



PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING A COLLECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Amongst HMM members who are making the decision to computerise their collection records, two questions are common: How do we start? And what system should we use? So we asked **Basil Dewhurst** for some advice. Basil is the Technical Developer at AMOL (Australian Museums OnLine) and is familiar with the sorts of collection management systems that small museums around Australia are using.



Introduction

Collections form the focal point for a museum's activities and in most instances the collection is the primary *raison d'être* for the institution. Care for collections and collection records then is of the utmost importance if these collections are to maintain their usefulness and value to staff, researchers and the general public.

This article discusses a number of the major issues with planning, selecting and implementing a new Collection Management System (CMS). A number of resources on the Web will also assist you in implementing a new

system and digitising your collections. These include the Canadian Heritage Information Network's (CHIN) Collection Management Software Selection course and the Australian Museums OnLine (AMOL) Capture Your Collections course [<http://amol.org.au/capture/>].

AMOL's ResourceFinder [<http://amol.org.au/resourcefinder/>] also references many publications, as well as professional development and education resources that will be of use.

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AND MORE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time for recognition volunteers' work

This year is a celebration of volunteers and the work they do within our community and I am reminded that a large number of HMM members and subscribers are volunteers. It is probably fair to say that those of us who work as volunteers do so because we care and not because we want public recognition. Nonetheless it is pleasing to see the collective recognition being given by the community generally, as well as all levels of government, the museum sector (through both Museums Australia and state museums and galleries bodies), and some of our Area Health Services.

In recent times there has been discussion about the size of the national collection, where it is kept, and how much of it is being properly conserved and managed. The discussion has also included speculation about how much of the collection is in storage against future display.

An Australian Bureau of Statistics publication entitled *Museums 1999-2000* found that at the end of June 2000 a total of 2,049 museums employed 6,956 people and utilised a further 29,963 volunteers. It is interesting to note that 58% of the museums paid no one at all and utilised 49% of the volunteers. These volunteers gave an average of 13 hours per month. It seems clear that without the volunteer sector many museums would not survive.

The question of how much of the national collection is in storage compared with what is on display is a particularly vexed one and I am not sure that an accurate estimate could ever be made. However it would be fair to say that many of our national treasures remain unrecognised!

Despite the fact that many of our hospitals - and the health care sector generally - pay lip service to the preservation of health heritage, many of our volunteers are constantly battling, not only to hold on to their exhibition space, but to raise funds for the maintenance of the collections in their care. It can be argued - and I would agree - that maintaining history is not part of the core business of health facilities. However it seems to me that all of the volunteer organisations that I come into contact with both understand and acknowledge this fact. All they really want is space to store and exhibit some of their material. Exhibitions can be structured to showcase the work of individuals or of the hospital as a whole, to recognise the contributions made by the community in the support of the hospital, to provide a powerful public health message, or simply to provide visual relief for visitors and patients alike.

Regular readers will remember that in a previous editorial I referred to the South East Sydney Area Health Service Board, which was undertaking the development of a policy on the management of Movable Heritage. I am pleased to report that this policy has been completed and endorsed by the Board. Laudable though this is, the policy can only be considered as a first step. The identification and management of health heritage items leads to the question of accessibility, both for the community generally as well as for researchers. Having a

collection, however well documented, is of little value if it cannot be used!

I believe there is one very meaningful way in which individual hospitals and Area Health Services could recognise volunteers and the collections they work to preserve. This is by providing space and encouragement for the mounting of small, rotating displays throughout each hospital.

Judith Cornell AM
President, Health and Medicine Museums SIG

Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation



The Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation was officially launched on 12 May 2001. Here NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir AO (centre), is guided around the historic display at Sydney Hospital by curator Elinor Wrobel (left) and chairperson Judith Cornell AM.

The story about the Foundation in the last issue of the HMM Newsletter created a great deal of interest.

COMPETITION

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

'Health and Medicine Museums Newsletter' is not particularly original. Do you think it's time for a new name for our newsletter?

There will be book prizes for the most creative and/ or usable suggestions, funny or serious. We will publish winning entries in the next issue. Please send your suggestions to the editor (contact details on the back page) before **15 September 2001**.

Planning and selection criteria

The primary tool for maintaining, managing and recording collection information is the Collection Management System (CMS). The CMS is a piece of software designed to hold all the digital information about objects in a collection, including details about an object's location, loan status, value, significance, condition, donor information and images.

Digitising your collection should be considered a major project with the purchase of CMS software being a large investment. The choice of CMS should be based on criteria defined by your museum staff because its primary function will be to serve the needs of your particular museum.

It is best to develop a set of requirements for your museum that will serve as benchmarks and assist in evaluating the various products from CMS developers. Requirements will vary from museum to museum but one example could be the tracking of an object's location. If your institution has a number of display and storage areas, loans objects and also accepts loans from other museums, the accurate tracking of an object's location is will be an essential feature of the CMS. **Figure 1** outlines a number of considerations when planning for a new CMS.

The implementation of a new system will give you the chance to digitise your collections and also correct any issues you have with them currently. Whether you are just starting out with a new CMS and entering data from a card catalogue or migrating data from one CMS to another it is best to identify any problems with your current system. Appreciation of these issues early will mean that the new system is unlikely to inherit the same problems.

Selecting a CMS

Once you have developed a list of requirements for the CMS you will have three options:

1. Purchase a commercial CMS
2. Purchase and customise a commercial CMS
3. Develop your own CMS

Purchasing a commercial CMS

Generally an 'off the shelf' solution will be the cheapest option in both the short and longer term. Rarely will a single system fulfil all your requirements and you may need to consider living with the shortcomings by working around them.

There are a great many CMS vendors worldwide. A number that service smaller and regional museums in Australia appear in **Figure 2**. Their products vary widely in price and in functionality. An exhaustive list is available from the CHIN's Collection Management Software Selection Course [http://www.chin.gc.ca/Resources/Collect_Mgnt/English_course].

Some things to consider when planning to purchase a Collection Management System**1. Know your needs**

- Make sure your needs have been closely examined and documented.
- Do not look at systems without knowing what is needed. It is too easy to get caught up in what is demonstrated and not realise the system isn't really what you require.

2. Vendor considerations

- Are they reliable?
- Have they installed other systems?
- Have they installed similar systems?
- How long have they been in business?
- How accessible are they?
- Are they easy to talk to?
- Are questions answered clearly?

3. References

- Check references thoroughly.
- Talk to others that have had the system installed.
- Try to visit a site and see the system in operation.

4. Support

- What kind of support does the vendor offer?
- What kind of documentation is available?
- Are others in your area using the system?
- Does the vendor install the system?

5. Costs

- Is data entry included in the price?
- Are there charges for changes to the system?
- What training is included in the purchase price?
- How much do upgrades to the system cost?
- Are there charges for trouble shooting or start up?
- Can there be a holdback in payment until the system is accepted?
- How much are additional copies of the system?

6. Technology issues

- Does the system run on specific machines?
- Can information be imported and exported?
- Is the technology up to date or is it at the tail end of the technology phase?
- Is the technology compatible with the rest of the museum in order for information to be exchanged in the most efficient manner?

Figure 1:

Some things to consider when buying a system
Courtesy Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN)

Continued overleaf 

Vendor	Product	Website/Email
Adlib Information Systems	Adlib Museum	http://www.au.adlibsoft.com/
IST Information Services & Technology	Collections Mosaic	timstrutt@istechology.com.au
Queensland Museum	Accessioning and Resources Kit	peterv@qm.qld.gov.au
Museum Accession Record	Museum Accession Record	pjm@mtr.sa.gov.au
Triad Data Magic Pty Ltd (Melbourne)	INMAGIC	http://www.tdm.com.au
Willoughby Associates Limited	MultiMIMSY, IO and SNAP! for Windows	http://www.willo.com

Figure 2: Collection Management System Vendors and Products
Regional Museum Resources AMOL Website

Purchasing and customising a CMS

Customising a commercial product can be an expensive option and you will need to think carefully about whether it is absolutely critical that a certain feature be added. In some cases, where human resources and funds can be devoted to customising the software this may be a worthwhile option. If you take this route and the vendor produces a customised version of their software you will need to ensure that you can obtain adequate training and technical support.

Developing your own CMS

If you choose to 'roll your own' CMS using a database management system like Microsoft Access or Filemaker Pro this can take a considerable amount of time. You should be prepared to design, develop and maintain the system over its lifetime and also to provide your own technical support. This option may work well in the cases where very little data is being recorded but as the number of fields in the database increases and the various uses of the database increase so will the complexity of the CMS and the time spent on development and maintenance.

Other issues

While the CMS database will hold the vital information about your collection it should be remembered that implementing it also includes other costs such as the

cost of the computer to run the CMS, the operating system, the ongoing cost of upgrades, support for your CMS product, and most importantly backup.

Staff using the CMS must also be trained in doing so. The ideal situation is for one person at the museum to be trained as an expert. This person can then carry out basic maintenance on the system and train others in its use. This person will also be able deal with queries about the system and this gives them the advantage of knowing how users are using the system and what problems are arising.

Implementing a CMS and digitising your collection is a major task and one that needs to be well considered. As a starting point you might like to visit the Regional Museum Resources available on the AMOL website. *The Collection Management Software Selection* course [http://www.chin.gc.ca/Resources/Collect_Mgmt/English_course] created by CHIN is well worth investigating as is the *Integrated Information Management Model* [http://www.cimi.org/public_docs/IIM_model.doc] created by the Consortium for the Interchange of Museum Information (CIMI). Finally at the up-and-coming Remote and Regional Museums Conference to be held in Kalgoorlie between the 26th and 29 October 2001, AMOL and CHIN will be launching the *Capture Your Collections* course [<http://amol.org.au/capture/>].

