



Museum Matters

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IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.

Committee :

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

Chairman's Chatterings

Recently we were asked to present on the process of writing a successful funding submission to a museums and galleries education day. In preparing for this presentation I had to think deeply about what makes a funding submission successful and how would I share that with others. What I identified is that a key to success is having a clear vision and encouraging others to share that vision and to feel part of it. I outlined that for Ipswich Hospital Museum, by mere virtue of our name, people already understand what we are about so this makes our role of gaining people's understanding relatively easy. Linking what happens at Ipswich Hospital to the community is fairly simple. Everyone in Ipswich would have some connection with the hospital from being born in the facility, knowing someone who works in the facility or saying farewell to a loved one at Ipswich hospital. People say there are six degrees of separation. I think there is probably only two degrees of separation from Ipswich Hospital. The funding submission that we were successful in was to digitise the early minutes of the hospital. This sounds like such a 'dry' topic but in fact it is a rich history of what was happening in the community at the time. The minutes reflect the economic pressures, the moral and cultural norms of the day and provides insights into how decisions were made. My favourite snippet of the minutes reflects the advertising for a new Matron following the sudden death of Matron Raymond. The minutes reflect that the advertisement should read as follows "Wanted immediately an experienced middle aged Lady, as Matron in the above Institution. The Applicant must be single or a widow without family".

Of course with todays mindset this type of advertisement would be in clear breach of the equal employment opportunities act. Recognising where we have come from helps us to enjoy a better future.

Ambulance Service at Ipswich

For nearly 40 years after it opened in 1860, patients had to get to the hospital themselves, often lying on a mattress on the floor of a spring cart or dray in a slow and uncomfortable journey. The jolting over rough roads often caused deterioration in the patient's condition. In the city a private cab was used.

In June 1898 the Ipswich Hospital Board of Management purchased an "ambulance wagon" from the Brisbane Brigade. This was kept at the Ipswich railway station. The stretcher mounted on detachable buggy wheels and moveable legs was pushed by hand. The Ipswich subcentre was at first served by honorary bearers who borrowed the hospital litter. Premises in Downs Street, North Ipswich were purchased in 1901, and Superintendent William Tompkins and bearer Jenkins were supported by seven honorary bearers. The fleet consisted of two Ashford litters (modelled on those used by the Prussians in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War) and a folding stretcher.

By 1909 Ipswich was a centre in its own right. Litters were pulled behind a horse (generally white) and sulky, and bearers pushed the patient to the hospital. At night a lantern hung from the litter and when nearing the hospital one of the bearers blew a whistle and a wardsman opened the hospital gates. In 1918, at a new brick building on the corner of Downs and Flint Streets, the fleet included two motor transport cars, two field wagons and a hand litter. In 1943 D. Miller was Superintendent, supported by a Deputy Superintendent, six bearers, a mechanic, a clerk and eight honorary bearers. The transport fleet consisted of six motor

vehicles.

Advances in the last 50 years have included increases in staff and plant and improvement in training. By 1991 Superintendent Malcolm McDonald



supervised a staff of 50 officers and the ambulance vehicles were fitted with a wide range of modern resuscitation equipment.

A pre-hospital coronary-care programme was initiated in 1986 with five modular ambulances, fitted for emergencies and accidents, with cardiac defibrillators and officers trained in their use. In 1988 staff from the hospital's emergency department began attending major accidents where patients were trapped or seriously injured. Then in 1991 the hospital became involved with the Ambulance Service in a trial Ambulance intravenous cannulation programme.

From 1 July 1991 a coordinated Queensland Ambulance Service began functioning with the former head of the hospital's Emergency Department, Dr Gerry Fitzgerald, as Acting Commissioner. Under the new scheme Ipswich became a district centre managing Boonah, Rosewood, Laidley, Toogoolawah and Lowood centres.

