



Museum Matters

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IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.

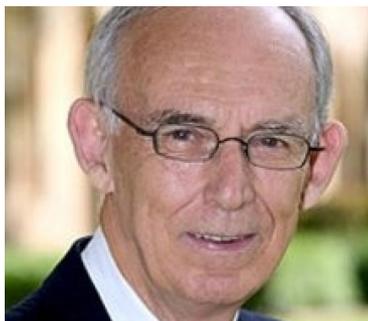
Committee :

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Chairman's Chatterings

Son of Ipswich—"Queensland Great"

I hope this month you enjoy reading about some of the background of medical imaging and the evolution of this at Ipswich Hospital. Medical Imaging services has grown to become an essential diagnostic service experienced by most patients in an acute hospital setting. Without this important function patients would not receive timely diagnosis and treatment. Ipswich Hospital has in the past two years lifted its capacity in medical imaging with the installation of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine. A MRI is a medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of the organs and tissues in your body. The MRI is a large, tube-shaped magnet. When you lie inside an MRI machine, the magnetic field temporarily realigns water molecules in your body. Radio waves cause these aligned atoms to produce faint signals, which are used to create cross-sectional MRI images — like slices in a loaf of bread. The MRI machine can also produce 3D images that can be viewed from different angles. The X-ray department has certainly come a very long way since the first dedicated space was built at Ipswich hospital in early 1900's.



Electrician, doctor, deputy medical superintendent, hospital board member, health minister, treasurer, deputy premier, 'boss' of Brisbane's greatest event, Expo 88. Sir Llew Edwards lived a full life and we especially remember his service to Ipswich Hospital.

Llewellyn Roy Edwards was born on 2 August 1935 into a well-known Ipswich family. He attended Ipswich Grammar School and then became an apprentice electrician, working in the family business R.T. Edwards.

He worked on the hospital's iron lung apparatus, including the design and installation of the emergency alarm to alert the wardsmen. Polio victim, Hazel Clarke, spent seven years in the iron lung before her passing. Whenever there was a power failure or electrical fault she would urge that Llew Edwards be called. One evening, Nurse Leone Burley, took her new fiancé to meet Hazel. He was none other than electrician Llew.

In 1955 Llew suffered a spinal injury in a fall from a ladder and spent many months in hospital. During this time he decided to become a doctor and returned to school to study for the University Senior Examination again to matriculate for a medical course.

Llew and Leone married in 1958 and their three children were all born at Ipswich Hospital. His sister, Merlyn, trained as a nurse here also.

During university vacations Llew worked in the hospital's radiology and pathology departments. He graduated in 1965 and became a resident medical officer at Ipswich Hospital. He joined a group practice in Ipswich two years later but was still seen

frequently at the hospital in the maternity wing following up on some of his patients.

In 1971 he became a member of the Ipswich Hospitals Board for a short term before being elected as the state member for Ipswich. In 1974, after only 2 ½ years as a backbencher, he became Minister for Health and, in 1978, Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Much of the planning for and execution of the redevelopment of Ipswich Hospital occurred during his political term.

After retiring from politics in 1983 he was appointed Chairman of Expo 88 and shortly after was knighted in the New Year's honours list. His initial duties with Expo 88 still enabled him to become Deputy Medical Superintendent at Ipswich Hospital for a period but he eventually had to relinquish this to concentrate on the planning for Expo 88.

Lady Leone Edwards sadly passed away in March 1988. A rose garden was planted at the hospital by the Ipswich Trained Nurses' Association in her memory.

In 1993 Sir Llew was elected the twelfth Chancellor of the University of Queensland, holding the office until early 2009. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the university in 1988 and became a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1989.

The Sir Llew Edwards Building on the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus is named after him.

He sat on the boards of a number of publicly listed companies and was a director of James Hardie Industries for a decade. He was appointed chairman of the Medical Research and Compensation Foundation, set up by James Hardie to provide financial compensation for victims of asbestos-related diseases caused by the company's products. He criticised the company for providing insufficient funds for the foundation, stating that it had underestimated the amount of liability for claims.

In 2010, Edwards was named by premier Anna Bligh as one of six "Queensland Greats" as an "outstanding Queenslander who has made exceptional contributions to many fields".

Sir Llew Edwards passed away on May 26, survived by his second wife, Lady Jane, and his two sons, David and Mark.



When radiologists take a selfie

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Family Legacy

Doctors, radiologists, soldiers – father and son Burnett Leslie Woodburn Clarke (1897-1974) and Alexander Howard Burnett Clarke (1923-1994) gave 70 years of service to Ipswich Hospital, the community and the country and their legacy continues today.

