



# Medical History

## *Newsletter*

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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### THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Historical Society of the Northern Territory, of which I am a Council member and manuscript editor, has managed a book publishing programme for many years. It will shortly publish a monograph by retired paediatrician, Dr Susan Sayers (*Not so 'Silent Night'*, HSNT, Darwin, 2015). Dr Sayers is well known for the work she did on Aboriginal health at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin. She also participated in the Witness Seminar of the ANZSHM Biennial Conference in Darwin in 2013.

Forty years ago, on Christmas Eve 1974, Cyclone Tracy destroyed most of Darwin. It also destroyed most, but not all, of Darwin's Hospital. As a commemorative effort for that iconic event, Dr Sayers has put together firsthand accounts of surviving people who worked in the hospital and health services at the time. The accounts focus on the night of the cyclone and the next few days.

The stories at times are quite chilling but they also show how a community and its hospital managed in the midst of widespread destruction, injuries and deaths. Although not part of these stories, there was also an extraordinary response around the nation to the care of the many thousands of people who were evacuated from Darwin in the first week or so. Australia and New Zealand were no strangers to disasters; earthquakes, floods, fires, droughts, epidemics. But a disaster of this scale and swiftness was new. Within a few years Darwin Hospital had to cope with an influx of hundreds of Vietnamese boat people. Then there was the turmoil in Timor and the hundreds of evacuees. Later came the Bali bombings. From these events as well as changing medical and communication technologies emerged the concept of critical response. Forty years after Cyclone Tracy, a rebuilt and modified (Royal) Darwin Hospital is now a national Critical Response Centre with the capacity to respond to disasters in North Australia and the region beyond.

At its recent meeting, one of the matters the Executive considered was new ANZSHM branches in those Australian states without them and in New Zealand. We identified two ways forward.

The first is to encourage better swapping of events notices. New South Wales and Victorian Branches already have an email notification arrangement. We would like to take that a step further. We plan to open on the Society website a 'What's On' page.



New South Wales and Victorian branches will be encouraged to place details of events, lectures, seminars etc on the site and to keep that up to date. We will also invite medical history groups in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Auckland and Dunedin to use the site in a similar way. The purpose of course is to enable travelling members to take advantage of events when the opportunity arises. Our second plan is to identify key members in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Auckland and Dunedin, who will act as foci and contact points for the Society and other interested members in those cities. Not new branches of the Society, but a start.

The Sydney Biennial Conference is fast approaching. I have been advised by the International Society of the History of Medicine (ISHM) who will be having their International Meeting in conjunction with the Sydney Conference, that they are planning an active recruitment desk at the conference. Brochures, membership forms and copies of the ISHM journal, *Vesalius*, will be there. I invite members to consider this. It is only the equivalent of 25 Euros a year and it is free for the third year. You can apply for ISHM membership on their website beforehand if you wish and I am happy to act as banker for ISHM to save the Euros wrangle.

**Brian Reid**  
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## ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

'No Way!' is what I would have said in the past to anyone suggesting that I might organise a group to visit Gallipoli. Having started out in Liverpool England, without any connection to Gallipoli, my route to organising a voyage to revisit the care of World War One casualties in the Aegean has been circuitous.

World War Two structured my world. We collected 'the rations', not the groceries, and I remember whole city blocks that were just flattened rubble. Life went on though; school, church, Cinderella, and holidays in the Isle of Man. An indelible memory was an exhibition about the tsetse fly at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, but at school, looking out over the Mersey, I found the colours of the ships' funnels more interesting than learning to read. Later, living in Abingdon, we played where the Abbey had stood before the Reformation and poked around the colleges of Oxford. This was a world full of history but it was also a time of spending weeks in hospital. My parents were advised to take their children to a warmer climate; they had relatives in New Zealand so that was the choice.

What did I want to be when I grew up? A doctor for a start, but my school did not teach maths and instead of study, I learned to knit properly. Nursing became attractive because trainees were paid and nurses could get a job anywhere. Newly registered, I sailed to England, working first in the operating theatre at Liverpool's Royal Children's Hospital and then through agencies in London. If you were not married by then, you did midwifery and I did midwifery, but the English winters moved me to enquire about nursing at sea. The only job offer came from the Greek company Chandris Lines. I thought I would just do one voyage; it had not occurred to me that people from



Liverpool might have the sea more or less imprinted on them. Nursing at sea was a challenge and I stayed, experiencing a dramatic fire in the middle of the Pacific.