Adapted from "The Ipswich Hospital 1860-1991" by Ross Patrick

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Cribb House

The parcel of land opposite Ipswich Hospital on Chelmsford Avenue is now the home of the Renal Dialysis Unit and Cribb House.

Cribb House is named after the original owner of the house, Joseph Foote Cribb. Mr Cribb built the house and was the only owner. He was a great supporter and sponsor of Ipswich Hospital and sold the house and adjacent land to Ipswich Hospital for £1550 in 1916.

Joseph F. Cribb was born on July 17, 1855 at "Kingsholme" in Brisbane, the second child and eldest son of Clarissa and Benjamin Cribb.

He was a gentleman of retiring disposition and a senior partner in the family firm of Cribb and Foote.

He died quietly at his home on Denmark Hill, which he built after selling his previous property to Ipswich Hospital, on October 3, 1922, and was found sitting in his armchair when he did not respond to a call to tea.

The property was initially purchased from Mr Cribb for the purpose of building an Epidemic Hospital to treat scarlet fever patients. The house was used as quarters for the epidemic hospital staff.

Cribb House has had many purposes in the past including being a nurses' quarters, a staff recreation area and a store room. It fell into disrepair but was restored to its former glory in 2013.

The building's renovation received a Silver Award in the Ipswich City Council Awards for Excellence in 2015.

Cribb House is now used by West Moreton Health as a



Cribb House before renovation



Cribb House today

boardroom, training centre and a staff meeting area.

Its two largest meeting rooms have been named after and dedicated to two long serving Ipswich Hospital staff members, Dr Terrence Mulhearn and Miss Margaret McFarlane.



Dr Terrence Mulhearn became senior surgical registrar in 1970 and appointed as medical superintendent in 1971, a position he held for the next 20 years, combining surgery with medical administration. During this time he was involved in three major building expansion projects; ensured that Ipswich Hospital was officially recognised as an advanced surgical training hospital; was a clinical senior lecturer at the University of

Queensland; introduced surgical audits in 1980 which continue today; and received two grants for the hospital to assist research into peptic ulcer disease and road trauma. He also helped establish the Breast Screen Unit and was appointed designated breast surgeon. Dr Mulhearn was a principal medical officer and wing commander in the Reserve Unit of the Royal Australian Air Force, and negotiated with the Amberley Air Force Base to transport seriously ill patients by helicopter from Ipswich to Brisbane, long before today's rescue helicopter services.

He was a member of the Queensland Council of the Royal College of Surgeons and served in the roles of president, secretary and treasurer of the Ipswich Branch of the AMA.

In 1991 he became Director of Surgery for 10 years. After ceasing his full-time appointment at Ipswich Hospital, Dr Mulhearn was appointed as a visiting surgeon at both St Andrews and Ipswich Hospitals, until his retirement in 2014. In 2015 he received an outstanding contribution award for Excellence in Health Care. Dr Mulhearn passed away, at the age of 77, on December 12, 2017.

Miss Margaret McFarlane became Matron of Ipswich Hospital in 1967, a position she held for 26 years, after being Deputy Matron since 1961. She was the last person to be employed with the title of Matron. In the early 70s it was changed to Director of Nursing. Margaret began her training in Ipswich in 1946 and graduated in

1950. The following year she gained her midwifery certificate, and later her certificate in Eye and ENT nursing at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in 1959 and her Maternal and Child Welfare certificate in 1961-72 in Brisbane. She also nursed in Tasmania. Miss Macfarlane was awarded a Diploma in Nursing Administration and a Fellowship from the College of Nursing (Australia). She retired in 1993 and in 1994 received the Queensland Chapter's Distinguished Nursing Service Award. She has been Councillor for Queensland (1965), President (1969-70), Secretary (1970-84) and Censor-in-Chief (1978-1979).

Miss Macfarlane was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the 1995 Australia Day honours for services to nursing.



Why Denmark Hill?