Resources

AMOL Capture Your Collections course	http://amol.org.au/capture/
AMOL Regional Museum Resources	http://amol.org.au/craft/regional_mus/reg_mus_index.asp
AMOL ResourceFinder	http://amol.org.au/resourcefinder
CHIN Collection Management Software Selection Course	http://www.chin.gc.ca/Resources/Collect_Mgmt/English_course
CIMI IIM Model	http://www.cimi.org/public_docs/IIM_model.doc
Remote and Regional Museum Conference, October 2001, Kalgoorlie	http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/services/map/conference.htm

Basil Dewhurst
Technical Developer, Australian Museums OnLine (AMOL)

COMING TO GRIPS WITH CATALOGUING (AGAIN)



Remember the HMM cattle dog? He featured on the cover of the December 1997 issue of the HMM Newsletter where he was keeping an eye on a report about a workshop on cataloguing that had been held by the NSW Branch of HMM. In the light of Basil Dewhurst's article about Collection Management Systems, we thought it might be a good idea to revisit the 'Coming to grips with cataloguing' workshop.

Participants at that workshop talked about what information should be recorded about objects in health and medicine collections when they are catalogued. They decided that, whether cataloguing manually or on a collection management system (such as one of those mentioned by Basil in his article), there were a number of fields that were essential.

The **minimal data set** they recommended (plus another field that has since been added – 'significance') is:

- Registration number
- Object name
- Storage location
- Current location
- Brief description, including size
- Key search terms – subject headings and key names
- Attached a photograph (ensuring that the negative number is recorded)
- History of the object
- Its significance
- Its condition
- Acquisition details (e.g. whether it is a donation or purchase; what its source was)
- Acquisition date
- Cataloguer's name and date of cataloguing

Of course, there are a number of additional fields that a particular museum or collection might choose to include in its system to suit its own purposes.

Object thesaurus

Some HMMers feel it would help them to standardise the object names in their catalogue if they could refer to an object list, that is, an object thesaurus. However the HMM committee has never managed to find an object thesaurus that is satisfactory for health and medicine museums.

Do you use a health and medicine thesaurus? Do you refer to a 'controlled vocabulary' when naming the objects in your collection?

HMM is considering developing an object thesaurus, or modifying one that is in use. We would love to hear what our members and subscribers are using and whether you are finding it satisfactory or otherwise.

Please contact the editor of this Newsletter if you have any information at all to offer.

HMM DOINGS

What has your Special Interest Group been up to?

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO HMM

The National Committee of HMM has recently made some changes that it hopes will both simplify and clarify the way our Special Interest Group is run. These changes mainly have to do with the collection of annual fees, and the distinction between members and subscribers of HMM. They have been made partly in response to concerns that were expressed by the President (Carol Scott) and Council of Museums Australia after reviewing the relationship between the parent body and its Special Interest Groups.

Distinction between HMM members and subscribers

From now on, individuals and institutions wishing to be known as members of HMM must also be members of Museums Australia (MA). Other individuals and institutions who pay the annual HMM fee, but who are not members of MA, will be known as subscribers to HMM. This has always been the case, and the two categories are spelled out in the HMM By-laws (1994). However, the HMM National Committee has not always been careful about making the distinction.

The distinction is important because only members of HMM (that is, individual members, or the nominated representative of institutional members) may hold office and vote at HMM meetings.

Of course, HMM subscribers will continue to be welcome at all HMM meetings and activities, and from time to time particular subscribers may be invited to contribute their expertise on HMM committees. But subscribers will not be able to vote at meetings.

For HMM subscribers who are considering joining Museums Australia, details of how to contact the association can be found on page 7 of this Newsletter.

Changes in HMM annual fees

The HMM National Committee has also made a change to annual fees for members and subscribers. The change will make things simpler for you and for the HMM Treasurer. From now on, individuals and institutions will pay the same amount - \$16.50. While this represents a small increase for individuals, it is a considerable reduction for organisations. The HMM National Committee hopes that more museums and associations will join HMM rather than, as is often the case, leaving it to their individual volunteer members to join.

Of course, those people who would like to receive their own copy of the *HMM Newsletter* and other HMM notices are more than welcome to continue as individual participants in HMM.

Mode of payment of annual fees

In a final change, the HMM National Committee has decided to take advantage of the offer by the National Office of MA to assist with administrative services. From now on, HMM members will pay their annual HMM

membership fee directly to MA at the same time as they renew their membership to MA.

Rest assured that these fees will then be forwarded by MA to the HMM Treasurer and will continue to be used for producing the *HMM Newsletter* and other HMM services.

Note that subscribers will continue to pay their annual fee directly to HMM. The HMM Treasurer will send them a renewal notice each year.

In summary:

- **Membership** of HMM is available only to members of Museums Australia Inc (including both individual and institutional members).
- From now on members will pay their HMM membership fee directly to Museums Australia at the same time as they renew their membership to Museums Australia.
- The HMM membership fee is \$16.50 (includes GST) for both individuals and institutions.
- Only members of HMM may stand for office and vote at HMM meetings. That is, the only people qualified to vote and hold office with HMM are individual members of HMM or the nominated representative * of institutional members.
- **Subscriptions** are available for all other interested individuals and institutions.
- The annual subscription is \$16.50 (includes GST).
- Subscribers pay their annual fee to HMM on receipt of a renewal notice from the HMM Treasurer.
- Subscribers enjoy all the benefits of belonging to the HMM network, except that they cannot vote or hold office.

**A word about 'nominated representatives'.*

When organisations join Museums Australia as institutional members, they nominate a person to be the 'institutional representative'. This person is usually (but not necessarily) the Director of the organisation.

For administrative purposes, this same person will be regarded as the 'nominated representative' of institutional members of HMM.

The HMM National Committee is confident that these changes will not make any substantial difference to the way HMM operates other than to reduce some confusion about membership and to relieve some of the burden on our Treasurer. HMM is one of the strongest and most active Special Interest Groups of MA, and we look forward to your continued support and participation in our network.

Judith Cornell AM
President, HMM

HMM subscribers

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO RENEW your subscription to HMM? You will have received your renewal form in around the same time as this Newsletter (July-August 2001). Now, where did you put it? Never mind – if you can't find it there is a form on page 22 of this Newsletter. Please send your money soon and keep our Treasurer, Tony Cornell, happy.

(HMM members – you will remember to renew your HMM membership when you renew with Museums Australia, won't you)

MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA INC and the HEALTH AND MEDICINE MUSEUMS SIG

As the peak national association representing the museum and gallery sector, **Museums Australia** provides a range of professional services to members and promotes the role of museums in society, at local, regional, state and national level.

The association has a national office based in Canberra and a network of state branches, special interest groups (such as the Health and Medicine Museums SIG), and chapters. Institutional members include keeping places, as well as national, state, regional and specialist museums. Individual membership is drawn from many museum disciplines and includes both paid and volunteer workers.

The **Health and Medicine Museums SIG** was formed over 10 years ago to promote networking and mutual co-operation between individuals and organisations interested in preserving Australia's rich heritage of health and medicine.

In those 10 years our group has evolved and grown and many of our participants are not necessarily connected with museums as such. For example, some are custodians of medical libraries, historical collections or archives, and some are simply private individuals with an interest in health and medicine heritage.

For these non-museum people, membership of Museums Australia may not be appropriate. That is why, when the By-laws for HMM were drawn up in 1994, two categories of participant in HMM were defined: 'members' and 'subscribers'. 'Membership' was only available to individuals or institutions that belonged to Museums Australia. But the 'subscriber' category was created to enable other interested individuals and institutions to participate in the HMM network.

However, the HMM National Committee encourages all museums and museum workers (paid or voluntary) to consider joining MA if you do not already belong. As the national body for the museums and galleries sector in Australia, MA gains its strength not only from the size of its membership but also from its representativeness. Your membership is important.

HMM is one of the more active Special Interest Groups of Museums Australia (MA). The HMM National Committee HMM has been working with the National Council of MA with a view to improving mutual co-operation between MA and all SIGs.

Carol Scott, the new president of MA, has been holding teleconferences with the SIG convenors, and HMM president, Judith Cornell, has been a regular participant in these.

As well, the HMM National Committee wrote a discussion paper for the MA Council meeting in April 2000. In this discussion paper HMM recommended that MA strengthen its role in advocacy and seek to increase its profile in the wider Australian community. It also recommended that all MA policies and procedures reflect the interests and needs of volunteers, honorary workers, and volunteer-managed museums.

More recently, HMM has assisted the MA Council with the redrafting of a set of Guidelines for SIGs.

For all enquiries about Museums Australia Inc, including enquiries about membership and its benefits, contact:
National Office, Museums Australia Inc
PO Box 266, Civic Square ACT 2608
Phone: (02) 6208 5044 Fax: (02) 6208 5015
Email: ma@museumsaustralia.org.au
Website: www.museumsaustralia.org.au

GUIDELINES FOR HMM CHAPTERS

HMM has Chapters in NSW and Victoria run by Chapter committees. There is actually nothing in the HMM constitution about the running of Chapters. Consequently, at the end of 2000 the HMM National Committee, with the assistance of the then Chair of the Victorian Chapter, Janice Bate, drafted a set of Guidelines for Conducting State Chapters.

The Victorian Chapter is test-driving these new Guidelines and they will be reviewed after the Victorians have had a chance to see if they are workable.

The HMM National Committee hopes that, as HMM membership numbers grow, Chapters will be formed in the other states in addition to NSW and Victoria.