By then New Zealand nursing was moving into higher education. My colleagues at St Helens Hospital in Wellington were undertaking extramural courses through Massey University. My nursing qualification was entry and although the writing was always difficult, in the mid-1970s I organised to work part-time and finish a business degree on campus at Massey. In the process, I met my husband, dabbled in student politics and worked in psychiatric nursing.

I'd advise all women to stay connected to the workforce somehow when having children. Trying to get a 'proper' job after leaving the workforce was frustrating. To keep up, I launched into nursing politics, on the council of the then Nurses Association, and learned a bit about feminism at university. Conservation became a burning interest because our home was one of the early homesteads around the Porirua Harbour. We got the house listed as a historic place and with other locals created a lobby group to conserve the mud flats. When Porirua's Psychiatric Hospital Museum was threatened, again I started a conservation lobby group. Still casting around for meaningful paid work, I enrolled for a Master of Library Studies and found myself literature searching in the nursing school at Victoria University. It was a nice environment and I relished the opportunity to start the school's first website. The historical amnesia in nursing I found baffling, so when a nurse historian arrived, she had a very willing collaborator for the centenary of New Zealand's registration of nurses.

The next twist came when my husband started working in rural Australia. Lightning Ridge changed my life because there I met Sir Truby King's grandson. Health and history on both sides of the Tasman suddenly came together and I took the opportunity of doing a research masters' degree on the history of Karitane in New South Wales. Karitane's founding nurse was Elizabeth McMillan and she had served on Lemnos in 1915. Her subsequent life made me interested in the experiences of other First World War nurses, just as the centenary was coming up. A visit to ex-Chandris friends in Greece completed the circle; someone from Liverpool, England was on the way to organising Australians and New Zealanders to sail the Aegean in 2015. Not paid employment, but meaningful, and I'd be hopeless at golf.

**Clare F Ashton**  
**Honorary Research Associate**  
**Sydney Nursing School**  
**University of Sydney**  
**clare.ashton@ihug.co.nz**

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Welcome!

Leah Astbury (UK)  
Edward Brentnall (VIC)  
Hazel Brentnall (VIC)  
Laura Dawes (ACT)  
David Fahey (NSW)  
Sarah Ferber (NSW)  
Anne-Marie Goes (QLD)  
Caitlin Mahar (VIC)  
North Head Quarantine Station (NSW) - (Rebecca Anderson)  
Irene Rogers (QLD)  
Heather Sheard (VIC)  
Shirley Strachan (VIC)  
Roland Wettenhall (VIC)

### Vale

Dr Barry Bryant (QLD), d. 8 April 2014  
Prof. Yvonne Cossart (NSW), d. 16 December 2014  
Dr R.E. Rawstron (NZ), d. 2 November 2014  
Dr James Guest (VIC), d. 20 January 2015  
Emeritus Professor Barry Smith, d. 3 March 2015

**Barry Eric Bryant (1938–2014)** was a well-known Rockhampton pharmacist whose career spanned a period of immense change in pharmacy education and service delivery. A culmination of Barry's long service to the profession, and a gift to those interested in pharmacy history, was his 2013 PhD thesis, 'Apprenticeship to degree: the co-evolution of twentieth century pharmacy practice and education from a Queensland and regional perspective'.

Barry also devoted considerable time to students, especially pharmacy education for nursing students. His overall contribution was recognised by the award of an OAM 'for service as a community and hospital pharmacist and as a contributor to the continuing education of peers, pharmacy students and allied health professionals' in the 2003 Queen's Birthday Honours.

To further promote an understanding of pharmacy history Barry and his colleagues developed an excellent historical pharmacy display as part of the Country Hospital Museum at the Rockhampton Heritage Village.