Musings of IHM volunteer, Pat Camlin

Standing on the open verandah of the beautiful Jubilee building (and nibbling on a tasty morning tea), looking down on Ipswich and across to Limestone Hill, one of our group of attendees at the *On Site Review of Museum Galleries* referred to the Ipswich Hospital as being on the slopes of Denmark Hill.

Being a Family History Researcher I asked the question, "I wonder why **Denmark Hill**?"

We are all aware of the history of **Limestone Hill** and the convicts working under the feared Captain Logan to supply limestone for the rapidly developing Moreton Bay area. But **Denmark Hill** ? ?

Our group suggested that maybe a Mr Denmark was an early owner of land on the hill. Did an original settler arrive on a ship named "The Denmark?" Did Ipswich have a connection with Denmark that little was known about?

We found that Benjamin Cribb (the Ipswich merchant) is attributed with naming Denmark Hill as it reminded him of 'home.' But Mr Cribb was English born and bred (Poole, Dorset). He was not a native of Denmark.

Further research revealed that Denmark Hill is also a south-eastern suburb of London and Benjamin Cribb came up to London from Poole, in his early working career and seems to have lived and/or worked in the Denmark Hill area, which he later referred to as 'home.'

And it was 'home' because at the time of Benjamin's death in Australia, in 1874, he was living on Denmark Hill in Ipswich in his beautiful heritage listed home, *Gooloowan*.

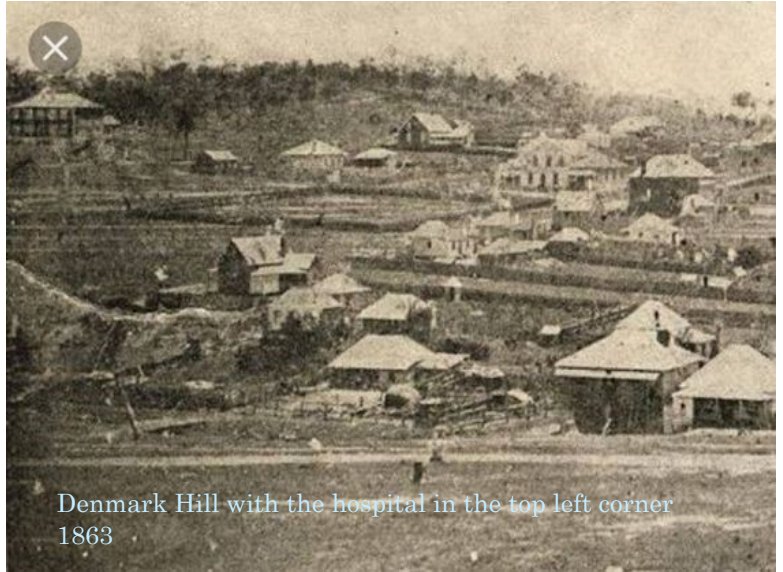
Just as Denmark Hill supports the Ipswich Hospital, Denmark Hill in southeast London also supports not one,

but two hospitals, King's College Hospital and Maudsley Psychiatric Hospital.

The final word is that the British believe that London's Denmark Hill was named in honour of Queen Anne's husband, Prince George of Denmark. Queen Anne was the Monarch who reigned from 1702 to 1714.

So there you go. Ipswich has a teeny, tiny connection with Denmark through Royalty.

AND you only learn these facts if you have morning tea with Museums Galleries Queensland

