture left shows Dr Mulhearn in January 2015, receiving the West Moreton Hospital & Health Services Australian Day Achievement Award—Outstanding Contribution for Excellence in Health Care.

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Colonel Charles George Gray

Colonel Charles George Gray was instrumental in the establishment of Ipswich Hospital. He was the Police Magistrate of Ipswich when he convened a public meeting in April 1856 to consider the matter following a petition to the Governor-General in Sydney, requesting that grants of land be made for public purposes including a hospital.

At the meeting Colonel Gray said that such an institution “*had become necessary in consequence of the increase in population and the inconvenience and obstacles in sending our poor sick persons to the Brisbane Hospital*”.

At this time it could take 24 hours to navigate the ‘goat track’ road to Brisbane or seven hours by steamer.

From this first meeting Col. Gray was appointed to head a provisional committee to raise subscriptions and draw up rules for the institution and to find a suitable location for the hospital.

Finally in 1860 when the hospital was completed and opened an official committee was appointed at a meeting of subscribers. This Acting Committee administered the daily running of the hospital. Colonel Gray continued to head the committee as president until 1867 but resumed it again at the annual general meeting in January 1870 until his death in 1873, aged 87 years.

Charles George Gray was born in Edinburgh on 28 November 1786 and in 1796 he was commissioned as an ensign in the 77th Regiment. In 1800 a lieutenantancy was purchased for him in the 78th Highlanders, but he went on half pay to enable him to complete his education. In 1803 he was attached to the 75th Regiment, his father’s former regiment, on full pay. The following year the regiment was in Calcutta, and he was present at the famous siege of Bhurtapore, where the 75th lost two thirds of its officers and men. In 1809 he was appointed to a company in the third battalion of the 95th Regiment (Rifle Brigade). On his return home he resumed his studies and was for some time a student in the Military College at High Wycombe. In 1810 Captain Gray sailed with his regiment for Spain fighting through the Peninsular war, in which he was twice wounded. He was awarded the Peninsular medal, with the clasps Toulouse, Orthes, Nive, Neville, San Sebastian, Badajos, Barrosa.

In 1814 he was appointed aide de camp to his uncle, General Johnstone, who was to command troops to reinforce the army at New Orleans. But while detained for some weeks in Cork by contrary winds, intelligence of the escape of Bonaparte reached headquarters, and he was ordered to join the army in Flanders. Fighting in the Battle of Waterloo he received the Waterloo medal.

After the war ended he was deployed in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and in 1825 he married the eldest daughter of Colonel Grogan, then on the staff in Dublin. Soon after he deployed to Gibraltar for about a year. On his return home he retired for some time on half pay and then was subsequently ordered to India for about five years. On his return to England, he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in the 44th Regiment, then under orders for the East. But tiring of the constant separation from his family, and in ill health he was allowed to sell out.

In 1837 he left with his family to settle in New South Wales. They arrived in Sydney, after a distressing passage of five months, in the ship *John Barry*, and, after looking about for some time, he determined to settle in Port Macquarie, a penal settlement at the time. He then took up his land grant on the Hastings River, about twenty miles from the township, where he remained until 1848, when he was appointed Police Magistrate of Gladstone, but this settlement was abandoned three months after its formation.

In 1851 he was appointed the gold receiver in the Sydney Treasury for two years, and then became the Police Magistrate of Ipswich. In 1859, at the foundation of Colony of Queensland, he was appointed first Usher of the Black Rod in the Legislative Council, an office he held until 1862, until, in accordance with the wish of many of the residents of Ipswich, he was reappointed as Police Magistrate here until 1867.

He had been the first captain gazetted to the No.1 (Ipswich) company of the Queensland volunteer Rifle Brigade.

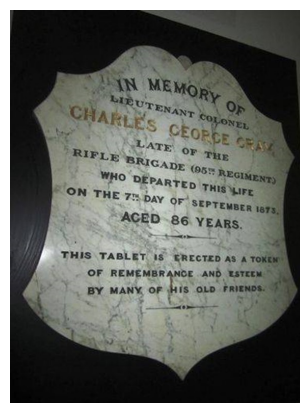
At the time of his retirement from the Ipswich bench in 1867, the Grays lived in a brick house in East St and while there, his daughter married Mr James Leith Hay, one of the early squatters of the Darling Downs.

It was at the East St home that Lady Bowen, wife of the first governor of

Queensland, spent her first night in this town on Sir George Ferguson Bowen's initial visit to Ipswich on December 10, 1859. His excellency stayed at the North Australian Club in South St (previously the Royal Hotel).

Two guests in 1868 were the Duke of Edinburgh, son of Queen Victoria, and Sir Samuel Blackall, second governor of Queensland.