**James Guest (1916–2015):** On 20 January 2015 the Medical History Society of Victoria and

the ANZSHM lost one of its staunch members and supporters. 'Jim' was a former president of the MHSV and an honorary life member, and was active in the Society's affairs until very recently. All who knew him mourn his death at the age of 98, and an obituary will be included in the next newsletter.

**Francis Barrymore (Barry) Smith (1932–2015):** A Melbourne graduate, Barry completed a doctoral thesis at Cambridge University before returning to spend more than three decades in the Department of History, Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. A long-standing member of the ANZSHM, his interests ranged from Florence Nightingale to tuberculosis, colonial medicine and Agent Orange. Further details of Barry's contributions and influence can be gleaned from his 2009 Festschrift, *Body and Mind: Historical Essays in Honour of FB Smith*, edited by Graeme Davison, Pat Jalland and Wilfrid Prest. A fuller appreciation will appear in our next newsletter.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 May 2015. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at [d.dow@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.dow@auckland.ac.nz) or, if you prefer snail mail, 62 Koraha St, Auckland 1050, NZ.

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## ANZSHM Conference: Satellite Meeting

The 2nd Australian College of Nursing's History Conference will be held at ACU (North Sydney Campus) on Monday 29 June, with an optional second day (30 June) of visits to nursing collections/museums in Sydney. The theme of the conference is *Disrupting Discourses: new views on nursing history*

For more information and the call for abstracts, please visit <http://www.acn.edu.au/history>

## AMPI NEWS

### Colonial Doctors in Christian Ministry

Sometime between 1850 and 1900, Christianity reached the peak of its historical influence in Australia, with about one person in four attending Sunday church services. During this period the colonial medical profession included hundreds of committed churchmen. Among them were a select few who were ordained, and served in Christian ministry at some stage during their careers.

George Beddow from Birmingham is a good example. He qualified LSA and MRCS, and worked as a surgeon before entering the priesthood in 1846. He then served as an Anglican minister in the Birmingham area until 1852, when he sailed for Melbourne, and returned to general practice.

Another doctor from Birmingham, William French Clay, was a surgeon in the Indian army for ten years before becoming an Anglican priest in 1859. He was a curate on the Isle of Man, and then chaplain to the English-speaking community at Pau, in France. In 1870 he came out to New South Wales. He served in churches at Bathurst and St. Leonards, and also worked as a government medical officer, before returning to England with his wife and seven children in 1882.

An unlikely candidate for a career in either medicine or ministry was Wazir Beg, a native of India, and a Muslim by birth. Beg converted to Christianity as a teenager, and was baptised by Presbyterian missionaries at Poona in 1846. When his missionary mentor returned to Scotland, Beg followed. He studied medicine, qualifying MRCS and MD, but decided on a career in Christian ministry in the colonies. He arrived in Victoria in 1863, then moved to Sydney, where he became pastor of Chalmers Church, and Reader in Oriental Languages at Sydney University.

The most eccentric of the colonial medical ministers was Zachary Pearce Pocock, from Sussex, England. After qualifying LSA and MRCS in 1843 he embarked for Tasmania, where he found temporary employment as a superintendent of public works at Hobart. He was subsequently in practice at Kempton and Oatlands. However In 1852 he was ordained in the Church of England, and went as a missionary chaplain to the remote settlement

of Emu Bay (now Burnie).

There he conducted services for a small but fractious congregation, whose disagreements with him sometimes overflowed into the newspapers. He had been promised a stipend that never eventuated, forcing him to be self-supporting. He tried medical practice, but saw few patients. As a last resort he began farming the church burial ground, where he grew wheat and kept cows. Meanwhile his parishioners gradually drifted away. After about six years he abandoned the clerical life, moved to Launceston, and became a general practitioner again.

Others had more conventional ministries. Robert Ross MD, a Scot who had been a medical missionary in Russia, settled in Sydney in 1840 as minister of the Pitt Street Congregational Church. Another Scot, Adam

Turnbull MD, after a career in the Tasmanian civil service, was the Presbyterian pastor at Campbell Town for over 20 years.

An Englishman, Henry Newton Wollaston, worked in the colonial medical service in Western Australia, was ordained in New Zealand in 1859, and then served in Victoria as the minister at Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne.

