



Medical History

Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Following ANZSHM's recent AGM in Melbourne, it's my privilege to serve as the Society's President for the next two years. Also elected to your Executive are: Professor Cathy Coleborne (Vice-President), Dr Angeline Brasier (Hon Treasurer), and Dr Charmaine Robson (Hon Secretary). Congratulations to those elected to Council, including Ella Arbury, a post-graduate research student in New Zealand.

In any organisation that relies on volunteers, there is much behind-the-scenes work done by members, for the benefit of the broader membership. Your Executive will build on the achievements of our predecessors. Among them are Dr Anthea Hyslop who has retired from Executive after more than 12 years, having held the offices of Vice-President, President, Secretary and more recently, Treasurer. Dr Di Tibbits has stepped down from Council after serving the Society as Vice-President, President, and Secretary for at least 8 years, and was a Council member for at least another 8 years.

Anthea and Di, for many years with the late Dr Noel Cass, have ensured that the *Medical History Newsletter*, produced by Dr Derek Dow, reaches members in the post. Anthea has maintained the membership database too, while Di has assisted with banking. For their extended commitment to our Society we thank Anthea and Di sincerely.

Likewise, we acknowledge ANZSHM's outgoing President, Professor Charles George, and thank him for his diligent oversight of the Society in the past two years. We also thank Professor Paul Sendziuk, ANZSHM's webmaster who has constructed a new website, a platform which has already provided the Society with considerable flexibility.

Members of the Medical History Society of Victoria planned and executed the ANZSHM's 17th Biennial Conference. Now almost a distant memory, this event was a success judging by feedback from Conference-goers who appreciated the centrality of the venue, the array of papers on interesting topics, the standard of scholarship,

and even the food. Postgraduate students reported that the Conference was welcoming and friendly. Twelve students were

awarded postgraduate student grants. Thanks to Dr Judith Godden and Dr Louella McCarthy for overseeing the grants in 2017.



ANZSHM is indebted to Australian Catholic University, through its DVC Professor Stephen Weller, for the immense practical and financial support of the 17th Biennial Conference. ACU was our major sponsor, with a substantial cash donation and the venue made available free of charge. Had we been charged at commercial rates, the venue alone would have cost ANZSHM more than \$8000. ACU's generosity enabled us to hold the conference over five days, with registration fees kept at modest rates when compared to like conferences.

Professor Joe Fleming, Acting DVC, opened the Conference and, with his wife Pam, joined us at the Gala Dinner. ACU's staff helped to make ANZSHM 2017 a thoroughly enjoyable event. DC Conferences provided our professional support, with backing from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne and several other sponsors.

The variations in programming, the Cultural Collections Events, and the introduction of short papers in the '1000 words on a picture' stream have proved to be popular and worthy inclusions. The Witness Seminar was a stimulating discussion. Our thanks go to presenters, session chairs and facilitators, registrants and all who contributed to the 2017 Conference. We are already looking forward to ANZSHM 2019, in Auckland, to be convened by Professor Linda Bryder.

Madonna Grehan
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ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

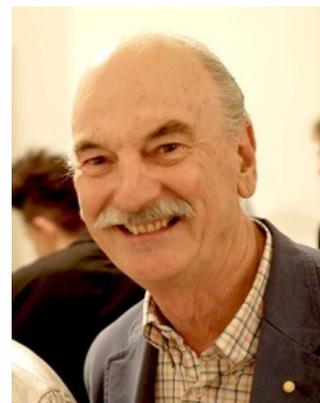
History, as a subject, did not feature strongly in my schooling, being far more drawn to the sciences, however I was always interested in how scientific theory had developed. I was also fascinated by mechanical things, and perhaps it was this combination that led me to a career in anaesthesia.

After the usual two-year hospital internship following medical school, an eighteen month working 'holiday' in the UK turned into a four year specialist training program! It was during that time that I became fascinated by early developments and apparatus in anaesthesia. In the mid-1970s, anaesthesia was still a 'young' specialty, with a significant emphasis placed on history in the training program (a feature now sadly missing).

I returned to Melbourne in 1977, as a full-time paediatric anaesthetist at the Royal Children's Hospital. So began a 31 year career, 20 as Deputy Director of the department. The Director, Kester Brown, recognized my interest in equipment and history, and encouraged me to take an interest in the historical collection held by the Faculty of Anaesthetists, housed in the attic at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. I was now in historian heaven! 3000 plus objects scattered on dusty shelves, an old typewritten catalogue, and baggage labels – some with numbers. Many of the items I had only seen in illustrations, many I had never seen or heard of, and clearly some were unique. Here was a treasure trove.