The information below was taken from the biographies written by historian, Judith A. Nissen, and published online in the Australian Dictionary of Biography in 2018.

Burnett Leslie Woodburn Clarke

Dr Burnett Clarke was born in Victoria, the eldest of three sons of Leslie Woodburn Clarke, a Victorian-born merchant and grazier, and his Brisbane-born wife Emma Moore, whose family were pastoralists in the Burnett region. A prefect and recipient of the 1914 honour prize at Trinity Grammar School, Melbourne Burnett played football and cricket, was a keen rifle shooter and was a lance corporal in the army cadets.

After graduating from the University of Melbourne (MB, BS 1920) he moved to Queensland and became a resident at the Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital, Brisbane, where he became interested in roentology (radiology). In 1922 he married Esme Macfarlane, the daughter of graziers at Arthurs Creek, near Yan Yean. Later that year they sailed to England where Burnett studied at the University of Cambridge (diploma of medical radiology and electrology, 1923) under Ernest (Baron) Rutherford. He then spent some time at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA.

Later that year the Clarkes returned to Queensland and Burnett established a joint practice with Tom Nisbet in Brisbane and Ipswich. He was an honorary assistant roentologist and later an honorary senior radiologist at the Mater Hospital and an honorary radiologist (1924-57) at Ipswich Hospital. He became a member of the Queensland Cancer Trust (Queensland Radium Institute from 1944) in 1929, a radium registrar at its clinic at the Mater and then when his partner, Nisbet, went to Sydney he practised alone. In April 1938 he and many other senior honorary staff at Mater resigned following disputes over their appointments.

Burnett had enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in 1918 when a medical student but was not called up and demobilised later that year. In 1921 he was commissioned in the Australian Army Medical Corps, Citizen Military Forces. In July and

August 1940, he was in charge of a unit that toured country centres by train to carry out chest x-rays of recruits. Promoted to Major in the AIF in



August 1940 he embarked for Malaya with the 2/13th Australian General Hospital. After the fall of Singapore in February 1942 he became a prisoner of war in Changi. *Behind the Wire*, the clinical diary he kept in 1944 and 1945 documented the common skin disorders suffered by prisoners.

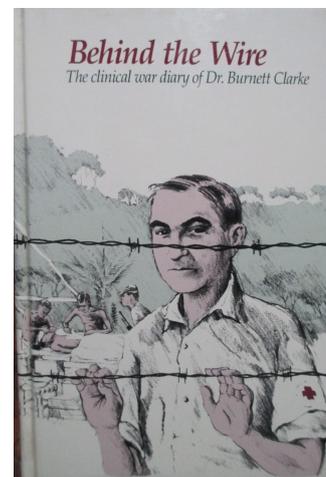
In 1945 he was liberated and transferred to the Reserve of Officers in Brisbane. He continued his army service part time (with the honorary rank of lieutenant colonel from 1951) as a visiting radiologist in Northern Command. After a short stint as a locum at Springsure and in Cleveland he returned to his private practice and resumed his work as a visiting radiologist at Ipswich and Mater Hospitals and also at the Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes.

Burnett was a foundation member (1935), councillor (1935-40, 1947-48, 1954-56 and 1963-64) and president (1955) of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Radiology (Royal Australasian College of Radiologists) and a foundation fellow (1938) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He lectured in radiology at the University of Queensland (1940-41) and was a member (from 1946) of the Medical Assessment Tribunal and chairman

(1949-73) of the welfare service of the Australian Red Cross Society, Queensland division. In 1920 he joined the British (Australian from 1961) Medical Association (BMA later AMA), presided over the Queensland branch in 1949 and sat on many of its committees. He was appointed a fellow of the AMA in 1973, a rare honour in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the association and to medicine

Like many early radiologists, Dr Clarke performed both diagnostic and therapeutic work and constant use of radium and radon needles and moulds caused dermatitis and skin cancers on his hands – several of his fingers were amputated in later life.

Still active in medical practice he died in March 1974. The Uhr-Clarke bursary awarded by the Queensland branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) was endowed in 2000 by his family and that of his fellow Changi inmate, Sir Clive Uhr. The Uhr-Clarke Bursary is still awarded today for the top Queensland Part 2/Phase 2 examination candidates in both Clinical Radiology and Radiation Oncology.



Above: the cover of Dr Clarke's war-time diary with, it is understood, a caricature of Dr Clarke.