CHANGING GEAR ... ER ... YEAR

HMM is changing its financial reporting year to coincide with the calendar year. Previously our financial year was July –June, but the change will bring us into line with our parent body, Museums Australia.

This means that our next Annual General Meeting will be in February 2002, not October 2001 as previously advertised. At that meeting the biennial elections for the HMM National Committee will take place. It is expected that responsibility for national matters will move to Melbourne, after being with Sydney for the last five years.

BONDING IN VICTORIA

The HMM (Victorian Chapter) committee have been in 'bonding' mode for the past few meetings, with the new members getting accustomed to their new roles, relationships and responsibilities. Some longstanding members of the committee have changed work patterns or places temporarily - Sue Barnett is 'home' from the RACS and RANZCOG museums, and Lisl Bladin is spending time with baby Simon. However, we all continue to do our bit to promote HMM in our various institutions.

HMM (Victoria) activities for the second half of the year will include a visit to the Medical History Museum, at the University of Melbourne on 14 August to view the exhibition *The rise of technology in the practice of medicine*. On 2 November we will visit the Monash Medical Centre Historical Collection to hear hon. curator Ann Southin talk about the challenges faced by custodians of mixed collections. Also of interest to HMM members will be a Victorian country meeting organised by the Medical History Society of Victoria at Creswick over the weekend of 20-21 October. Details for all of these events can be found in the 'Diary dates' at the end of this Newsletter.

It makes sense to join forces with like-minded groups such as the Medical History Society, and with archivists and historians in general. HMM (Victoria) will continue to combine strengths with such groups by, for example, publishing notices in each other's newsletters and joining in each other's events, site visits and workshops.

Ann Brothers
Chair, HMM (Victorian Chapter)

Come February it will be Melbourne's turn to host the HMM National Committee. The current Victorian chapter committee is looking for a few more people to swell its ranks so that it can prepare for the changeover. If you have a hankering to join this friendly group and make a difference to way health heritage is treated in this country, please don't be shy, and don't wait to be asked. Hon. secretary Barbara Rossall-Wynne would love to hear from you.
Phone: (03) 9439 0290
Email: b_rossall@hotmail.com

CANBERRA DINNER MEETING

Twenty-four HMMers tucked into the best that the Canberra Workers Club had to offer at a dinner on 23 April. This event was both enjoyable and productive. Local members had a chance to meet each other, some for the first time, and some serious object-swapping discussions took place between Bayonets & Bandages Museum (Bungendore), Kenmore Hospital Museum (Goulburn) and Canberra Hospital Heritage Collection.

A number of the attendees were in Canberra for the Museums Australia Conference, so there were HMMers from as far afield as Rockhampton's Australian Hospital

Heritage Association, Melbourne Museum, and the Medical History Museum at Melbourne University. Sydney was represented, too, by the JP Trainor Archive Trust (Radiology), Prince Henry Hospital Museum, the Museum of Human Disease at NSW University, and the Powerhouse Museum.

While we ate we talked. Morris Owen suggested that HMM should have a motto but no-one could understand his Latin, least of all (we think) Morris himself. Jenny Horder thought there should be heritage lotteries in Australia to fund museums. Yvonne Kelley wanted help in recreating the Lysol smell in her operating theatre exhibit, but safely. Ann Brothers was looking for hazardous objects policies on which she could model her own museum policy. The Kenmore Crowd had some useful ideas on how HMM could expand its services.

In fact, we were so busy talking that we forgot to order coffee and pud before the kitchen closed.



HMM members and friends gathered for a photograph in the foyer of the Canberra Workers Club after their dinner meeting on 23 April.

MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE 2001, CANBERRA

The Museums Australia Annual Conference '*Australian collections, Australian culture: Museums and identities in 2001*' was held on 24-26 April 2001 at the Australian National University in Canberra. It was attended by over 400 people, which was a pleasing result for the conference organisers. Nevertheless it was noticeable that regional and volunteer-managed museums were under-represented.

Your HMM National Secretary was able to count ten HMM members at the conference and was pleased to be able to introduce some who had not been able to attend the HMM Dinner on the Monday evening. Some very fruitful exchanges of information resulted at morning and afternoon teas breaks.

Six HMM members presented papers during the body of the conference. Congratulations to them all.

- ♦ Allison Bartlett (Harry Daly Museum of Anaesthetics, and the Australian Museum, NSW) *Paper:* The *Body Art* exhibition and the 'youth market' at the Australian Museum.

- ♦ Pauline Cockrill (National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, Alice Springs, NT)
Paper: When the reality becomes virtual: launching the first women into cyberspace.
- ♦ Megan Hicks (Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, NSW)
Paper: Specialist museums and national identity – who cares?
- ♦ Jenny Horder (Museum of Human Disease, University of NSW)
Paper: Medical milestones: frontiers and challenges in the Centenary of Federation.
- ♦ Martha Sear (Powerhouse Museum, Sydney) and Jill Cole (Carcoar Hospital Museum, NSW)
Paper: Conceiving collaboration: developing *Births of a nation*.



HMM members who met for the first time at the Museums Australia Conference in Canberra, April 2001: (L to R) Allison Bartlett (Harry Daly Museum of Anaesthetics, Sydney), David Lloyd (Queensland Ambulance Service Museum, Wynnum) and Yvonne Kelley (Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association, Rockhampton).

MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE 2002, ADELAIDE

The next Museums Australia Annual Conference will be held in Adelaide. With the theme *Once upon our times*, the conference will be exploring the role of cultural institutions in creating, perpetuating and selling social, political and national myths.

Given that we do not expect large numbers of HMM members to attend, the HMM National Committee is investigating ways in which HMM can nevertheless make a positive contribution to the conference.

HMM members should remember that bursaries are available so that people from volunteer-run museums can attend Museums Australia conferences.

HMM VISITS ROYAL PRINCE ALFRED

Close to 40 people enjoyed a wonderful and informative afternoon when members of HMM (NSW Chapter)

visited the Museum of Nursing, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on Saturday 26 May. This was the last viewing before the collection is transferred to its new home in the hospital's King George V building.

In addition to HMM members we also had participants from the NSW Society of the History of Medicine. We gathered at 1:30 pm and viewed the well presented and assembled collection of the Museum of Nursing with artefacts ranging from as early as the first nurses' training class at the hospital.

Helen Croll, the museum's voluntary curator, has just published a book on the history of nursing at RPAH [see *Reading Matter*. Ed.]. Helen gave a very informative and enjoyable talk on the collection, after which we were shown around by volunteers Margaret Miller and Mair Jones before enjoying a delicious afternoon tea.

Tiina Hendrikson
Hon. secretary, HMM (NSW Chapter)

HMM MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Early in 2001, the HMM National Committee did a rough analysis of our members and subscribers. We thought you would be interested in the results.

Individuals

(Individual members and subscribers, or the contact person for institutional members)

People with a background in medicine, nursing or other health profession	60 %
People with their original training in some other field	35 %
Not known	5 %

Institutions

Staffed entirely by volunteers	53 %
Staffed by volunteers with some input from trained museum/archive persons	17 %
Staffed entirely by museum, library or archive professionals	29 %

HAVING A BALL IN CARCOAR

*How can a tiny village in a rural area sustain a vigorous volunteer-managed museum? We asked the irrepressible Jill Cole how she does it. In sending us this report, Jill, the Project Manager of **Carcoar Hospital Museum**, wrote that she hoped "it gets our message across that (a) we are having a ball, (b) museums can be something other than static displays in glass cases, and (c) it isn't against the law to have some colour in a museum".*

As a museum we are the 'new kids on the block', but as a hospital our story goes back before 1850. The present hospital was built in 1861-62 to replace a temporary building. It was built at the time of the gold rushes and bushrangers, while Australia's inland was still being explored by men such as Burke and Wills, and prior to telegraph, telephone, electricity, motor vehicles and railways. Carcoar at that time was the hub of about one-third of the settled area of New South Wales.

Carcoar, nestled on the banks of the Belubula River in Central West NSW, was designed to be a main commercial centre, but time moved on without it and left Carcoar as a legacy of the 19th century with grand buildings, verandahed cottages, and a rich history.

While the hospital has had various 'bits and pieces' added over the past 140 years, the original building remains with minimal alterations. This building is being restored and conserved with valued financial assistance from the NSW Heritage Office.

The ongoing problems of funding are ever present, and although Carcoar attracts a large number of tourists and visitors, the hospital is in an isolated area of the village and we have had to be innovative to attract both visitors and funding to our little corner of the world. It is important that we entice people to make return visits. We are a town of only 400 people but being situated within 50 km of Orange, Bathurst and Cowra, we have the opportunity to pull visitors from those areas as well as itinerant travellers. We are also keen to host 'heritage' workshops, seminars, etc.

A recent survey revealed that people often visits museums in their own area only once in a period of several years. The reasons given included – *Things don't change. Collections are always from the same period. We take visitors but we wait outside because we've seen it all before.* Another matter we had to consider is that we are a small but vital committee, with no time (and no intention) for giving in to boredom.

To address these problems, we have come up with the following formula:

The original operating theatre (open fireplace and all) houses the permanent display of a near complete set of surgical instruments, operating table etc. Other rooms will be used to present an ever-changing series on any topic we can think of, along with a 'launching' dinner, luncheon, wine-tasting etc whenever possible.

We have been granted Centenary of Federation funding and along with the publication of a book, 'The chronicles of a country hospital, Carcoar NSW', we will present exhibitions such as 'A century of playthings and pastimes', 'A century of household management' etc, during 2001.

We have a strict acquisition policy that will limit our permanent exhibits to items that are unique or interesting, and items that can be housed and cared for properly. We can, however, borrow from a vast array of private collections around the district (the old 'why buy a book when you've got a library' trick).



