



# Museum Matters

Volume 2, Issue 2.

May 2018

IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.

Committee :

Chairman: M Parcell

Secretary: J Kingston

Treasurer: E McNalty

## Chairman's Chatterings

### International Nurses Day 12 May and Midwives Day 5 May 2018

The 12 May is Florence Nightingales birthday and nurses celebrated all over the world with International Nurses Day. Most nurses know Florence's story but her influence that also spread to Australia and to Ipswich Hospital.

### The foundation of Australian Nursing: Lucy Osburn

In the wake of a damning report into the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary (known as Sydney Hospital from 1881), NSW Colonial Secretary Henry Parkes made a request to British nursing legend Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) to help reform the lax system of patient care. Nightingale appointed **Lucy Osburn** (1836–91) to head a team of six nurses to travel to Sydney to reform nursing at the infirmary and to establish a school to train local women, who would then spread the system of "Nightingale nursing" throughout hospitals in the colony including to Queensland.

On 5 March 2018, Australia Post released a pre-stamped envelope to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Lucy Osburn in Sydney on 5 March 1868, who is recognised as the founder of modern nursing in Australia.

She was successful in introducing a patient-centred form of care, which profoundly and permanently improved medical outcomes, and who made such a major impact on Nursing in Australia.



## 1893 How a Hospital Nurse Lives

One day out a month

A thrilling and varied occupation

Few people realise the kind of life a hospital nurse leads. Some have a vague idea that it must be hard and monotonous, while others think it is merely donning a pretty uniform in which to work.

Both ideas are wrong. That it is hard work I will not dispute but it is not monotonous; indeed, its chief charm to a nurse is the ever-varying experience her duties afford.

There is always something fresh to be learnt, always a new experience to be gained, both from a scientific point of view and also from a humane one.

No true woman can nurse without to a certain extent entering into the many feelings of her patients.

Perhaps the hardest time of a nurse's life is the first three to four months of her training when duties consist chiefly in waiting on others, and her thoughts and interests are more given to the inanimate than to living people.

As a probationer, a nurse does little of the real nursing. She has to begin at the very beginning, to have to learn to sweep wards and to scrub the lockers, clean the tins, to fetch and carry for her senior nurse, and she does very little more than look at operations. If a probationer is quick and eager to learn, then she will soon gain experience; the sisters of the wards are ever ready to teach and to help one really willing to learn. She must not, however, be content with practice alone, but must study the theory as well for without a knowledge of physiology and anatomy, and the many technical terms used in

medicine, she will never understand the doctor as he goes from bed to bed, to diagnose and to prescribe. To learn these things, she has to attend lectures every week, for six months; three months medical lectures, and three months surgical. During the first year she works as a probationer under a sister and a staff nurse, and is taught about splint padding, bandaging, poulticing, fomenting, how to apply several lotions, etc.



Nurses and doctors of Ipswich Hospital 1891

At the end of this time, the probationer is examined in paper work.

The papers, medical and surgical, are set by the lecturers, and the examination generally last two days. She is then interviewed by the lecturers and the matron, when she has to answer any questions put to her, to name the various bones, and their position in the human body, to poultice, to bandage, and to make up beds in many ways adopted by the hospital for the different diseases and accidents. It is also necessary to gain the matron's marks for good conduct, punctuality, etc.

Should the probationer pass the examination, she becomes a staff nurse, and is given charge of a ward. She has now in her turn to help train a probationer, and to learn from the doctor, or rather

(Continued on page 3)

## Rosewood Women's Group Visit

The Ipswich Hospital Museum was delighted to host a visit from members of the Rosewood Women's Group on Tuesday, March 13. The women travelled down to the museum on the Ipswich Hospital Foundation's Pink Bus and spent the morning being informed and entertained seeing the exhibit and hearing stories about the Ipswich Hospital. The bus then took them to enjoy a lovely lunch at the Queen's Park Café before the trip back to Rosewood.

The IHF has generously offered the use of the Pink Bus to local groups who require transport to the museum. However, the bus may not always be available for use as the Foundation employs the bus for many community activities.