Taken together, the colonial medical ministers were a group of unusually gifted men whose careers encompassed two of the three traditional professions. As doctors they were men of science, but in ministry they were men of faith, following the centuries-old advice of William Tyndale, the translator of the Bible, to 'apply the medicine of the scriptures' (1530).

**Stephen Due**  
[stephendue@gmail.com](mailto:stephendue@gmail.com)



*The Revd Robert Ross (1792-1862) in his clerical bands.*

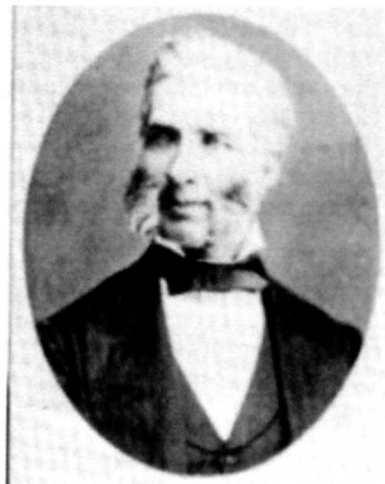
## Doctors & the Gospel in NZ

Nineteenth century New Zealand also boasted a handful of men who pursued careers in both medicine and the Church. The first of these was Samuel Hayward Ford, who joined the Church Missionary Society three years after obtaining the LSA MRCS. Ford might originally have considered himself lucky; at a farewell meeting in November 1836 he was allocated to New Zealand while the only other recruit headed to Africa to found the mission to the 'Zoolus', undoubtedly a more hazardous environment. A decade later, however, Ford had cause to rue his fate. Between 4 October and 1 November 1848 four of his children died of scarlet fever.

Five years after Ford's arrival Henry Butt MRCS joined Bishop Selwyn in New Zealand as a catechist. By 1847 Butt had been ordained as a priest, practising medicine only sporadically until his death in 1886. He never registered as a doctor.

Not to be outdone by the Anglicans, two Scottish Presbyterians fulfilled a similar dual role in New Zealand. James Copland, an 1864 Aberdeen medical graduate, travelled to the colony as a ship's surgeon later that year before entering the Church as minister of Lawrence, near Dunedin, from 1865-71. Ten years later he demitted office and returned to the practice of medicine. His son and two grandsons also became doctors.

The second Scot, James Wallis, was another Aberdeenshire man. Like Copland, he originally harboured an ambition to be a medical missionary. To this end he left his position as an ordained minister to study medicine in Edinburgh, qualifying in his late 30s. He too came out to New Zealand as a ship's surgeon then accepted the charge of St David's Presbyterian Church, Auckland, in 1865. Like Copland, he became disillusioned, leaving his flock in 1868 to establish an independent congregation and eventually turning to farming in the early 1880s.



*James Wallis (1825-1912) - another dour Presbyterian!*

For all four men, medicine as a career appears to have been almost incidental to another sense of purpose or commitment.

**Derek A Dow**  
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### \*\*\* ANZSHM CONFERENCE NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION \*\*\*

As of 9 March, registrations opened for our biennial conference, to be held in Sydney from 30 June – 3 July 2015. With over 130 abstracts received, the program will be both stimulating and diverse, including many international speakers. Hosted in conjunction with the International Society for the History of Medicine, a wide range of additional activities and satellite events has also been scheduled. Please register before 19 May to secure the early bird rate!

Registration Fees	Early Bird –	
	up to 19 May 2015	After 19 May 2015
Full Registrant – Member	\$375	\$450
Full Registrant – Non Member	\$475	\$550
Student* / Pensioner** – Member	\$250	\$275
Student* / Pensioner** – Non Member	\$325	\$350
One Day Registration – Member	\$175	\$200
One Day Registration – Non Member	\$200	\$225
Accompanying person	\$200	\$225

For full details of the fee schedule and conditions, please visit the conference website:  
[http://www.dconferences.com.au/hom2015/fees\\_and\\_information](http://www.dconferences.com.au/hom2015/fees_and_information)

## NSW BRANCH NEWS

From zombies to Nazis, the NSW Branch functions over 2014–15 were nothing if not varied!