Alexander Howard Burnett Clarke



Dr Alex Clarke was born in May, 1923 in London when his father was studying at Cambridge. He was three months old when the family returned to Australia.

As a child he frequently accompanied his father on his visits to Ipswich hospital. Alex attend Toowoomba Church of England Preparatory School (1935-37) and Geelong Grammar School, Victoria (1938-40) where he served in the army cadets. In 1941 he enrolled in medicine at the University of Queensland (MB, BS 1949) but interrupted his course to enlist in the AIF in June 1942. He served with the

113th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Brisbane (1942-43) and the 56th Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Higgins field near Bamaga, on Cape York Peninsula (1943-44) before discharge in 1945 and resuming his studies. He married Anne Dorothea Fraser at Mundoolun, near Brisbane in December 1948.

Dr Alex Clarke became a general practitioner in Ipswich in 1951. In 1956 and 1957 he trained in radiology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital becoming a member of the Royal College of Radiologists of Australasia in 1957. Returning to Ipswich he provided private and public radiology services and took over from his father as honorary (paid from 1961) visiting radiologist at Ipswich Hospital and also worked part time in his father's Wickham Terrace practice and as a visiting radiologist at the RGH, Greenslopes and the Goodna Mental (Wolston Park) Hospital (1959-94). As his practice grew, partners – beginning with Ian Robertson – joined him. In 1984 he gave up private practice and concentrated on hospital work. His knowledge, drive, and experience was crucial in planning for the relocating and equipping of the Ipswich Hospital's radiology department which was

created in 1984.

Alex joined the Queensland branch of the BMA (AMA) as an honorary associate in 1946 and full member in 1950, serving on the state council between 1962 and 1966. He lectured in radiology at the University of Queensland; sat on the electrical apparatus committee of the Queensland Radium Institute; and served part-time as a medical officer in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve – mostly at the RAAF Base, Amberley – rising to wing commander (1970). He was a founder and (1960) and first secretary of the Ipswich Hospital Staff Association. In 1965 he was appointed corps surgeon, Ipswich Corps, St John Ambulance Association. As an active member of St Paul's Anglican Church, he served on the parish council for many years, was a church warden, lay preacher, liturgical assistant and synod representative.

Shortly after he died at his home in Karana Downs in 1994, his 37 years of dedication to Ipswich Hospital was honoured by naming the unit containing a new \$1million CT scanner the Dr Alex Clarke facility. His legacy also lives on in the radiology practice, Clarke and Robinson.

History of the X-Ray Department

The earliest mention of radiology facilities at Ipswich Hospital appears to be a report in the Queensland Times towards the end of 1897 - "Roentgen ray apparatus has been fitted up at the hospital, Mr Towell being to some extent instrumental in getting it in working order. Though an opportunity has not yet offered its practical surgical operation, several experiments have been successfully carried out with the apparatus."

This equipment apparently became non-functional by 1906 because a patient with an injured arm was sent to Brisbane for radiological examination. No record of new x-ray equipment can be found for several years until the Medical Superintendent, Dr Philip Thornton, recommended that equipment be purchased and two brick rooms be built to house the equipment and process the x-ray plates.

Apparently it was not until October 1913 that £160 was spent for an x-ray plant sited in the new surgical block.

Much of the funds required for new equipment and buildings from the hospital's beginning in 1860 and on into the early part of the 20th century was provided by fund raising and donations.

In March 1921 the Queensland Times was asked to help and over £1,100 was raised to purchase new x-ray equipment. In the early donations recorded in the paper it was noted that visiting medical officers, Drs J.A. Cameron and E.E. Brown had each subscribed 10 guineas. Later Cribb and Foote donated £25 and then, at a time when members had to accept reduced wages the Queensland Collieries' Employees' Union gave £50. The target was reached in 1922 and when new equipment was purchased a more permanent radiology service was in

place.

In 1927 the hospital accepted the offer of Queensland Times Sunshine League to raise funds to build a new scientific block to house both the radiology and pathology departments. The two-storey brick building was opened by the member for Ipswich, Mr J.E. Walker, in December 1930. The top floor held the scientific rooms and the bottom floor housed storage and a bedroom. Early radiologists, Dr Tom Nesbitt and then Dr Burnett Clarke, had advised on the planning of the x-ray department and on the required equipment.

In July 1936, Health and Home Affairs Minister Hanlon and his Under Secretary, C.E. Chuter, visited the hospital to discuss with the board and the Medical Superintendent to discuss urgent requirements.