The collection had been amassed largely by Geoffrey Kaye, one of the most influential figures of early Australian anaesthesia. I came on the scene at a time when the importance of the collection was recognized by the incumbent Dean of the Faculty, Robin Smallwood. I was appointed as Honorary Curator, and encouraged to work towards re-establishing the museum not only for display, but as a focus of education and research. I was awarded the Lennard Travers professorship (a triennial grant in aid) to assist my work.

Although I first sought to introduce a computer based catalogue, I realised that such a concept was beyond our capability (and that of available software) at the time. I focused on sorting the collection, using it as a teaching tool for trainees, and writing historical articles based on items in the collection, in collaboration with Christine Ball, an anaesthesia trainee.



We penned historical vignettes, cover notes, for *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*, each accompanied by a cover photo or illustration. By the end of 2011, we had produced 128 cover notes, published in a book *Historical notes on anaesthesia and Intensive care*. We continued to write cover notes, and recruited another young anaesthetist, Peter Featherstone. In 2015, after 152 cover notes, I retired from the role.

By this time, I had retired after 26 years as Honorary Curator of the museum, to be replaced by Christine Ball. I had seen the collection, now named the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History, become a prized part of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, which separated from the College of Surgeons in 1992. The path was not easy. There were those on Council and in the College administration who were less than enthusiastic, and more than once I had to fight hard to retain the collection and more importantly, a museum standard display. I gained funding to employ a full-time professional archivist, to institute a formal cataloguing process, and to begin the process of gaining accreditation under the Museums Australia program.

I was always most intrigued by the developments in anesthesia from 1950 to the present. It has been an extraordinary revolution, from dripping ether onto a gauze mask with little regard for pulse and blood pressure, to the highly sophisticated practice of today. To my great joy I was approached by two of the doyens of modern anaesthesia, Edmond Eger and Lawrence Saidman, both from California, to assist them in writing and editing what we considered would be the standard work on anaesthesia history, with a focus on the last 70 years. There began a six year project, culminating in the publication of *The Wondrous Story of Anesthesia* (2014).

More recently, my role in medical history has been as President and then secretary of the Medical History Society of Victoria.

History of any sort is wonderful fun!

Rod Westhorpe
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MEMBERS' NEWS

Welcome!

Ingrid Atkins (NSW)
Thomas J Atkins (NSW)
Greg Clark (NSW)
John Crowhurst (SA)
Robin Fahy (VIC)
Averyl Gaylor (VIC)
David Hill (VIC)
Cheryl Norris (TAS)
Emily Poore (QLD)
Susie Russell (ACT)
Greg Taggart (VIC)
Ian Willis (NSW)

VALE

Professor Ross B Holland AM of NSW, b. 1 Dec. 1928, d. 25 Feb. 2017.

ANZSHM COUNCIL 2017-9

Executive

President: Dr Madonna Grehan
Vice President: Prof Catharine Coleborne
Secretary: Dr Charmaine Robson
Treasurer: Dr Angeline Brasier

Ex officio

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President, Victorian Branch: Dr Pamela Craig
President, NSW Branch: Mr John Sinclair
16th Biennial Conference Convenor: Prof Linda Bryder

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Ms Ella Arbury (NZ)
Dr Peter Burke (VIC)
A/Prof. Charles George (NSW)
Dr Judith Godden (NSW)
Dr Peter Hobbins (NSW)
Dr Anthea Hyslop (VIC)
A/Prof Louella McCarthy (NSW)
Dr Brian Reid (NT)
Dr Peter Winterton (WA)

HEALTH AND HISTORY

Health and History vol 20, no 2 (to appear late 2018) will be a special issue around 'trauma' and its histories in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific region (broadly defined, including Southeast Asia). Contributions addressing how

notions of trauma have manifested in these contexts and how that has been, or has not been, reflected in clinical practice are particularly welcome. This special issue will be edited by Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen (elizabeth.roberts-pedersen@newcastle.edu.au). Please contact her if you are interested. Submission deadline is 1 Feb. 2018.