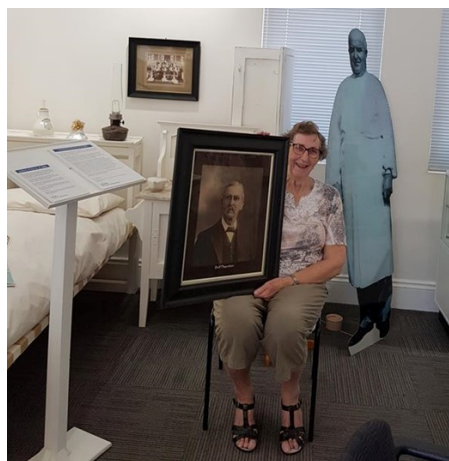


Denmark Hill with the hospital in the top left corner
1863

Special Museum Visitors

Erica Foote's great-grandfather was Dr Phillip Thornton, the first Medical Superintendent of Ipswich Hospital from 1887 until he retired in 1915. He returned to the hospital in 1916 as the assistant medical officer to cope with a scarlet fever outbreak and acted up as Medical Superintendent when Dr Gilmore Wilson became ill during the Spanish Influenza outbreak in 1919. Dr Thornton died on June 23, 1920.

Erica was able to see his actual hand-



writing in documentations he had made in the State of the Hospital Reports to the Hospital Board.

Her grandfather, John Clarke Foote (the eldest son of William Hardwick Foote & Lucy Catherine (nee Harding), married Edith May Thornton, Dr Thornton's daughter. Erica's mother, Eunice Foote (nee Gannon), had been a nurse at St Mary's Hospital in Ipswich before she married

Her father was Eric Clarke Foote. Tragically Eunice died giving birth to Erica and she was raised by her father, grandfather and grandmother. All Erica's life she referred to her grandfather as "Him".

Erica was pleased that we will be able to assist her and her cousin, Jane, in exploring more on Dr Thornton for their family history research. She is pictured here with a portrait of her great-grandfather which has pride of place in the Ipswich Hospital Museum photograph collection.

Pixi Annit was a welcome visitor to the museum late last year. Pixi is a doyenne in nursing circles. She is well known for her efforts for recognition of nurses throughout her long and distinguished nursing career, and later her campaign on behalf of elderly and homeless women. Pixi began her nursing training at the Brisbane General Hospital in 1948 and retired as CEO of St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital Brisbane in 1992.

She kindly donated to the museum a signed copy of her memoir "-Pixie Annat - champion of nurses" by Colleen Ryan.



Latest Exhibit:

***Pestilence, plagues, poultices,
poxes, pustules and pyrexias –
The Infections, Epidemics and Fevers of Ipswich***



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

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



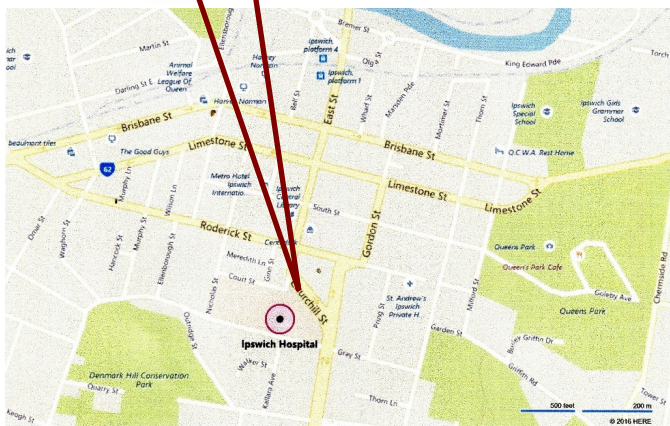
FREE ENTRY

Interested? - join us as a volunteer



**Ipswich Hospital Museum
Inc**

**LOCATION:
Ipswich Hospital
East St Entrance**



Interesting Tidbit
The Resident Dispenser reported that James Keane and James Griffiths patients in No 6 Ward had been guilty of very disorderly conduct. The Committee investigated the matter and adjudged Griffiths to be reprimanded and cautioned as to his behaviour for the future and Keane to be kept on bread and water for three days.
From the Management Minutes of the Ipswich Hospital & Benevolent Asylum 1863-1876
7th April 1864

Repair Job
I entered hospital for an operation and, when settled in, I saw a tag tied to my bed. Being curious, I sat up and read it. Although upset at the thought of the operation, I was amused to read: "To be sent for repairs". Jenny, Ipswich, Q.
New Idea 28.4.73

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Friends of Ipswich Hospital Museum