Jill Cole prepares a beautiful christening gown from the Carcoar collection.

Can you imagine the following? A Guest Book (c.1880), borrowed from a local homestead, that lists the dinner menu and comments (some rather risqué) from the guests; a small exhibition of appropriate crockery and silver tableware; a dinner served to match one of the menus; guests in period-style dress; a compere to read a selection of the comments from the Guest Book (sorry, we can't find a string quartet anywhere). The local newspaper would cover such an event. What would we gain? A fun night out, money, support, publicity. Not bad for one book and a few pieces of crockery and silver.

Other ideas are: a collection of inkwells and pens with a local calligrapher conducting a workshop; an display of photography gear with the chance for people to dress up as a nurse or doctor for a photo in the operating theatre. Exhibitions of this type are a means to an end. We need to generate income and interest in our permanent collection and our unique hospital building.

A satellite exhibition from the Powerhouse Museum's *Births of a nation* exhibition, dedicated to the mothers of the Federation era, was our first exhibition in the restored hospital building. A conservation workshop and a 'Mothers and babies' tour of Carcoar were conducted in conjunction with the exhibition.

We are keen to hear comments and advice from other members of HMM.

Jill Cole
Project manager, Carcoar Hospital Museum
PO Box 21, Carcoar, NSW 2791
Phone: 02 6367 3000

PRESERVING PATIENT MEDICAL RECORDS

*Patient medical records can be a valuable research resource as **Barbara Rossall-Wynne** and **Bryan Speed** point out in this update on what is happening with the **Fairfield Hospital Historical Collection**.*

In February this year the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital Historical Collection was transferred from the old Leslie Jenner Nursing Home on the Austin Campus to the old Sewing Room and Laundry at the Repatriation Campus of the Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre in Heidelberg, Melbourne. The collection was one of many departments to be relocated to other accommodation to make way for the demolition of the Leslie Jenner building in preparation for the redevelopment of the Medical Centre, a multi-million dollar exercise of the Bracks Government.

The Fairfield Hospital Collection comprises a substantial archive of medical histories, leather-bound patient registration books and many other early documents and photographs. There is also a sizeable collection of objects, including medical instruments and machines, nursing uniforms, audio and visual material, recordings of coughs, and taped oral histories.

With more space it is now possible to display some of the collection and also to provide room for various researchers to more easily access the collection. It has also made it easier to respond to the requirements of the Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre Health Information Department for FOI (Freedom of Information) requests, which come principally from former polio patients. Polio patients troubled by the after-effects of polio seek out their original medical histories to provide information about their illness and treatment at Fairfield Hospital, either to supply this information to present doctors as an adjunct to present treatment, or for their own information.

The retention of medical histories is always a contentious issue, the main problem being the space necessary for storage. For old infectious diseases, now mainly eradicated from this country, diseases such as polio, diphtheria and scarlet fever, retention of the medical histories would appear to be unnecessary. Yet, these diseases still exist in developing countries and there is the ever-present risk that they may re-emerge in countries like Australia. The histories provide a valuable insight into past medical treatment, which could prove a valuable resource should diseases such as polio re-emerge.

The Fairfield experience amply demonstrates that the retention of the medical histories from the era of 1942 to 1950 provides a valuable historical record of medical history. For some people, accessing their medical history is an exercise in closure on a painful period in their lives when, as small children, they were summarily separated from family and friends and experienced the possibly disturbing effects of complete isolation.

Another important aspect of patient medical records is the 'normal' process of culling them after 15 years if they are not active. To date, all the medical records of Fairfield Hospital from 1950 until its closure in 1996 have been retained. However, the records from 1950 to 1981 are being assessed for culling versus storage at the Public Record Office (PRO) of Victoria. Together with the earlier records held in the Fairfield Hospital Collection, they comprise a continuous record of diseases treated at the hospital.

With the help and support of the Melbourne Infectious Diseases Group of Infectious Diseases Physicians, the Fairfield Hospital Historical Committee has registered a proposal for retention of all the medical records to be returned by the PRO. These histories have the potential to be a substantial resource for medical and historical study. Furthermore they are linked to a large collection of stored serum specimens, which have already proven to be a valuable research resource. Preservation of both the histories and the sera will make it possible to enhance areas of research that are central to infectious diseases. It will also provide the opportunity to analyse the changes in infectious diseases over the decades, an important activity in these times of emerging and re-emerging infections. The histories are also an extensive and unique repository of clinical and epidemiological data. We still await the outcome of the PRO's decision regarding the fate of the histories.

Progressing also is the indexation of the earliest Fairfield Patient Registration books from 1904 to 1920 by the Victorian Genealogical Society. These will be processed onto a CD-ROM. Access to this resource will be available for research possibly next year. This information will be available to health professionals and the general public, subject to various restrictions covered under patient confidentiality regulations. This will also provide an opportunity to analyse the infectious diseases over this period using de-linked data.

Anyone interested in supporting the retention of the Fairfield Hospital medical histories could write in support of this project to the Public Record Office of Victoria at the Victorian Archives Building, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

A written history of the hospital is now in press with Melbourne University Press (MUP) and is expected to be published later this year or early in 2002.

Enquiries to: Dr Bryan Speed at email bspeed@ozemail.com.au or Barbara Rossall-Wynne at email b_rossall@hotmail.com or Tel: (03) 9439 0290

Bryan Speed
Chairman

Barbara Rossall-Wynne
Hon. secretary and Hon. curator/ archivist

Fairfield Hospital Historical Collection Committee

AROUND AUSTRALIA

News about health and medicine museums, exhibitions, activities, events

Centenary of Federation at Faulconbridge

Volunteers from **Nepean Hospital Archives** (a member of HMM) sprang into action when asked by NSW Health to provide a display on 100 Years of Nursing at Centenary of Federation celebrations at Faulconbridge on 27 January 2001. Faulconbridge in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney is the location of the grave of Sir Henry Parkes, the 'Father of Federation' and the Colonial Secretary who wrote to Florence Nightingale asking her to assist with the reform of hospitals in New South Wales.

Sewing machines ran hot as the Nepean volunteers ran up costumes for sixteen former nurses to wear in a pageant of nurses' uniforms from the 1880s to the present. These 'live' models were complemented by a display of dolls in nursing uniforms. As might be expected, members of the public were interested in the kind of uniforms that their mothers and other relatives would have worn as nurses, but also amazed at how hot and restrictive those uniforms were.



Nepean Hospital Archives volunteers played dress-ups in a pageant of reproduction nursing uniforms made especially for the Centenary of Federation celebrations at Faulconbridge. Other HMM members lent uniforms from their collections for copying. [Photograph by Sue Sewter, courtesy of Nepean Hospital Archives]

There was also a display of copies of correspondence between Sir Henry Parkes, Miss Nightingale and Miss Lucy Osburn, who led the group of six nurses to Sydney in 1868.

An illustrated brochure, *Professional nursing in Australia*, was produced by the group for distribution on the day. Congratulations to Nepean Hospital Archive Volunteers, Marie Hurley, Sue Sewter, June Malloy, Pat Macgregor and Marian Gozzard.

[Based on a report by Marie Hurley. Marie adds that there has been 'positive fallout' from this display with enquiries from, for example, Penrith City Council]

Conserving history of the Nightingale approach to nursing

The **Nursing Archive at the Alfred Hospital** in Melbourne is housed in a romantic two-storey 19th century building with a long history. It has had many uses but was initially built for the hospital manager in 1898.

Today the Archive has access to the entire ground floor while the MICA paramedics, who thunder down the stairs on their way to medical emergencies, occupy the top floor.

Honorary nursing archivist Margaret Royston works every Monday and Wednesday with four other volunteers - former graduates of the hospital - to catalogue, and maintain a vast collection of nursing memorabilia. Margaret has been working in this capacity for more than 10 years, when various wise women from the Alfred realized that nursing history was slipping away all too quickly.

Moving at that time to conserve the Alfred's nursing history certainly was propitious. The Alfred Hospital Nurses League soon after commissioned an author to write the history of nursing at the Alfred.

Helen Paterson's book *'5.30, nurse!' - the history of the Alfred nurses* would not have been possible without access to a significant body of research material and photos safely stored and housed by that time in a wing of the old Alfred Nurses Home. Helen's book was launched with great fanfare and acclaim in 1996.

A valuable aspect of this publication is the almost complete list of every nursing graduate since the School of Nursing began in 1882. Tracing people has been made so much easier just by this fact alone.

Today, the Archive is used as a resource by many organizations outside the Alfred. The Australian Nursing Federation (Vic. Branch) recently celebrated their centenary and borrowed uniforms from the Alfred archives for a display. Others users have included moviemakers and writers and researchers tracing the history of significant nurse educators and managers in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Archive is of assistance to the Alfred Hospital as well by providing artefacts for display on special days, such as opens day and Hospital Sunday, and in glassed display cabinets for the interest of visitors and patients.

Report by Margaret Royston (Honorary Nursing Archivist), and Susan Hudson (Editor, *Nursing Notes*)

Developments at Kenmore

In February 2001 the Southern Area Health Service of NSW announced that the Kenmore Hospital complex was being listed for sale. Regular readers of the HMM Newsletter will know that Kenmore is a psychiatric hospital founded in the 19th century and situated on a large parcel of land near Goulburn in the Southern Highlands.

A conservation plan has identified certain aspects of Kenmore that need to be preserved and there is supposed to be provision for several community groups to continue operating on the site, including the **Kenmore Hospital Museum**. Nevertheless the museum's volunteers wait to hear that their future is assured.