ISHM NOTES

The 9th Meeting of the ISHM in Peking from 6-11 September 2017 is fast upon us. It is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Chinese Society for the History of Medicine. The official website <http://oec.pku.edu.cn/ishm2017> provides details of registration procedures, accommodation options and a programme outline. It is still possible to register online.

Obtaining visas for the Peoples Republic of China can be an ordeal but can now be done reasonably simply online through the Canberra Chinese Visa Application Service Centre. Do a search for the Centre and then follow the instructions. It looks to be a very interesting conference in a city full of old and new excitement.

Brian Reid
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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 November 2017. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at d.dow@auckland.ac.nz.

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AMPI NEWS

Strangers from Afar: Surgeons on Chinese immigrant ships in the 1850s

When the celebrated Australian doctor, journalist and traveller GE Morrison made his remarkable lone journey across China late in the nineteenth century, he was already familiar with the Chinese. He knew them as immigrants who had settled in Melbourne, where he had studied medicine, and in Ballarat, where he had been a Resident Medical Officer. But as he journeyed overland from Shanghai to Burma in 1894 the roles were reversed. In his published memoir, *An Australian in China*, he recorded his gratitude for the kindness, hospitality and courtesy he had received there, and recalled the Chinese precept 'Deal gently with strangers from afar'.

However the Chinese whom Morrison might have known at home in Victoria, had they written their memoirs, would probably not have celebrated the hospitality of colonial Australians. They had emigrated during the 1850s and 1860s as indentured labourers, or 'Coolies'. Their difficulties were only beginning when they embarked in China on British and American ships engaged in the Coolie trade to Australia, which was a spin-off from a larger enterprise supplying Chinese labourers to the West Indies following the abolition of slavery.

In the early days of organised Chinese immigration to Australia, the main destination of the ships was New South Wales, rather than Victoria, and their principal port of departure in China was Amoy (now Xiamen). The first vessel to bring out a large



Chinese going to the goldfields.

number of Chinese labourers was the *Nimrod*, which arrived in Sydney from Amoy in October 1848, the doctor on board being Chinese. The next two ships from Amoy to Sydney with Chinese immigrants arrived in 1850. They were *Cadet*, with surgeon George Jackson, and *Gazelle*, with a Dr Tresillian as surgeon. Little is known of either of these doctors.

Over the next three years, six more 'Coolie' ships sailed from Amoy to Sydney with British surgeons. Three of these doctors settled as GPs in country towns in New South Wales, and one returned to the UK. The two remaining doctors both died under tragic circumstances. David Stolworthy, who came out with Chinese immigrants from Amoy in 1851, eventually committed suicide in Sydney while in 'embarrassed circumstances'. James Hyslop, who was a medical missionary at Amoy, departed for Sydney as surgeon on the *Amazon* with Chinese labourers early in 1852. He was hoping the sea voyage would restore his failing health. From Sydney he embarked for the Philippines, intending to meet his wife in Manila, but was shipwrecked on the Barrier Reef. He reached the shore safely, but was killed by Aborigines while attempting to walk south to Moreton Bay.

From 1854 the principal port of departure for Chinese immigrants coming to Australia was Hong Kong, and the ships initially went to Melbourne. However the sudden arrival of shiploads of Chinese labourers caused consternation there, one newspaper describing the influx as a 'Tartar invasion'. In response to settler concerns, the Victorian government imposed a capitation fee on Chinese arriving by sea. To avoid this fee, the shipping companies landed Chinese passengers at Robe, near the Victorian border, and from there the unwelcome but determined immigrants made their way overland to the goldfields at Ballarat and Bendigo.

As far as AMPI is aware, none of the ships bringing immigrants from Hong Kong to Victoria and South Australia employed British surgeons. About half of them are known to have carried a Chinese doctor to attend to the passengers. They also had Chinese cooks, and the practice seems to have been that the Chinese looked after themselves at sea – a system that was apparently quite successful.

Stephen Due
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Chinese miners in NZ - a New Zealand connection?

I first offered a commentary on New Zealand parallels with Stephen Due's AMPI column in May 2013 but this quarterly newsletter is the first time that Stephen has come close to stumping me for a response. I had never come across any record of 'coolies' being shipped to New Zealand and could find only one doctor with a tenuous New Zealand connection who was involved in this trade.

Alfred Foote MRCS LSA 1834 was the son of John Foote MRCS, of Tavistock Street, London, who died in 1839. Alfred's older brother, also John Foote MRCS, was a sometime editor of the *London Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Contemporary accounts presented an unflattering picture of him as 'a man of undoubted ability, but conceited and pragmatical.... slovenly to a degree, and careless as to cleanliness, whether of skin or dress.... an inveterate smoker'.