Our AGM was held on 4 February at Berkelouw Books in Leichhardt. Our thanks to the manager for providing such an appropriate venue gratis. Via the Treasurer's report, delivered by Charles George, we learned that the Society is now in more robust financial shape than it was several years ago. The incoming committee has plans to encourage interest in medical history among students.

The new office-bearers are: President: John Sinclair; Vice-President: Peter Hobbins; Treasurer: Charles George; Secretary and Public Officer: Cate Storey; Committee Members: Clare Ashton, Paul Lancaster, Vanessa Witton.

Peter Hobbins moved a vote of thanks for the outgoing President for 2013 and 2014, Charles George, for his astute and persistent leadership through a difficult period of transition.

Sadly, one of the main topics for discussion at the AGM concerned drastic reductions in the Badham, Camden and Medical Library holdings. Cate Storey reported that an important collection of historic Australian medical journals has been identified and moved to the Law Library compactus as an easily accessible medical history collection. On another positive note, it appears that the University's Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine is in discussion with the State Library of New South Wales and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to establish a postgraduate history of medicine course.

Following the AGM, members moved to the nearby Nostos Greek Restaurant where 30 diners enjoyed the Society's 2015 social dinner.

Our guest speaker, forensic psychiatrist and author Dr Robert Kaplan, asked 'Was Hitler Ill? A reply to Eberle and Neumann' and detailed numerous medical and psychiatric diagnoses of Hitler. A lively speaker, he held the audience fascinated. We heard that one of the first acts undertaken by the Nazis after the Anschluss with Austria in 1938 was to destroy the evidence of Hitler's 1914 rejection from the Austro-Hungarian army on medical grounds. Rob then went on to evaluate diagnoses ranging from mustard gas poisoning to repressed childhood sexual abuse. One consistent pattern in Hitler's symptoms suggested a case of encephalitis lethargica contracted in the trenches in late 1918. Its sequelae might account for many subsequent developments, including the dictator's new-found loquacity and charisma, his notorious flatulence, and the Parkinsonian symptoms that could be documented as early as 1933. Paraphrasing Alan Bullock, Rob concluded that 'there's also

something in the one-ball theory'. Our thanks go to Rob for a lively and thoroughly researched presentation.

### Biennial Conference in Sydney

**30 June – 4 July 2015**

By the time the call for abstracts closed on 9 February, 128 submissions had been received. This was a very encouraging response to our efforts to promote the meeting locally and internationally. 83 abstracts were received from Australia, 7 from New Zealand, and an impressive 38 (30%) from other nations. At the time of writing, the abstract selection committee is evaluating and prioritising this abundance of submissions. Notification of acceptance will be sent out as soon as this difficult but pleasant task is completed.

In the meantime, registrations have opened at the early bird rate, via the conference website at [www.dconferences.com.au/hom2015](http://www.dconferences.com.au/hom2015). (See p.5 of this newsletter). The meeting features plenaries by Professor Linda Bryder, Professor Stephen Garton and Dr Simon Chaplin, Director of Culture & Society at the Wellcome Trust and former curator of the Royal College of Surgeons' Hunterian Collection. Added to our witness seminar on 'Changes in the administration of hospital services, 1970–2015', we now have an impressive and enjoyable range of presentations and tours planned for the post-conference Quarantine Station excursion, including acclaimed historians Professor Warwick Anderson and Professor Alan Atkinson.

With such an encouraging response to our call for abstracts, registrations are set to be strong so don't delay in securing your place at the conference. If your organisation would like to advertise in the conference handbook and/or sponsor elements of the meeting, please contact our sponsorship coordinator, Charmaine Robson, at [charmaine@robson.tel](mailto:charmaine@robson.tel) or 0412 721 222, or Rosanna Ditton at DC Conferences, [rosanna@dconferences.com.au](mailto:rosanna@dconferences.com.au) or 02 9954 4400.