The museum was founded several years ago but had its official opening during Goulburn Heritage Week in March 2001. It is located in Ward 5, the original male epileptic facility. The tours of the museum during Heritage Week attracted a good many column inches and photographs in several issues of the *Goulburn Post*. We congratulate the Kenmore volunteers for their PR expertise in attracting so much interest in their museum.



Instant acquisition. Kenmore volunteer Leoné Morgan prepares for display an army nurse's uniform that has just been donated by its owner, Dot Hall. Mrs Hall (née Leigh), from Williamstown, Victoria, was visiting with a group of women who had been nurses at the hospital during WW2.

HMM members had their moment of fame, too, with a photograph in the *Goulburn Post* of the group that attended the HMM (NSW) outing to Kenmore on 10 March. This was a highly successful HMM event with 36 people attending, including a large contingent from Prince Henry Hospital Museum, who arrived in a minibus. Everyone was impressed with the exhibits and the energy of the Kenmore volunteers.

[Based on articles in the *Goulburn Post*, information from Kenmore Hospital Museum honorary secretary, Leoné Morgan, and a report from HMM's Raven Reporter]

A well kept secret: the NSW College of Nursing Archives

Following her retirement, and as a past Executive Director of the NSW College of Nursing, Judith Cornell was appointed the Hon Archivist at the College. The College's recent move to its new premises at Burwood brought to light material not previously identified and apart from the archival collection there is also a growing historical collection which can now be appropriately stored and displayed.

The College has an archival collection that documents the progress made since the formation of the College in 1949. The collection has been well established since 1985 when the first sorting and arranging was undertaken. Further work was undertaken in 1990 when detailed guides to the collection were produced. The original arrangement of the material is according to the structure of the College at the time and whilst that creates some challenge for researchers looking for specific material, it is envisaged that the finding aids and indexes will be upgraded sufficiently to avoid having to reorganise the entire collection. The recent purchase of *Archive Manager* software will allow considerable flexibility in organisation.

Apart from the College's own material, the collection also contains material from the following agencies or organisations:

- Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) NSW Committee/ Chapter
- Florence Nightingale Committee Australia (FNCA) NSW Branch
- Patient Assessment Information Systems (PAIS) Special Interest Group
- The Muriel Knox Doherty Collection
- Marrickville Hospital records
- Donated material from individual nurses
- Bush Nurses Association
- Photographic collection

There are separate indexes to the NSWCN, RCNA(NSW), FNCA(NSW) and Doherty collections, however the remaining collections are contained within the Artificial Series of the NSWCN collection.

In addition there are many items of historical significance that have been donated or collected over time, including portraits, badges, belt buckles, oral history tapes, silverware, china, ornaments, paintings, very early nursing and midwifery texts, etc. These items are being catalogued and that catalogue will eventually be linked to the archives guide and computerised. This will make the retrieval of information and articles a much simpler and faster task. Small rotating displays of historical material and objects can now be arranged.

The College was fortunate to secure a grant from the Centenary of Federation Fund. This funding was used to provide a consultant to oversee the work being carried out by the honorary archivist, the preparation of the collection for the move to Burwood, and the much-needed conservation of many items within the collection.

A policy and procedure manual has been completed and provides advice to College staff regarding current

records management and the eventual transfer of material to the archives.

The appointment of an honorary archivist has meant that there is now access, supervision and assistance for researchers who wish to use the collection. Several students have already taken advantage of the collection to research a variety of areas related to nursing, the professional nursing organisations and individual nurses. The photographic collection is being utilised to provide illustrations in various publications, both within and outside the College.

The move to Burwood has resulted in more storage space, appropriate environmental conditions, better shelving and a larger working space. Best of all there is plenty of space for historians, researchers and archives staff to work in comfort. The archive is currently open on Thursdays or other days by appointment. Any person wanting further information should contact the Hon. Archivist (Judith Cornell) by phone on (02) 9745 7570 or leave an email message on archives@nursing.aust.edu.au and she return your call.

Report by Judith Cornell

Nursing History Network

HMMers will be interested to know that the **Tracy Maund Historical Collection** at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne was the venue for the launch of the Nursing History Network on 23 June 2001.

The **Nursing History Network** is an initiative of the School of Postgraduate Nursing and the Centre for the Study of Health and Society at the University of Melbourne; the Centre for Nursing History, Royal College of Nursing, Edinburgh; and the Center for the Study of Nursing History at the University of Pennsylvania. It has three aims:

- To foster high quality research in nursing history
- To develop international links that promote scholarship
- To promote dialogue between nurses undertaking historical research and academic historians.

For further information contact:

Dr Sioban Nelson, School of Postgraduate Nursing
University of Melbourne VIC 3010

Phone: 03 8344 0776

Fax: 03 9347 4172

Email: s.nelson@nursing.unimelb.edu.au

www.nursing.unimelb.edu.au

Flying Doctor remembered

The Queensland Museum has prepared new displays for John Flynn Place, Cloncurry, with the support of the Centenary of Federation Queensland. The displays opened on 25 November 2000 with a gathering of Flynn pioneers from throughout Australia. The curator for the project was Dr Judith McKay, who worked with her uncle, Rev. Dr Fred McKay, Flynn's successor.

[This report first appeared in *Timelines* No.8 December 2000, the MA Historians' SIG Newsletter]

Birth notice

The touring exhibition, *Births of a nation: women, childbirth and Federation* continues on its successful tour of NSW. There are actual two exhibitions, the main one and a satellite display for smaller venues. The project is a collaborative effort – the Powerhouse Museum has developed the core exhibition and runs workshops on label-writing and collection conservation at each of the places visited, while the museums and historical societies at these places develop their own showcases and contribute information for a 'Mothers and babies history walk' of the town.



Curator Dr Martha Sear from the Powerhouse Museum (right) with history consultant Dr Ann McGrath (formerly Australian National University, currently National Museum of Australia) at the opening of Births of a nation at its first venue, the Orange City Library.

A number of HMM members helped with research for this exhibition and one, Carcoar Hospital Museum, has hosted the satellite exhibition (see 'Having a ball in Carcoar' on page 10 of this Newsletter). After opening at Orange Regional Library in May, the exhibitions have also been to the Golden Memories Museum at Milthorpe and Bathurst City Library. The itinerary for the remainder of the year is:

Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga

12 July – 27 August

Temora Rural Museum 28 July – 16 August

West Wyalong Museum 18 August – 6 September

Adelong Alive Museum 8 September – 5 November

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

6 November – 4 February

In 2002 the curators at Cobar and Hay hope to be taking the exhibition. And guess who the new Community Curator at Hay is! It's Martha Sear, until recently a curator at the Powerhouse Museum and the developer, along with Kimberley Webber, of *Births of a nation*. Martha took up her post at Hay in July 2001 and is loving it. Jeannine Baker has taken over from Martha for the remainder of the *Births* tour.

For enquiries contact Powerhouse Museum exhibition co-ordinator, Joanne Delzoppo. Phone 02 9217 0206. Fax 02 9217 0163. Email joanned@phm.gov.au

Rubber love

Condom packs, posters and other promotional material were featured in an exhibition at **UTS Gallery** (University of Technology, Sydney) that ran from 29 May to 22 June 2001. ***Rubber love: language and representations - HIV/AIDS in South-East Asia*** was an exploration of the socio-cultural forces that have shaped the response of Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand to HIV/AIDS.

Curators were Dr Raymond Donovan, lecturer in sociology at the University of Newcastle, and Leong Chan, lecturer in graphic design at the University of NSW. Describing the exhibition, Dr Donovan said "This is a rare opportunity to examine material culture from several societies that speaks volumes on diversity in perceptions, values and beliefs that influence the fight against one of our greatest threats".

For more information see

<http://www.utsgallery.uts.edu.au/exhibitions/past/2001/rubberlove.html>

Public art recalls a medical precinct

A public art work currently being developed in North Sydney takes as its starting point the medical history of the local precinct. North Sydney Council has commissioned the work for the foyer of the Stanton Library in Miller Street. The historical research for the work was largely carried out by Council historian, Margaret Park.

Miller Street was formerly a locus of medical expertise and was commonly referred to as the Macquarie Street of the North Shore. In Helen Pryor's artwork, text referring to the large number of medical practitioners and dentists in the precinct in the 1930s is sandblasted onto a large glass panel that forms part of a backlit light box.

The panel also refers to the domestic history of the area and women's involvement in healing in the home. Recipes for home remedies, collected from local residents, are embroidered onto a translucent sheet hanging behind the front glass.

A second glass panel acknowledges the Indigenous people of the North Sydney area and the healing properties of local native plants. The research for this part of the work relied heavily on input from the Royal Botanic Gardens' Aboriginal Education Officer, John Lennis.

A final, playful touch is added by Year 2/3 students from North Sydney Demonstration School. Their drawings of the medical history of the precinct, based on oral history tapes, have been translated into moulds and cast in metal. They will be embedded in the floor of the foyer.

The project is scheduled for completion in July 2001.

[Thanks to the project artist, Helen Pryor, for sending this information]

Sisters on the move

From nursing Captain Starlight to addressing teenage youth suicide in schools, the Sisters of Charity have been driven by a dual credo to live their lives in the service of the poor and to minister where they find a need, however controversial. They also play significant and relevant roles in advocacy for social justice issues locally and internationally.

As the first religious institute of women in Australia, the Sisters of Charity arrived in 1838 at the invitation of Rev. Dr. John Polding, former Archbishop of Sydney, to work with women convicts at the Female Factory in Parramatta, the children at the Parramatta Orphan School and other poor people in the colony. In 1857, with the support and generosity of many citizens, they opened St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. As the need grew, the Sisters' health ministry expanded outside of New South Wales to Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.