It seems that John, who also practised as a GP in Tavistock Street, may have succeeded his father while his siblings sought their fortunes offshore. A third brother, Gustavus, is reported to have been an army surgeon who died in the Crimean War. Alfred, meanwhile, had travelled to New Zealand in 1851 as surgeon superintendent on the *Columbus*, bound for Nelson. He then remained on board while the ship sailed on to Madras and China, eventually dying at sea in March 1853 of rheumatic fever, while en route to Cuba with a cargo of Chinese coolies.

Had he survived, and maintained his links with New Zealand, Foote might have become involved in the transportation of Chinese miners to New Zealand, with several thousand Chinese miners, mainly from the Guangzhou province, making their way there from the 1860s onwards. At its peak in the 1870s, there were more than 4000 Chinese miners in Otago, accounting for around 6% of the total population and close to 40% of the total number of prospectors. This was only a fraction of the number who had made their way to Australia – around 40,000 in Victoria and another 15,000 in New South Wales.

The majority of the Otago migrants intended to return home to China after they had made their fortunes, a task rendered more difficult by the fact they were generally restricted to diggings abandoned by the white settlers. It is also thought that some groups brought their own doctors, who sometimes doubled as ship's surgeons on the voyage to New Zealand.

Given this pattern perhaps Foote's New Zealand connection would have remained tenuous, leaving me still struggling to match Stephen's account of doctors and Chinese migrants.

Derek Dow

NSW BRANCH NEWS

The Ben Haneman Memorial Lecture will be delivered on Wednesday 23 August at 6pm in the Mitchell wing of the NSW Public Library. This is a joint event of the NSW Society and the Public Library Foundation. Ben Haneman was a long-standing member of the NSW Society, a physician at St George Hospital and a bibliophile with a special interest in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*.

The speaker is Alison Bashford, Professor of Imperial and Naval History at Cambridge and a Fellow of Jesus College. She will speak on 'The Huxleys and medical history – Thomas, Henry, Julian and Aldous'.

Professor Louella McCarthy of the University of Wollongong has an exhibition 'Caring for the Incarcerated', looking at 200 years of caring for prisoners. The exhibition is at the University of Wollongong until 15 September 2017. The NSW Society will be meeting at the exhibition on Saturday 9 September.

Our next event is planned for early 2018. The theme will be Mental Health in NSW and will feature amongst others researchers from the University of Western Sydney.

Enquiries/RSVP for all events to Ben Skerman, raymondskerman@bigpond.com

NSW First Legislative Council archive online

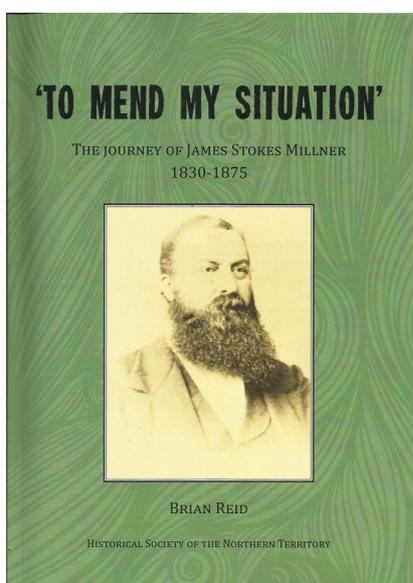
The Parliamentary Library of New South Wales has recently digitised the papers of the colony's first Legislative Council, from 1824 until the advent of self-government in 1855. This wealth of information includes not only the expected parliamentary debates and legislation, but also tabled submissions, reports and correspondence. As such, it is a useful resource not only for those researching New South Wales, but also the early history of Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand, in addition to exchanges with the other Australian colonies - and naturally with Britain. The material has been well indexed and is text-searchable where possible. This is a boon for medical historians, as the parliamentary archive includes numerous documents relevant to health, illness and medical care in the colony, from convict health to asylums. As examples, it includes the only known copy of the Sydney Dispensary's annual report for 1835, and hand-written reports from the superintendent of the city's Vaccine Institution. The search engine is quite powerful and the results can be filtered by year and document types: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/hansard/pages/first-council.aspx>

DARWIN NEWS

The Historical Society of the Northern Territory has recently published a biography of some medical interest. *To Mend My Situation* (HSNT Darwin 2017) is an account of Dr James Stokes Millner, a significant official in the early years of South Australia's Palmerston settlement at Port Darwin. Millner and his family went down with the *Gothenburg* off Bowen in 1875. It was written by the ANZSHM delegate to the ISHM, no less.