## Ipswich 60 and Better Group Visit

Five members of Ipswich 60s and Better Group paid a surprise visit to the Ipswich Hospital Museum on Wednesday, April 4. One of the members, Greg Cook, is the nephew of Matron Cook, matron of the Ipswich Hospital from 1930 – 1933. Greg has offered very generously to share precious memorabilia and stories of his aunt with the museum.

Matron Francis Cook trained at the Ipswich Hospital from 1919 to 1921. After completing her midwifery in Sydney, Miss Cook returned to Ipswich Hospital and worked as a Ward Sister, Theatre Sister and Sister-in-Charge of Outpatients until her appointment as Matron in 1930.



## Ipswich Libraries' 'Chasing Our Past' Talk

The Museum was asked to speak at the Ipswich Libraries' regular "Chasing Our Past" event on Thursday April 26. Elizabeth McNalty, Ross Blinco and Jane Kingston spoke of the development and construction of the original Ipswich Hospital buildings, the first doctors chosen to staff the hospital and some of the stories of Ipswich and the fledgling hospital in the 1860s.



Elizabeth McNalty, Ross Blinco, Jane Kingston at the Barry Jones Auditorium, Ipswich Library.



## Our Skeleton

### Permanent Home at Last

Thank you to the guys from the Ipswich Men's Shed who constructed a purpose built cabinet for the skeleton on display in the museum.

Ted and Bob delivered the case and mounted the skeleton for display.

## New Museum Volunteers

The Ipswich Hospital Museum welcomes two new volunteers, Leanne Hughes and Christina Mårre.

*Enquiries from others interested in volunteering at the museum always welcome.*



## Ipswich Hospital Nurses Remembered on Anzac Day

The nurses of the Ipswich Hospital who served in WW1 were remembered this year at the RSL Memorial Gardens Dawn Service by having their names projected onto the wall of the Ipswich Civic Centre. The nurses' names were included along with other Ipswich nurses and servicemen who served in WW1. Annie Scott's name as well as those of Margaret Bourke, Eva Frances Coote, Eileen Cowen, Flora Kay, Rose Jane Langford (Mentioned in Dispatches), Emily Clarice Lilla Mardon, Clara Northall, Elsie Jane Pollock, Helen Richie, Ruth Maughan Robson, Jane Selina Robson, Muriel Violet Rogers, Annie M. Watson and Margaret Young Winning were projected across Nicholas Street onto the wall of the Ipswich Civic Centre during the service. A wonderful and thoughtful tribute to these brave and selfless nurses.

Lest we forget.



### WW1 Ipswich Hospital Nurses Plaque

The plaque honouring the Ipswich Hospital nurses who served in WW1 has been mounted on a wall of the Jubilee Building. The nurses were remembered as part of the Ipswich Hospital ANZAC service this year. A

wreath from the Ipswich Hospital Nurses Association and a floral display from West Moreton Hospital and Health Service was part of that recognition. Storyboards on each of the nurses were also displayed when the Ipswich Hospital Museum opened for the morning tea following the annual Ipswich Hospital Anzac Day commemoration ceremony.

(Continued from page 1)

the physicians and surgeons, and the ward sister, the finer and more intricate processes of the art of nursing.

Her duty as staff nurse, is to visit all the beds with the sister and the doctor, to watch and report to him the different symptoms, and to carry out his orders.

If her ward be a surgical one, she has to have the various dressing for wounds, padded splints, and bandages are always ready for immediate use, to look after her medicine cupboard, and to know thoroughly the use and effect of the different drugs.

She must take temperatures, keep charts for the doctor's inspection, be prepared to assist the surgeons in their operations, and the ward dressers in their duties, and in the ward sister's absence, undertake her work as well as her own.

For two years the nurse works in the wards, both medical and surgical, under the sisters; at the end of the second, she is again examined, but this time the examination is much stiffer.

All the nurses who pass are given the hospital certificate, and the one who heads the list a gold medal, which after she has trained in housekeeping for

three months, and has worked as night superintendent for another three, makes her eligible to take the post of sister.

As night superintendent she has to visit all the wards two or three times during the night, to assist at any operation, and to be ready with advice.

A nurse's hours on duty are very long, in most hospitals she is called at 6 a.m., breakfast at 6.30, has to be in the ward at 7 a.m. till 12.30 p.m., dines at 12.30, and is in the ward from 1 p.m. till 9 p.m.