In Colonel Gray’s obituary in the Brisbane Courier on 10 September 1873, it was noted that: “*As a gallant soldier and as one of the oldest veterans of the British army, the Colonel commanded that respect and veneration here which even as a stranger would have been accorded to him in any part of the dominions of Queen Victoria, and indeed in any portion of the civilised world. But not as a brave warrior was he known amongst us—not by martially heroic deeds did he conquer the hearts of all, rich and poor alike, in our little society; the popular love was won by that gentleness and consideration for the weak which were such distinguishing features in the characters of knights in the age of chivalry. By the genuine and hearty interest he has taken in everything which tended to relieve the sick or the afflicted, or which promised to be for the general good, Colonel Gray has earned the hearty respect of every one, without exception.*”



A plaque in St Paul’s Anglican Church, Ipswich, commemorates the life of Colonel Charles George Gray.

Dr Henry Challinor

Dr Henry Challinor was one of the first doctors to hang his shingle. He was born in 1814 and arrived in Ipswich in 1849 having been the surgeon-superintendent of the immigrant ship, *Fortitude*.

He spent much of the rest of his life in Ipswich and was proud to be a citizen. He later lived in Brisbane but did not venture far afield. He never returned to England and probably did not visit even Sydney. He married Mary Bowyer Hawkins at Ipswich in 1855; they had six daughters and two sons.

When Ipswich Hospital opened in 1860, Dr Challinor became a visiting medical officer and occasionally assisted with surgical operations.

Challinor contributed to the life of the Moreton Bay District in four main fields: medicine, civic affairs, the Congregational Church and colonial politics.

Highly trusted and competent he remained as a general practitioner until 1869, when he was appointed the second medical superintendent of the Mental Asylum at Woogaroo (Goodna) to straighten out a scandal. This he did successfully but by 1872 his health showed signs of deterioration and he then took up the less onerous position of health officer for the port of Brisbane (quarantine) and medical officer to

various official institutions. From 1876 he was inspector of public institutions such as the Orphan Schools and in 1878



was principal medical officer of the Queensland Volunteer Brigade. Thus in his professional life he practised in the three main official branches of clinical medicine, preventive medicine and mental health services.

In town and church affairs he was a member and usually an office bearer of almost all the societies and associations designed to promote the common good. He campaigned for separation from New South Wales and fought against the renewal of convict transportation. He was a member of the first Legislative Assembly in Queensland but through a comedy of political errors was not elected till June 1861. He was narrowly defeated in 1868 mainly because of a stand on principle. In his

short parliamentary career he made his mark as an ardent if naive Liberal in a legislature dominated by squatters and their allies. He advocated a just land policy which would give opportunity to the small settler, efficient agriculture, free secular education, political equality, religious tolerance and railway construction free from the scandal of land grants. He opposed the cotton bonus and the aggregation of pastoral land by wealthy companies. None of this programme made him popular; instead he was actively disliked and even feared in parliamentary circles.

For his time he was an unusual doctor: Nonconformist by religious persuasion, an advocate of temperance, quiet and astonishingly industrious in private life, but constantly and tiresomely loquacious in public. His life was ruled by principle in defence of which he showed a blunt courage and cared not a whit for public opinion. He was the archetype of what is now called a 'do-gooder'. He wore his social conscience like a hair shirt, yet even before his death on 9 September 1882 in Brisbane his real virtues of tolerance and liberalism had come to be recognized.

Source of information:

Douglas Gordon, 'Challinor, Henry (1814–1882)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian

Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum

Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum, the original institution for the care of the mentally unwell within the colony of Queensland, continues today as the Park—Centre for Mental Health. Building was started in 1864 and continued until 1923. It has also been known as Goodna Hospital for the Insane, Goodna Mental Hospital and Wolston Park Hospital. It is administered by the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. The complex was added to the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992.

Prior to the construction of Woogaroo, patients were usually confined in a rudimentary system of gaols and hospitals before being transferred to institutions in NSW. After the colony of Queensland was established in 1859, patients were remanded in the Brisbane Gaol. Sixty five patients were transferred from there to Woogaroo in 1865. The first surgeon/superintendent was Dr Kearsley Cannan. Following a scandal and his dismissal, Dr Henry Challinor, was appointed superintendent. In the early days the major diagnostic categories included dementia, mania, melancholia, amentia, and imbecility. The asylum was the endpoint of a system including hospitals, gaols and courts throughout the colony—penal and asylum systems were intertwined.