For those who are not aware of it, distinguished Northern Territory historian, Dr Mickey Dewar, passed away from a short and premature illness in April this year. At the 13th Biennial meeting of the ANZSHM in Darwin in 2013, she entertained us with a delightful talk at the conference dinner.

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JOURNAL WATCH

Angela McCarthy, Catharine Coleborne, Maree O'Connor and Elspeth Knewstubb, 'Lives in the Asylum Record, 1864 to 1910: Utilising Large Data Collection for Histories of Psychiatry and Mental Health', *Medical History*, July 2017, 61.3:358-79. This article is based on the case notes of c. 4000 patients admitted between 1864 and 1910 at four separate institutions, three in New Zealand and one in Melbourne, three of which were public and one private. The study combines both qualitative and quantitative research.

Hobbins, Peter, 'Union Jack or Yellow Jack? Smallpox, sailors, settlers and sovereignty', *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*,

2017, 45.3:1-25. Case study of responses to the smallpox scare in Sydney 1876-7, and the aftermath.

Mark Hearn, 'Great progress and evolution': the 1911 Australasian Medical Congress and *fin de siècle* nation building in Australia', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, June 2017, 103.1:61-79. This article considers the Progressive, eugenic and governmental imperatives of Australian medical practitioners, as presented and debated at the 1911 Australasian Medical Congress in Sydney. Well connected to pertinent scholarship from the 1970s to the present, it reminds us of a profession at a historic high in its ambitions, which were clearly beyond prevailing social and political mores. (Peter Hobbins).

Christina Twomey, 'A novel form of war memorial': the AIF Malayan Nursing Scholarship and Australia-Asia relations', *History Australia*, 2017, 14.2:250-65.

The *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery*, May 2017 (supplement), 119-25 reproduces abstracts of no fewer than 32 papers on the history of surgery, presented at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons annual meeting. Nine of the offerings have direct connections with Australia. In the March issue of the same journal ANZSHM member Peter Burke contributed an editorial 'On the utility of medical history'.

BLAST FROM THE PAST *Medical History Australia* 25 years ago

On re-reading the August 1992 newsletter I was struck by how far communications have advanced since that date. The most telling indicator was the fact that not a single email address was listed, nor any website. Instead, we relied entirely on street addresses, telephone numbers and faxes to publicise upcoming conferences and other items of interest.

In his presidential column Randall Albury concluded that 'All in all, there is plenty that can be done to promote the awareness and appreciation of medical history at all levels.' The avenues to do so have expanded dramatically over the past 25 years but the technology is something of a double-edged sword.

In both Sydney (2015) and Melbourne (2017) I became increasingly irritated by the number of attendees who brought phones or laptops into the lecture theatres and seminar rooms and spent the entire time reading emails or surfing the net, to the distraction of other attendees. Progress? I wonder.

2017 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

With more than 130 delegates Melbourne offered proof that medical history is thriving in Australia. Following the precedent set in 2015, I invited one of the delegates, Ella Arbury, to contribute a student perspective on events and expanded the concept to include a nursing history standpoint by Clare Ashton, who has been a regular contributor to the newsletter in recent years.

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

The 15th Biennial Conference of the ANZSHM was recently held in Melbourne from 11-15 July 2017 at the Australian Catholic University's Fitzroy Campus in Melbourne, Victoria. This year's theme was 'Health, Medicine, and Society: Challenge and Change'. I am a grateful recipient of an ANZSHM student grant which funded my short journey across the Tasman Sea from Auckland, accommodation, and attendance at the Gala Dinner. The conference included visits to cultural collections, social events, plenary sessions, conference papers, and a witness seminar. My conference experience began with a tour of the recently renovated Medical History Museum at the University of Melbourne's Brownless Biomedical Library, led by Dr Jacqueline Healy, Senior Curator of the Melbourne Medical History and Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum at the University of Melbourne. The museum's nineteenth century Savory and Moore pharmacy features historical pharmaceutical paraphernalia and ornate jars. The pharmacy was generously gifted by the Wellcome Collections in England, but many of the items displayed in this pharmacy were of Australian origin.