Through a series of artefacts, photos and personal portrayals, the **Australian Museum** is presenting ***Sisters of Charity 1838 to 2001***. This exhibition weaves information regarding the Congregation's 163-year history around a compelling array of objects sourced from the Sisters of Charity Archives. The exhibition is the last of the Australian Museum's Community Access Programs (CAPS), the credo of which was to provide a community voice in the Museum.

Sisters of Charity 1838 to 2001

30 June – 14 October 2001

FREE with General Admission: Adult \$8, Child \$3, Family \$19, Concession \$4

Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney

(02) 9329 6000 www.austmus.gov.au

[Based on information supplied by Heidi DeWald, PR & Public Affairs, Australian Museum]

Bequest from Territory nurse

A recent important acquisition to the Territory History Collection at the Museum and Gallery of the Northern Territory was a bequest from Sister Ellen Kettle MBE of her nursing cloak, bush hat and a slide she took of Albert Namatjira. Arriving in the Northern Territory in 1952 as a senior sister with the Commonwealth Department of Health's Survey Section, she worked mainly with Aboriginal communities. In 1967 she was awarded the MBE in recognition of her contribution to Aboriginal health. Sister Kettle was also a medical historian, publishing several books including her autobiographic *Gone bush* and the two-volume history *Health services in the Northern Territory: a history 1824-1970*.

[This report first appeared in *Timelines* No.8 December 2000, the MA Historians' SIG Newsletter]

Exhibition on tuberculosis

A new temporary exhibition is due to open on 5 September at the **Medical History Museum**, University of Melbourne. Research for the exhibition, entitled ***Don't Spit: the control of tuberculosis in Victoria***, has drawn together a wealth of material, revealing the social history that is interwoven with the medical history of this disease. It involves immigration, politics, parliamentary reports and Health Acts, World Wars, Aboriginal issues, hazardous occupations, eugenics, social class issues, housing and sanitation, drug resistance, homelessness and HIV-AIDS.

Many people have generously made available time, material and expertise to make this exhibition possible. They include private lenders who have put together collections with care and concern over a long period; former patients, nurses from district services and health clinics, and other support people from organisations such as the Red Cross, the Ex-patients Association, the Victorian Tuberculosis and Lung Association and Veterans Affairs. Then there are the picture curators, archivists and librarians in hospital, university and state libraries; curators and conservators in other museums; public health medical practitioners; former directors of hospitals; and microbiology departments, anatomists, pathologists, surgeons, multimedia experts, photographers, researchers and volunteers. These are some of the wonderfully generous and dedicated people whose work makes the exhibitions of our imaginations, become reality.

Report by Ann Brothers, Curator, Medical History Museum

Medicine with music

This October the Western Australian Medical Museum will be holding another Medicine with Music Open Day. This follows the success of their Medicine and Music Day on 17 October 1999. On that occasion the girls from St Hilda's Anglican School Orchestras played, while visitors enjoyed refreshments, learnt about the past of medical, nursing and dental care in the community, and bought fresh cakes and biscuits from the X-ray room.

The event fulfilled its purpose of letting the public know the museum exists, and at the same time increased its funds a little.

[Based on report in *Medical Museum Matters* No.2, March 2000, the newsletter for members and friends of the Western Australian Medical Museum]



Have you seen anything?

Don't you think there is a disproportionate amount of news about NSW in the 'Around Australia' section of the HMM Newsletter? The problem is that your newsletter editor is based in NSW and so is more likely to hear about happenings in that state.

But it's a problem that's easily fixed. Just send the editor any information and/or photos of exhibitions and events in your state that might be of interest to fellow HMMers. If it's something you have organised, seen or heard about, if it's something that has already happened, or something that's being planned, we are hungry for news about it.

Deadline for the December issue is
31 October 2001.

What is ... MOVABLE HERITAGE?

Some of our members have been confused by the term 'movable heritage'. Some have even worried that it might have sinister connotations, thinking that if their health and medicine collections were referred to as 'movable heritage' it might automatically mean that some higher authority could move or confiscate them. Not so.

Movable heritage simply means heritage items that are reasonably portable and not fixed to a site or place. It includes natural or manufactured objects of heritage significance, from small objects such as fossils, historical artefacts, furniture, botanical specimens and paintings, to large objects such as steam engines, industrial machinery, boats and planes.

The term 'movable heritage' distinguishes reasonably portable items from heritage items that are fixed in place, such as landscapes, historic sites, buildings, engineering structures, and rock carvings.

Movable heritage items are the sorts of objects that we preserve in our health and medicine museums and collections – the instruments, equipment, photographs, uniforms, machines, furniture, and so forth.

But 'movable heritage' also includes items that have not been placed in collections. In fact, it is recommended that an item of movable heritage should, if at all possible, be retained in the place where it was originally kept during its lifetime. Removing an item from its historical context or place may destroy the historical connections of both the place and the item. Of course, HMM members know that it is often not possible to leave heritage items where they are. This is one of the reasons why collections and museums have been established – to house heritage items that would otherwise become homeless or lost.

As you will have read in the HMM President's report on page 2 of this Newsletter, the Board of South East Health (that is, the South East Sydney Area Health Service of NSW) has just ratified a Movable Heritage

Policy. Developed with the assistance of community members and Area Health Service staff, this policy provides guidelines for ensuring the preservation of the Area's movable heritage. It covers items in the several museums and collections in the Area, as well as heritage items that are still in their place in health facilities within the Area.

The term 'movable heritage' is a recent coinage. The first piece of Australian legislation that mentions it appears to be the Movable Cultural Heritage Act of 1986, which protects Australian heritage items from indiscriminate export.

Later, Prime Minister Paul Keating referred to 'movable heritage' in his *Creative Nation* statement in 1994. In this national cultural policy he stated that 'the Commonwealth recognises that our cultural landscape, movable cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage are linked ... and therefore require an integrated policy and management approach'.

During the 1990s some Australian states acknowledged that 'heritage' included 'movable heritage'. For example, the revamped heritage policy for NSW that was launched in 1996 outlined a broader focus for the NSW Heritage Council that included not only the built environment but also Aboriginal, natural and movable heritage.

Megan Hicks
Curator of health and medicine
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

Emergency acquisition

The Ambulance Service of New South Wales is currently phasing out its Ford F250 vehicles and replacing them with Mercedes Sprinter vans. Earlier this year the Service agreed to donate a decommissioned Ford to the Powerhouse Museum. On 27 June 2001 a small ceremony was held to mark the handover.

Commissioned in 1993 and fitted out as an Intensive Care vehicle, the donated ambulance served throughout the 1990s at Summer Hill Station in Sydney's inner west. Its significance as an acquisition is immeasurably enhanced by the fact that it has come fully equipped with the appropriate first aid and resuscitation equipment.

[Report by Megan Hicks]



Movable heritage that has come to a halt - Powerhouse Director Dr Kevin Fewster receives the keys of Ambulance No. 951 from the Director of Metropolitan Services, Mr Mike Willis. [Photograph by Marinco Kojdanovski, courtesy of Powerhouse Museum]

What is ... AN ARCHIVE?

There seems to be some confusion about what 'archives' means. Is the term 'archive' interchangeable with 'collection' or 'historical collection'? If not, what is the difference? We asked archivist Helen Yoxall for help. This is what she had to say.

A simple formal definition of 'archives' is:

Archives are those records created or received and accumulated by an organisation in conducting its business or by a person or a family in conducting their lives, that are considered worthy of permanent preservation.

Archives are 'records' or 'documents', not 'objects' or 'artefacts'. Different types of record that might be found in archives include letters, diaries, files, minute books, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, plans, films, videotapes, audiotapes, and computer records. Roughly speaking, archives are textual or pictorial material, not three-dimensional objects.

So three-dimensional objects are not archives, but publications are not archives either. Publications are better handled according to library/ bibliographic practice (although archivists often deal with some publications for convenience's sake). Archives are unique; publications are not.

The Australian Society of Archivists has produced two useful brochures, 'Understanding and using archives' and 'Establishing an archives'. These are also available on-line at the society's website.

The contact details for the Australian Society of Archivists Inc. are:

PO Box 83 O'Connor ACT 2602

Freephone 1800 622 251

Website <http://www.archivists.org.au>

Helen Yoxall is an archivist with the Powerhouse Museum. This means that, along with archivist Susan Davidson, she looks after the archives at the Powerhouse, as distinct from the artefact collection (which is managed by curators, registrars and conservators).

Nurse dolls



Dressed in contemporary uniforms, these nurse dolls are unlike those found in many nursing museums, in that they are large, floppy, 'cuddly' dolls. They are on display in the Nursing Heritage Collection at the School of Nursing, University of Canberra.

Historic lazaret

The conservation of Peel Island, both historically and environmentally, is the focus of the newly formed Friends of Peel Island group. A conservation plan has been produced by a group of diploma students from the Moreton Institute of TAFE. Peel Island is unallocated Crown Land and uninhabited except for a caretaker.

It was the site of Queensland's main lazaret from 1907 to 1959. In 1993 the Federal Government granted \$230,000 towards the conservation and restoration of Peel Island's heritage. With present cutbacks to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the island's current controllers, there is little prospect of any immediate injection of government funds.

The Friends of Peel Island group aims to raise awareness of the historic and environmental values of Peel Island. Membership is \$10 per year plus \$10 joining fee (junior membership half price).

Enquiries to secretary, Andrea Schmitt
Phone: 07 3871 3817
Mobile: 0414 749833

[Based on reports in Bayside Bulletin, 7 March 2000; and Medical History (Newsletter of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine Inc, May 2000.