Challinor Centre

The Challinor Centre, previously known as the Ipswich Special Hospital, closed in 1998, following the site's purchase by the University of Queensland for the location of its Ipswich campus. The heritage listed buildings of the former Challinor Centre were integrated into the university campus. Originally built as a benevolent asylum, the Ipswich site never fulfilled this purpose. Instead it was used as an overflow solution to the chronically overcrowded Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum. In July 1878, the first fifty patients arrived at the single story building on top of the hill known as Sandy Gallop. The institution was known as the Ipswich Branch of the Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum, but in 1910, it became an institution in its own right, and was renamed the Ipswich Hospital for the Insane. By the end of 1914 there were 312 patients receiving care but there were still no direct admissions to the Ipswich Asylum. In 1938 the institution was renamed the Ipswich Mental Hospital and later Ipswich Special Hospital. In the late 1960s there was a change in focus in health services and it became the Challinor Centre for the training and care of the intellectually handicapped in 1968. It was named in honour of Dr Henry Challinor, an Ipswich doctor who gave up his private practice to become the second superintendent of Goodna Mental Asylum in 1869.

Dr Mulhearn ctd

He relinquished the position of Medical Superintendent to become the first Director of Surgery in 1991.

After ceasing his full-time appointments at Ipswich Hospital, Dr Mulhearn was appointed as a visiting surgeon at both St Andrews and Ipswich Hospital, which he continued until his retirement. Life-saving work aside, the true love of Dr Mulhearn's life was his wife Terri (McGrath) and their four sons, James, Sean, Richard and Michael. Terry met Terri while she was doing her nursing training at the PA Hospital, and they married on December 27, 1965. Terri was a nurse at Ipswich Hospital for many years.

Eldest son, James trained at IGH as a radiographer/sonographer and then studied to be a Chartered Accountant. He had his own practice for 25 years but is now semi-retired. He and his wife, Sally, also a former Ipswich Hospital nurse, have two children, Lauren and George. Sean, a cardiologist, is based mainly at the Wesley Hospital but also does weekly consultations at Ipswich. His wife, Nadia, is a nurse at the Wesley and they have two children, Oliver and Patrick.

Richard completed a Business degree in Toowoomba and owned and operated hotels in Toowoomba and restaurants on the Sunshine Coast. He now lives in Bali with his wife, Lynda, and twins Cooper and Darcy, where they established two restaurants and a third on the way. They come back to Australia regularly.

Michael studied Business and owned and operated a successful fine dining restaurant in Caloundra for many years until recently when he relocated to Brisbane. He and his wife, Selena, who works in event management, have two daughters, Ella and Rachel.

Dr Mulhearn died on December 12 2017 aged 77. At the time of his passing he was also a proud grandfather to eight.

At his funeral in St Mary's Church, Ipswich surgeon, Dr John Copp, who worked alongside Dr Mulhearn for 22 years, said his former workmate had a passion for his hometown.

"He was passionate about Ipswich and his work, and he was proud of his family and what his children achieved. He was a talented surgeon who enjoyed a long and illustrious career."

Son Sean spoke about his father's great love of classic cars. *"The family often did not know about a new car purchase until it arrived in our street, either being driven proudly by him, or being unloaded by a car carrier or, on another very memorable occasion, being discovered by us hidden away in a city carpark, some four months after he had secretly purchased it."* James, paid tribute to his mother saying she was the glue that held the family together. Despite the demands of his career, Mrs Mulhearn said Terry was always a calm and generous husband and father. *"He had a lot of achievements but went about his work quietly without making a big song and dance and big -noting himself."*



Dr Mulhearn as a graduate.



Dr Mulhearn (second from right), with Sr Elizabeth McNalty, Sister in Charge Operating Theatres, right) and two young doctors enjoying afternoon tea.



Dr Mulhearn with Dr Llew Edwards in February 1980, when a project to complete the multi-million dollar redevelopment of the hospital was announced.

Open to the Public

The Ipswich Hospital Museum is open to the public every Wednesday 9am – 12 noon or by appointment for groups.


Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with notable artefacts and stories related to various aspects of the hospital's rich history.

The museum is located at Jubilee Building, west of the East Street Entrance to the Ipswich Hospital.

CONTACT US:

www.ipswichhospitalmuseum.com.au

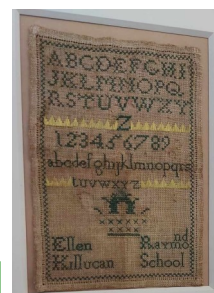
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Matron Raymond's Sampler

One of the special items on display in the Museum is a sampler worked by the hospital's first matron, Ellen



Raymond. Ellen attended school in Killucan, Ireland. The sampler was completed as part of skills taught at the school. The museum has had the work restored and it is proudly shown on the wall of the museum for visitors to share. Ellen was 33 years of age when appointed as matron. Nearly six years later, however, she died of

typhoid fever, contracted from a patient. She is buried in the Ipswich Cemetery but the exact site of her grave is unknown.