There was a wide range of papers at the conference reflecting the diverse backgrounds of the presenters. These friendly conference delegates included former doctors, nurses, and midwives, other healthcare professionals, medical historians from a range of universities in Australasia and elsewhere (from postgraduate students to professors), independent historians, and those working in the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) industry. Personal highlights included Karen Daws' paper about the built response to infectious diseases in Victoria, which relates closely to my own PhD topic, but within an Australian context, and Professor Linda Bryder's discussion about England's 1917 National Baby Week (which also included some of the themes of my research).

I attended the Aboriginal Health papers as my thesis will include two chapters about indigenous health. These provided a valuable Australian perspective on this subject. Another point of interest was the 1000 words on a picture, which

provided succinct discussions on a number of topics including the interior décor of the nineteenth century lunatic asylum, modern dance, the development of the Red Cross blood service in Melbourne, and kuru investigations in Papua New Guinea. During the session about built environments, I presented a paper based on my PhD research about the connections between state and transit housing and health in Auckland 1935-1949.

In common with the 2015 ANZSHM Conference in Sydney, this year's meeting included excellent plenary sessions. Professor Barbra Mann Wall discussed the interconnections between health and religion. Dr Criena Fitzgerald examined how the pursuit of profits has interfered with the prevention of dust disease, and continues to do so. During the last plenary session, Dr Peter Hobbins provided new insights into the relationship between medicine and aviation, especially regarding human frailty. I still have the theme song of 'Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines' stuck in my head thanks to the title of his informative presentation.

The witness seminar on Saturday 15 July raised pertinent questions for the present day as part of its discussions about developments in the study of immunology in Australia during the 1960s with regard to the need for continued funding for curiosity driven-research for medical science (a topic equally relevant to the history of medicine), how to decide what materials to keep for future historians, and the impact of digitisation. As historians, we often draw on both written and physical sources in our research, but how will future historians operate if floppy discs and outdated computer programmes make past written material impenetrable? What happens when scientists stop writing in their notebooks and start making notes on their phones or other electronic devices instead? What items should medical scientists and current healthcare professionals keep for future historical research? These discussions were also relevant to some of the conference papers – in particular the Women in History of Medicine Panel – which touched on themes such as whose medical equipment is collected in archives and how to ensure that women's stories are included in medical history. (*continued overleaf*)

This conference was very successful with a range of great speakers, and we were all well-fed and caffeinated by the catering company, Dr Dax. A catering company named after a famous Melbourne psychiatrist, Dr Eric Cunningham Dax (1908–2008), felt appropriate for a history of medicine conference which included a number of sessions discussing the history of mental illness. Many of the delegates attended the Gala Dinner held at the Melbourne Museum, an apt location for a history conference. I enjoyed exploring some of the exhibits before sitting down to a delicious meal accompanied by speeches, singing, and the good company of the other postgraduate students at my table.



Ella deep in conversation with one of her fellow-students at the conference dinner.

The organisers of this conference did a fantastic job arranging all of the conference events. We will be working very hard at the University of Auckland during the next two years to put together a conference that will be a worthy successor. I encourage you all to consider attending the next conference in Auckland in December 2019.

Ella Arbury
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A NURSING PERSPECTIVE

The number of papers about nursing appearing in the programmes at our biennial conferences is growing. However, to paraphrase that saying about women holding up half the sky: nurses have held up at least half the health sector, so there is scope for vastly more historical inquiry in nursing.

Nurse historian Barbra Mann Wall, who opened the conference with ‘Religion, history, politics and health care’, tipped us straight into the complex and potentially contradictory social activity that caring work can be. The settings she talked of in Africa put into stark relief the forces that we in our Anglo-sphere so often overlook, the complexity of the political values and beliefs enmeshed in health care.

In the concurrent paper sessions nurses’ lives featured larger than nursing work, acknowledging that nurses have a social existence framing their work. It was good to have something about theatre nursing; operating theatres are after all places where patients are totally vulnerable. The papers about nursing at war were timely not only because of the centenary of the First World War but also because they demonstrate the wealth of data in war records just waiting to be analysed. In that vein I wonder if it is that availability of data that continues to generate the volume of contributions about aspects of asylum care.