**Enquiries/RSVP for all events to Peter Hobbins, [peter\\_hobbins@bigpond.com](mailto:peter_hobbins@bigpond.com) or 0418 277 827.**

## VICTORIA BRANCH NEWS

The AGM of the MHSV was held at Kooyong Tennis Club on 4 March. The guest speaker was Professor Emeritus Jacques Miller. His topic: 'The thymus: vestigial no more'. Professor Miller is an acclaimed immunologist and a long-standing staff member of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. His research focus has been the role of the thymus in human health.

### 2017 ANZSHM Conference

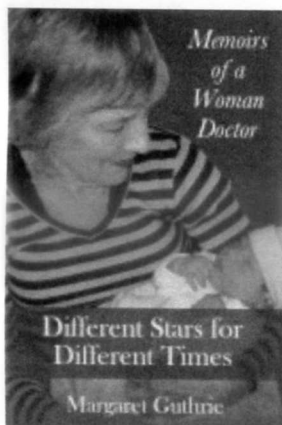
Plans are being put in place for the 2017 conference in Melbourne. Dates to be advised shortly.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Margaret Guthrie, *Memoirs of a Woman Doctor: Different Stars for Different Times*, 2014: This book is part 2 of the memoirs of a remarkable woman doctor, born in 1924. Part 1, *An Enduring Savour: Reflections of a woman doctor on early influences*, 2009, concerns her early years, growing up in Fiji, where her father played a major part on the development of the medical school at the University of the South Pacific.

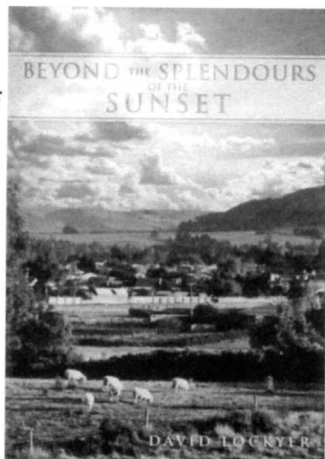
In Part 2 she recounts her own career, following her return from Britain to New Zealand in 1963 as a doctor and widowed mother of three. Her story includes discussion of her involvement in the Medical Women's Association, as well as her experiences as a medical officer in an Air Force base and as New Zealand's first female medical superintendent of a major hospital in the 1970s. Following her retirement

Margaret became increasingly involved in the politics and practice of gerontology, and in 1997 was awarded a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Gerontology. This book is well worth reading and can be purchased as an e-book: <http://www.amazon.com/Different-Stars-Times-Memoirs-Doctor/dp/1500127671>, or by contacting Margaret on: [mwguthrie@gmail.com](mailto:mwguthrie@gmail.com).



**Linda Bryder**  
[l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz)

Coincidentally, the first biography of our second subject was published in the year of Guthrie's birth. The title of Morrison's *Dr Margaret Barnett Cruickshank MD. First woman doctor in New Zealand (1924)* was not strictly accurate since Cruickshank was the second woman to graduate from Otago after Emily Siedeberg, though the first to register here. Ninety years on, agricultural chemist David Lockyer has penned and published a bumper 456pp update, *Beyond the Splendours of the Sunset - To the One Satisfying Goal: A Biography of Margaret Barnett Cruickshank, MB, ChB, University of NZ, 1897* (2014). Cruickshank is



believed to be the first woman doctor worldwide commemorated with a statue, erected after her tragic death during the 1918 influenza pandemic.

**Derek A Dow**

## JOURNAL WATCH

*History of Psychiatry*, initiated by historian Roy Porter and psychiatrist German Berrios, celebrates its 25th anniversary this month. The two most recent issues contain articles by New Zealand scholars. Cathy Colborne's 'White men and weak masculinity: men in the public asylums in Victoria, Australia, and New Zealand, 1860s-1900s' appeared in the December issue while one of Cathy's recent University of Waikato PhD students, Maree O'Connor, contributes 'Mobilizing Clouston in the colonies? General paralysis of the insane at the Auckland Mental Hospital, 1868-99' to the March 2015 volume.