READING MATTER

Publications of interest to custodians of health and medicine collections

Your Newsletter editor welcomes notices of publications, photocopies, clippings, and anything else that will help our HMM participants to keep up to date with their reading

BOOKS AND BOOKLETS

***Caring for your wartime memorabilia: a guide to preserving your family's heritage items*, Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canberra, 2001.**

This 34-page illustrated booklet describes basic conservation strategies for looking after the many kinds of items that are found amongst wartime memorabilia. It is available free from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs, PO Box 21, Woden ACT 2606.



***Significance: a guide to assessing the significance of cultural heritage objects and collections*, Heritage Collections Council, Canberra, 2001.**

At last, the *Significance* manual is available after being workshopped around Australia over the last three years. Museums should go beyond mere physical descriptions when cataloguing their collections. They should be recording the meaning and significance of objects, so that future generations know why these objects were considered worth preserving. This handsome booklet explains why the recording of significance is important, and how to go about doing it. It is available free from the Heritage Collections Council, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, GPO Box 2154, Canberra ACT 2601. Tel. 02 6271 1000. Fax 02 6271 1800. Email hcc.mail@dcita.gov.au. Website www.dcita.gov.au



Croll Wilson, Helen, *The second fifty years: a history of nursing at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, 1932-1982*, Braxus Press, Sydney, 2000.

Following on from Dorothy Armstrong's 1965 history of the first fifty years of nursing at RPAH, Helen Croll Wilson has drawn on historical material held in the RPAH Museum of Nursing and the Hospital Archives for her documentation of the changes in nursing practice through the mid-20th century. Helen is a graduate of RPAH, the curator of the hospital's museum, and a long-standing member of the Health and Medicine Museums Special Interest Group.

The second fifty years is available from the Museum of Nursing, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown NSW.



Brown, Janet, *In the company of strangers: former patients of Australian tuberculosis sanatoria share their experiences and insights*, Australia, 1995.

The author has written to HMM to say that there are still a few copies of her book available. It contains narratives from patients reflecting on their time in sanatoria, and covers Woorooloo Sanatorium in WA in the 1930s right through to Queensland sanatoria in the 1960s. Through their stories it is possible to find what treatments patients were given in the different eras, but mainly the author wanted to hear, not only about their experiences in the sanatoria, but how those experiences affected their lives.

Cost: \$20 per copy plus \$5 per order for postage (includes GST)

Send your order to: Janet Brown

EDCO Services

735 Sayers Rd Hoppers Crossing VIC 3029

Phone: (03) 9749 3934 Fax: (03) 9749 3924

Email: janet.brown@alphalink.com.au



PERIODICALS

Many health and medicine collections contain bottles, so the April-May 2000 issue of *Insite*, the Museums Australia (Victoria) Newsletter, is noteworthy. This issue features articles about bottles and bottle collections. Of particular interest is this article by Janet Hughes.

Hughes, Janet, 'What lurks in that bottle? The problems of unidentified toxic and hazardous materials in museum collections', *Insite* [Museums Australia (Victoria) Newsletter], April-May 2000: 6.

Janet is the head of conservation at the National Gallery of Australia. Here she discusses what to do about potentially dangerous materials in bottles and containers if you don't have a conservator to help you. It's not always necessary to destroy or dispose of such historic artefacts but, amongst other advice, Janet warns that 'it is a wise precaution, and in fact usually a legal requirement, to set up a file recording all toxic and hazardous materials found in your collections'.



'Pharmaceutical museum', *The World of Antiques and Art* (Australia), June-December 2000, pp.170-171.

A brief history of Washington H. Soul's pharmacy, founded in 1872, and a description of the museum and archives at the company's head office in Pitt Street, Sydney.



As usual, recent issues of *Pharmacy History Australia* (the journal of the Australian Academy of the History of Pharmacy) contain articles that will interest those who would like to know more about the pharmaceutical items in their collections. Annual subscription to the journal is \$22. Contact: The Treasurer, AAHP, 8 Leopold Street, Nedlands WA 6009.

***Pharmacy History Australia* No. 11, August 200**
includes:

Griffenhagen, George, 'Dose: one-spoonful' on pp. 7. This is a short history of the spoon as a measure for medicines.

Miller, Geoff, 'The history of the pill', p.15. This is a very short history of the pill. It does not include The Pill, but it does conclude with a dreadful pun referring to pharmacists as 'the pillers of society'.

***Pharmacy History Australia* No.13, March 2001**
includes:

'Pills for pale people: the George Fulford story', pp.3-5. Another in this journal's series of stories on patent medicine 'kings', this time the Canadian proprietor of Dr Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

Miller, Geoff, 'Louis Smith: Australia's own Holloway – the sequel', pp.12-14. An insight into the world of medicine in mid-19th century Australia.

Miller, Geoff, 'Collectables – seltzer jugs', p.15.

***Pharmacy History Australia*, No.14, July 2001**
contains

Miller, Geoff, 'Pharmacy museum at Coolgardie', p.6.

That Geoff Miller! He edits *Pharmacy History Australia* and writes half of it, is actively involved in the Australian Society for the History of Medicine, and still has time to keep his hand in as a (part-time) practising pharmacist. And of course he is a member of HMM. Now he's discovered a new pharmacy museum at Coolgardie. It has been put together by retired builder Eddie Grant and stocked with the collection that Eddie has built up over many years. Amongst Eddie's treasures is a fine display of Zam-Buk ephemera, which was associated so closely with the St John Ambulance Brigade.

By the way, can any HMM members help St John Ambulance find information and photographs of early **ZAM-BUK** tins and product use for their forthcoming history of St John in Australia? And has anyone seen a tin of Zam-Buk ointment with a picture of a zebra on it?

Some of our members may recall that 'Zambuk' was the nickname for St John first-aid officers, presumably because they used the ointment to treat their patients, particularly wounded sportsmen on the field. Please forward any information or photos to the editor of this newsletter, or directly to HMM member Mrs Betty Stirton, Hon. archivist, St John Ambulance Australia (NSW), 6 Hunt Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010. Phone/Fax: 02 9709 6207.



EXHIBITION CATALOGUES & BROCHURES

'Mother and child images: medium and message', 4-page supplement in *O&G* (The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists), Vol.2, No.3, July 2000.

Illustrated catalogue of the exhibition that featured glass sculptures by artist Paddy Robinson set against historical images and contemporary diagnostic images, held at the College Museum from June to November 2000.



ON THE WEB

***Moving buildings – study of issues surrounding moving buildings of heritage value for use in outdoor museums in Queensland*, by Jane Lennon and Associates for the National Trust of Queensland (April 200)**

A number of hospital museums around Australia are situated in heritage buildings that have been moved from their original site, so this study is of interest. It investigates the consequences of moving buildings, identifies management problems, recommends policies for groups that manage moved buildings, and provides information for those who may either donate a building for removal or acquire one.

www.maq.org.au/publications/resources/moving.htm

Resourcefinder

In February 2001 AMOL (Australian Museums Online) launched Resourcefinder. Want to find out about the grants available for museums in Australia?

Accreditation programs? Training programs? Advisory services? All this and more can be found at this site.

<http://amol.org.au/resourcefinder>

Australian Society of the History of Medicine

You can now visit the Society on its website at

www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/ashm/

and their email address is

renaes@unimelb.edu.au

Medical Museums Association, USA

Here is an opportunity to find out about HMM's counterpart in the USA. With a list of members, links to medical museums around the world, and excerpts from their newsletter *The Prescription*, MeMA's site is worth a visit.

<http://www.cwru.edu/affil/MeMA/memahome.htm>



NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Burridge, Nina, 'Quarantine this heritage area from developers', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 March 2001.

Sydney academic, Manly resident and a member of Friends of the Quarantine Station, Nina Burridge argues that the NSW State Government is ignoring its duty to prevent the commercial exploitation of historic sites at Sydney's North Head.



Whelan, Judith, 'Exposed: secret hoard of body parts', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 March 2001, pp.1, 6.

This is one of a number of newspaper articles around this time that dealt with issues surrounding the retention of body parts in pathology collections.



Garton, Stephen, 'Shut off from the source: a national obsession with privacy has led to fears for the future of Australian social history', *The Australian*, 21 November 2000.

Professor Stephen Garton from the Department of History at the University of Sydney writes, 'When I began researching the history of insanity in Australia through the State Archives of NSW 20 years ago ... the access officer ... gave me full access to the patient case files and other restricted archives ... Today I would not be allowed to do this study'. In this article he makes a case for enshrining special access that safeguards privacy but makes archives available to historical researchers.

[For another article on this very topic, see page 11 of this issue of *HMM Newsletter*]

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Monitoring your museum's environment

Are the environmental conditions in your museum and storage areas unsuitable for museum objects? For instance, is your building too humid or hot? Could the light in showcases and exhibition areas be damaging your objects? HMM members have expressed an interest in monitoring their environment, but the cost of measuring equipment can be prohibitive for small volunteer-managed museums.

In NSW, the Museums and Galleries Foundation (MGF) possesses a number of items of conservation equipment that it rents out for periods of three months when not required by their outreach officers. The items available for hire for \$20 each are: thermohydrograph, UV meter, light meter, and sling psychrometer.

Other MGF services include:

- Half day conservation workshops
- A register of consultants and referrals
- VIM (Volunteer Initiated Museums) grants of \$500 to fund small projects, including conservation.

In Victoria, the Victorian Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Materials at Laverton lends FREE thermohydrographs to small museums for periods of three months. This is subsidised by the Victorian Government. They then have a service (for which they charge) where a conservator can analyse the results and advise on what you can do to improve your conditions.