More than one of the presenters on nursing took up the short presentation option of ‘1000 words in a picture’. I can sympathise with this; for nurses in academia, history has to be just a sideline to their ‘proper’ job. Nurse historians and historians of nursing are very thin on the ground worldwide. Nurses are encumbered too with a historical reticence in making nursing work visible; Nightingale told her probationers that as a nurse ‘the best service I can give is that the



‘Patient shall scarcely be aware of any.’

Notwithstanding, nursing topics were more visible at this ANZSHM conference, and the appreciative audience at ANZSHM gatherings should hearten future presenters of nursing history.

Clare Ashton
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Former presidents in attendance:



*John Pearn (1995-7)
and Judith Godden (2005-7)*



Brian Reid (2013-15) and wife Lynn



Peter Winterton (1997-2001)



*Di Tibbits (2002-5)
and Linda Bryder (2009-11)*



Louella McCarthy (2011-13)



*Charles George (2015-17) and Madonna Grehan
(2017-) presiding over the opening ceremony.*

STUDENT GRANTS 2017

Once again the Society offered grants to eligible students to cover the cost of early bird conference registration, a proportion of travel and accommodation costs, and attendance at the conference dinner. Twelve students received grants, totalling just under \$7,000. They were Ella Arbury (Auckland), Shane Brown (Sydney), Lea Doughty (Otago), Rebecca Le Get (La Trobe), Yi Ci Lo (California), Fallon Mody (Melbourne), Mark Neuendorf (Adelaide), Emily Poore (Queensland), Georgina Rychner (Monash), Shirley Strachan (Federation), Ella Stewart-Peters (Flinders), Patrick Walsh (Queensland).

In order to be eligible for consideration abstracts had to be indicative of a paper relevant to the broad field of the history of health and medicine, offering innovative interpretations and/or new evidence relating to the history of medicine, and evidence based, using relevant primary and secondary sources. Our thanks go to Judith Godden, Louella McCarthy and Anthea Hyslop who undertook the task of assessing all of the applications.



Student presenters at the opening reception (above) and the conference



After-dinner speaker Professor Lynn Gillam, at the Melbourne Museum., watched by two hungry guests!



Conference committee member Dr Rod Westhorpe resplendent in blue after chairing a mammoth 5 sessions.

I don't know about you, but I could eat a horse!



BEN HANEMAN MEMORIAL STUDENT PRIZE

The Ben Haneman Memorial Student Prize was established in honour of the late Dr Ben Haneman, in acknowledgement of his passionate support of postgraduate students. The Prize consists of a \$200 book voucher and a year's membership of ANZSHM. To enter, students submit the paper they deliver at the ANZSHM's Biennial Conference. This year, eight submissions on a range of topics were received.

The 2017 winner is Eugenia Pacitti, from Historical Studies at Monash University for her paper, 'Exhibiting War Pathology: the display of an Australian war wound collection'. Eugenia raised finely articulated concerns about the ethical and pedagogical aspects of pathology specimens. Embedded in the relevant scholarship, the paper demonstrated an empathetic connection with the men afflicted by combat wounds and was adroitly expressed. This year's runners-up were Lea Doughty (School of Pharmacy, University of Otago) and David Roth (School of History, Australian National

University). Thanks to all of the entrants. We look forward to reading their work in print.



Eugenia Pacitti.



Keynote Professor Barbra Mann Wall deep in conversation with Charles George.

Incoming President Madonna Grehan thinking about breaking into dance at one of the break-out streams.



Keynote Dr Criena Fitzgerald and John Pearn looking up for inspiration at one of the plenary sessions.



Keynote Dr Peter Hobbins looking dapper and relaxed at the opening reception.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES—AUCKLAND December 2019

New Zealand has been the venue for three previous medical history conferences, the first of which was organised in Hamilton in 1987 by the late Dr Rex Wright-St Clair. Rex's efforts inspired two further conferences in Auckland in 1994 and 2005, both convened by Professor Linda Bryder who will again assume this role in 2019, assisted by our two NZ councillors, Dr Derek Dow and Ms Ella Arbury.



Newsletter editor Derek Dow at the 1994 medical history conference in Auckland, 'New Countries and Old Medicine', with keynote speakers Professors Guenter Risse and John Pearn.

Messrs Dow and Pearn, 17 years on, in Melbourne, accompanied by Professor Linda Bryder and Dr Richard Travers, whose paper in Melbourne recorded the life of Dr Hastings Young, whose 34-year career encompassed 4 Australian states and both islands of New Zealand.



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