Continued on page 4

X-Ray Department History *continued*

Dr Trumpy stressed that the purchase of a “new violet x-ray plant and a properly equipped biochemical and pathological laboratory” was a priority.

As a result a four-valve x-ray plant and a mobile unit for service in the wards was purchased by way of the first loan raised by the Ipswich Hospitals Board - £2,138 (\$4,276) from the Treasury.

In the early 1950s about 5,000 films were taken annually of which approximately 25% were x-rays of private patients from Ipswich practices.

In 1962 Dr Alex Clarke, who had succeeded his father, Dr Burnett Clarke, as visiting radiologist told the board that x-ray examinations at the hospital were hampered by inadequate equipment and lack of space. Saturation point had been reached as the existing equipment was being used to its maximum and the x-ray department was part of the combined radiology-pathology block. The pathology department was experiencing similar difficulties.

The number of patients x-rayed each

year had grown from 11,252 in 1955-56 to 18,567 in 1971-72.

The x-ray, pathology and physiotherapy departments were finally repositioned on the ground floor of the male block in the “old” hospital at a cost of \$191,714 in 1971. Equipment for the three departments was purchased through loan funds. The renovations were completed in 1973. Dr Clarke reported that the equipment would be satisfactory for the next 10-15 years. As part of the Commonwealth-State tuberculosis campaign, the board purchased a 70mm x-ray camera which was housed in a small building especially erected behind the administration building. As part of the tuberculosis campaign all patients had chest x-ray examinations.

In 1982 work began on the \$2.6 million stage 1 of a three-stage hospital building program. A few months later a special Treasury grant of \$2million meant that stage 2 could start six months earlier than originally planned. This, however, involved the demolition

of the former male ward housing the radiology and pathology departments. The radiology department was temporarily transferred to the former female surgical ward above the administration block. However, as work progressed quickly the radiology department was finally able to move into its new permanent, and current, home in April 1984. It was equipped with modern sophisticated equipment to provide a greatly improved service. A pleasing feature was that the Emergency Department was now near the radiology department, allowing quick management of cases.



Dr Llew Edwards, Deputy Premier & Treasurer, and Dr Terry Mulhearn, Medical Superintendent discussing the proposed new construction, which would include a new x-ray & pathology department, in 1980.

Sunshine League 'Builds' X-Ray & Pathology Building

The erection of the x-ray and pathology building, opened in November 1930, was possible because of the hard work fundraising by the Queensland Times Children's Sunshine League.

The Sunshine League's creator, “Uncle William” wrote in the Queensland Times on November 19 that “*today we record the completion of the biggest work the League has undertaken during its ten and a half years of work for the hospital. Naturally we are proud that we have been able to fulfil our undertaking, but all Sunshiners realise that this big work would not have been possible without the splendid co-operation and generosity of a host of great-hearted people who saw in our work a means of helping West Moreton's fine hospital. The new building fills a long felt want at the institution. It will enable much*

valuable research work in the alleviation of sickness to be carried on under conditions that, will provide the greatest facilities.”

The Sunshiners began their fundraising in July 1927 and three years later had raised the necessary £1000 which was one third of the original estimate. With Government endowment this £1000 was increased, to £3000. Additionally the League raised £70 as a furnishing fund, and with an endowment, £210 was added to the total.

Uncle William said it had been a struggle, but somehow members “*gallantly and loyally battled along*”, and during the three years of fundraising nearly 24,000 individual subscriptions were received. Fifty ‘evenings’ were held, and from this source £344/7/4 was raised. “*We have been a very happy family right through the three years, and if some of*

us were a little doubtful about what kind of work pathological work is, or how x-rays could make sick folk better, we were all content to leave this to the doctors and pathologist. The big thing was to do what we had undertaken - and today we are as happy as a sand boy that we have been able to do this.

“This year we have launched on a still bigger objective - the building of a new Sunshine Ward for the children. Already we have got into the way of calling it “Our” Sunshine Ward, which carries the implication of confidence that we shall complete all in due time what we have undertaken for our next work.”

The Sunshine League did indeed complete their next objective of raising funds for the new Sunshine Ward which opened in 1935.

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Museum Closed

The Ipswich Hospital Museum, housed in the Jubilee Building, is still closed to the public as the building is being used as part of the hospital's COVID-19 testing clinic regime. It is hoped in the near future that a mobile testing clinic in a demountable building will be brought into use, freeing up the Jubilee building. Museum volunteers are continuing to meet and work when possible and continue cataloguing and researching. The hospital's history is continuing to be depicted through the Friends of Ipswich Hospital Museum facebook page and this newsletter.