Luncheons are partaken of in the ward kitchen. Every other day she is off duty for two and a half hours, when she is supposed to go out. A 'pass' is given her, which she has to give to the porter at the lodge gates; he enters in a book the time she leaves the hospital and the time she returns.

These passes are returned to the matron on the following morning, who is thus acquainted with the time each nurse is absent. Each month a long pass is given, enabling the nurse to be absent from the hospital from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., or even later, and during the year a fortnight's holiday is allowed in the majority of hospitals. On Sunday every nurse is expected to attend divine worship once. If she is off duty in the morning, she is

supposed to attend the chapel attached to hospital, unless another religious denomination, when she is allowed to go to her own church or chapel, as the case may be. She has to present at morning prayers and sompline, which are held in the chapel daily. Of course, the routine is not always the same, and examinations, promotions, hours of duty, etc., vary according to hospital rules.

The hospital itself affords very little recreation. At my own there was a charming Musical Society, which met once a week for practice and gave two concerts yearly Christmas and Midsummer, and entertainments were given by junior medical staff every two or three months for nurses and their friends. None are really necessary, as daily life in the wards is of each thrilling and varied a character that it is sufficient recreation in in itself. – J.M.C. In Wollert.

*Taken from Evelyn Observer, and South and East Bourke Record; Friday 18 August 1893, page 2.*

**Don't want to miss an issue**

Contact us to be added to our electronic distribution list.

## The Tale of Dr Henry Challinor's Bull

The Ipswich RSL Memorial Gardens was the site of one of early Ipswich's water supplies. Known as "The Pump-yard" a natural spring located there was tapped and a pump was used to supply drinking water to the town.

Dr Henry Challinor was one of the first doctors of Ipswich and the Ipswich Hospital. He lived opposite the pump-yard, on the corner of Nicholas and Limestone Streets (where the Ipswich Civic Centre is today) and he kept dairy cows and even a bull. On one memorable occasion, Dr Challinor's bull escaped and charged the pump-yard's water carrier. The poor man ended up in the water hole, the pump was wrecked and Dr Challinor was left with a hefty bill for damages.

(Ref: 'WHAT DID IPSWICH REALLY LOOK LIKE? - 1840s to 1860s' - Educational Kit Resource for Year 8 Students)



RSL Memorial Gardens - (Image courtesy of Queensland Times 21st Mar 2018)



Henry & Louisa Kerner and 4 daughters 1934 (before Gwen's wedding).

Back Row - Regina and Gwen Sitting - Louisa Nita and Henry

Standing in front - Betty.

Betty married a New Zealander and lived in Timaru. She did not use the precious cot!!

## Ipswich Hospital Children's Cot

My Grandfather was Henry Kerner from "Kerner's Butcher Shop" Warwick Rd., Ipswich and "Yahmanto Stud Piggery" at Churchill, now Yamanto. My Grandparents, Henry and Louisa had four daughters, known as "The Kerner girls".

When their eldest daughter Gwen, was married in 1935, Grandpa asked his two friends Dr Donald Cameron and Dr David Trumpy if he could possibly purchase an Ipswich Hospital cot for his future grandchildren.

This cot was occupied from 1936 by Gwen's four children, Nita's two children and Regina's (bubby's) two daughters, Gina and Vicki. Vicki was the last child to sleep in this precious cot. It was a much loved cot. I am thrilled to be able to return this precious cot to the Ipswich Hospital Museum

Vicki Doig

**Do you have any items with a hospital connection? Let us know.**



Ipswich Hospital  
Museum Inc

Ipswich Hospital  
East St Entrance



### CONTACT US:

[www.ipswichhospitalmuseum.com.au](http://www.ipswichhospitalmuseum.com.au)

Email: [info@ipswichhospitalmuseum.com.au](mailto:info@ipswichhospitalmuseum.com.au)

Friends of Ipswich Hospital Museum



### Current Display



Maternity and Anaesthetics

**YOU ARE WELCOME:**

Every Wednesday: 0900— 1200  
or by appointment (groups welcome)

**FREE ENTRY**

**Interested - join us as a volunteer**