Thanks to HMM members, Allison Bartlett and Robyn Waymouth, for gathering this information. We welcome information from other HMM members about conservation services available in their own states.

Museum training in NSW

The Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW offers a yearly program of practical workshops and issues-based seminars for museum and gallery volunteers and professionals. Many of these offer the sort of training and development that health and medicine museum custodians are looking for. To make sure you receive notice of these activities, get yourself onto the mailing list by contacting:

Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW
43-51 Cowper Wharf Road
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011
Phone: 02 9358 1760
Fax: 02 9358 1852
Email: mgfnsw@ozemail.com.au

VIM grants

A reminder to all Volunteer Initiated Museums in NSW that the closing date for the second round of VIM grants in 2001 is **21 September**. This grant program provides assistance to small museums in NSW. It is managed by the Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW (MGF) and funded by the NSW Ministry of Arts.

Grants of up to \$500 are available and applications for a broad range of programs will be considered. It is essential that you discuss your application with a Regional Services staff member at MGF. For contact details see above.

APPLICATION TO JOIN HEALTH AND MEDICINE MUSEUMS

HMM is a Special Interest Group of Museums Australia Inc.

TAX INVOICE

ABN 83 048 139 955

Membership of HMM is open to all members of Museums Australia Inc.

Other interested individuals or organisations are welcome to become subscribers to HMM.

The annual fee for both members and subscribers is \$16.50.

Name of person or institution that is to be the member/ subscriber of HMM

.....

Contact person's name (if an institution is the member/subscriber)

Postal address

.....

Phone () Email

Museums Australia Membership Number (if applicable)

Name and position of Nominated Representative (for institutional members of Museums Australia, this is the person – usually the Director – who has been nominated as Institutional Representative)

.....

If you are joining as an individual, please tell us the museum, collection, archive or relevant organisation (if any) that you are involved with, either as a volunteer or a paid worker

.....

Enclose a money order or cheque made out to Health and Medicine Museums in Australian dollars.

Australia \$A 16.50 (includes GST)

Asia/ Pacific \$A 20.00 (includes postage)

Rest of the world \$A 25.00 (includes postage)

Send this form plus payment to: Hon. Treasurer, Health and Medicine Museums
PO Box A2339, Sydney South, NSW, Australia 1235

For other enquiries contact Hon. Secretary, Megan Hicks at the above address, or:

Phone (02) 9217 0254 Fax (02) 9217 0355 Email meganh@phm.gov.au

Website <http://amol.org.au/hmm>

Thank you for your interest in HMM. We look forward to your participation in our network.

This form can also be used for renewing HMM subscriptions

Please photocopy as required

DIARY DATES

Write these down now

Tuesday 14 August 2001

The rise of technology in the practice of medicine
**HMM evening visit to the Medical History Museum,
University of Melbourne**

Curator Ann Brothers will be host to 'a walk and talk through' of the museum's current temporary exhibition for members and other interested parties. Further details may be obtained from:

Barbara Rossall-Wynne

Hon. secretary HMM (Victoria)

Phone: 03 9439.0290 or

Email: b_rossall@30@hotmail.com

30 August – 2 September 2001

Voices of a 20th century nation

**National Conference of the Oral History Association
of Australia**

National Library of Australia

Canberra

http://www.geocities.com/oha_australia/

Saturday/ Sunday 8-9 September

Developing the exhibition 'A bush nurse'

Workshop on exhibition development

Lightning Ridge

Organised by the Golden West Chapter of Museums Australia (NSW) and hosted by the Lightning Ridge Historical Society, this promises to be an excellent weekend, with a workshop on the Saturday and historic tour on Sunday. Well-known museum consultant Zoë Scott will guide participants through the steps necessary in the development of an exhibition using as a model the forthcoming exhibition about 'Nurse Lucy', one of the former nurses at the Bush Nursing Association cottage at Lightning Ridge.

Workshop enquiries to Barbara Russell or Sandra Smith at Dubbo Museum. Phone 02 6882 5359.

Saturday 20 October 2001

Staying alive

**A one-day HMM workshop on finding support for
small museums**

NSW College of Nursing

14 Railway Parade, Burwood NSW

Organised by HMM (NSW) and run by staff of the Museums and Galleries Foundation NSW, this workshop will help participants find answers to such questions as: Where do we look for support? What does 'marketing' entail? and How do we apply for grants?

RSVP and all enquiries to HMM (NSW) secretary, Tiina Hendrikson.

Phone: (02) 9217 0574

Email: tiinah@phm.gov.au

20 21 October 2001

Country meeting

Medical History Society of Victoria Inc

Seminar Centre, School of Forestry

Creswick, Victoria

The original Creswick Hospital is now the library of the School of Forestry and one of the events organised for the weekend is a tour of the School. On the Sunday there will be a picnic at Anderson's Mill at Smeaton. Further details from MHS Hon. Secretary Dr Monika Wells

1 Ardrie Rd, East Malvern VIC 3145

Phone: 03 9571 9996

26 – 29 October 2001

Bridging the boundaries

Remote and Regional Museums Conference

Kalgoorlie, Western Australia

Kalgoorlie is a prime location, with its architectural and social heritage providing a rich background for vigorous discussion and debate. There will be opportunities to see the National Prospectors' and Miners' Hall of Fame, the controversial Brothel Museum (museum by day, brothel by night) and the major Federation interpretive and conservation project - the Golden Pipeline.

Although the conference is specifically designed to be relevant to museum workers in remote and regional Australia, the program also has resonance with metropolitan people, particularly those from smaller museums. Presenters will be assisted with the cost of travel and accommodation.

Contact: Remote and Regional Museums Conference
Museum Assistance Program, WA Museum
Francis St., Perth WA 6000

Fax: (08) 9427 2882

Email: RRRMuseumConference@museum.wa.gov.au

Website:

www.museum.wa.gov.au/services/map/conference.htm

October (on a Saturday to be announced)

Historical aspects of microscopy in Australia

**One-day seminar organised by the Australian
Science History Club (formerly Colonial Science
Club)**

Macleay Museum, University of Sydney

The program will look at both light and electron microscopy. Full details will be posted on the Australian Science History Club website when the program has been finalised:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/macleay/ASHclub.htm>

or contact Julian Holland at the Macleay Museum on 02 9351 3739

Friday 2 November 2001, 7.00 p.m.

Hospital records: varied collections, varied problems

HMM tour of Monash Medical Centre Historical Collection and talk by hon. curator, Ann Southin
Monash Medical Centre,
Clayton Road, Clayton, Melbourne VIC

Organised by the HMM (Victoria), this informative evening will highlight the challenges faced by custodians of mixed collections. The Monash Medical Centre Historical Collection is made up of artefacts and records from six hospitals in Melbourne and is managed by an honorary curator and a group of volunteers.

RSVP and all enquiries to HMM (Victoria) secretary, Barbara Rossall-Wynne.
Phone: (03) 9439 0290
Email: b_rossall@hotmail.com

Wednesday 7 November 2001, 10 am to 4 pm

Metal conservation workshop

Centennial Bakery Museum
319-321 Forest Road, Hurstville, NSW 1481

The Centennial Bakery Museum in conjunction with the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Artefacts Conservation is proud to present another in its series of workshops on collection management and conservation. The workshop is free, but please RSVP by 10 October.

For all enquires contact Rebekah Schulz
Phone/ Fax: 02 9580 4040
Email: rschulz@hurstville.nsw.gov.au

Saturday 1 December 2001, 2.00 p.m.

The heritage of Lucy Osburn

Tour, talk and HMM Christmas social event
Sydney Hospital,
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW

In 1868 Lucy Osburn and her five nursing sisters arrived in Sydney to establish the Nightingale system in Australia. For its end-of-year outing the NSW chapter of the HMM has organised a tour of the historic display in the Nightingale Wing at Sydney Hospital, followed by a talk on Lucy Osburn by distinguished Sydney University nursing historian, Professor Judith Godden. The afternoon will be rounded off with a festive afternoon tea.

RSVP and all enquiries to HMM (NSW) secretary, Tiina Hendrikson.
Phone: (02) 9217 0574
Email: tiinah@phm.gov.au

Interested non-members are always welcome to attend Health and Medicine Museums (HMM) activities

18 – 22 March 2002

Once upon our times

7th National Museums Australia Conference
Adelaide

For information contact:
Louise Carnell
Museums Australia National Conference
Hartley Management Group
PO Box 20
Kent Town SA 5071
Phone: 08 8363 4399
Fax: 08 8363 4577
Email: ma02@hartleymgt.com.au

ABOUT HMM

Purpose

Health and Medicine Museums is a Special Interest Group of Museums Australia Inc. It provides an Australia-wide network of contacts, a forum for ideas, practical advice and training, and mutual support for people interested in preserving the artefacts of health and medicine.

How to join

Membership of HMM is open to all members of Museums Australia Inc. Other individuals and institutions are welcome to become subscribers to HMM. The annual fee for both members and subscribers is \$16.50. A joining form is included in this newsletter on page 22.

Website

Visit HMM at <http://amol.org.au/hmm>

Newsletter

Two issues of the *HMM Newsletter* are mailed to members and subscribers each year. The editor welcomes articles and notices of events or publications that may be of interest to our readers. This issue's editor was Megan Hicks, and all photographs are Megan's unless otherwise attributed.

Deadline for the December newsletter is 31 October 2001. Please send all contributions, as well as general enquiries about HMM, to:

Megan Hicks
c/- Powerhouse Museum
PO Box K356, Haymarket, NSW, Australia 1238
Phone: +61 2 9217 0254
Fax: +61 2 9217 0355
Email: meganh@phm.gov.au