## MEDICAL HISTORY TOURS

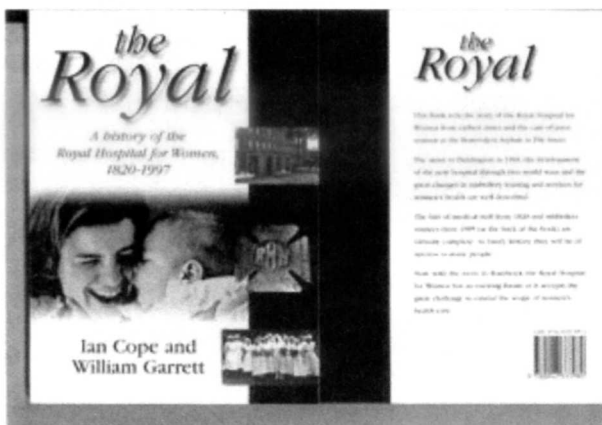
(1) Australians Studying Abroad invite you to join the tour 'Europe: A History of Medicine and Pharmacy' from 11 September to 3 October, 2015. This tour has developed over the last 10 years, and seeks out many unusual and often hard-to-access places, libraries, physic gardens, and museums which trace the evolution of ideas that reflect the development of medicine and pharmacy over 500 years from renaissance to modern times. We follow the course of the Black Death that appeared in the city states of Italy from the Silk Road in 1347, from Venice to London. The tour is led by Prof Robert Clancy AM and his wife Christine, who is a pharmacist/art historian, and David Henderson, an Australian artist/art historian, based in Venice. See [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au) or contact ASA Cultural Tours on 0398226899, [info@asatours.com.au](mailto:info@asatours.com.au), or Robert Clancy, [clancy\\_robert@hotmail.com](mailto:clancy_robert@hotmail.com)

(2) Jon Baines Tours are offering three new History of Medicine tours in 2015. Professor John Pearn leads the first of these through Turkey and the Greek Islands (24 May-6 June), visiting a unique concentration of important medical historical sites amid some of the world's richest culture and history. ANZSHM members receive a 5% discount on this first tour. In July there is a special post-ANZSHM Conference tour of spectacular Central and North Australia (6-11 July). Lastly, a History of Medicine cruise through the Western Mediterranean (16-27 October) led by highly experienced tour leader Sue Weiring, will visit Rome, Palermo and Trapani, Valetta, Tunis, Cartagena Malaga, Tangier, Cadiz and Seville, with specialist lectures throughout. For more details contact: [info@jonbainestours.com.au](mailto:info@jonbainestours.com.au), call 03 9343 6367 or visit [www.jonbainestours.com](http://www.jonbainestours.com)

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

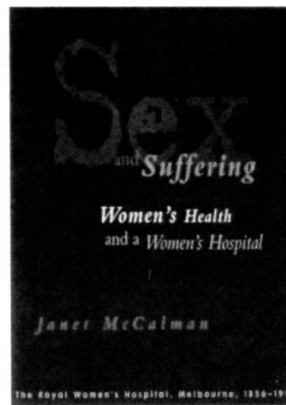
In 1989, after attending the first ASHM biennial conference in Sydney, I was asked by John Holgate, then the hospital librarian, for advice on how Sydney's Royal Hospital for Women might go about recording its history. (Five years earlier I had written a history of the Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital.) I doubt my musings had any influence, but in February 1990 the first page of *Medical History Australia* was devoted to an account of a seminar held on 28 October 1989 'to recall the changes in practice and social attitudes that have occurred since the beginnings of this hospital as the Lying-In Hospital of New South Wales in 1839'.

Some years later two of the hospital clinical staff, Ian Cope and William Garrett, published *The Royal. A History of the Royal Hospital for Women, 1820-1997* (1997).



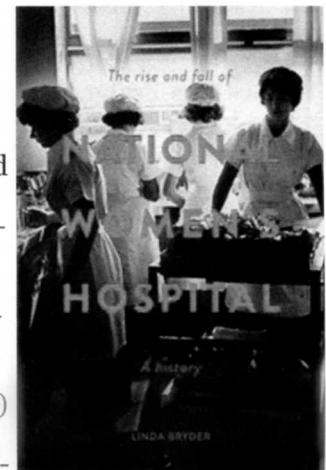
Copies of the Royal are still available from the hospital administration. Contact [joanne.east@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:joanne.east@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

The following year saw the entry of an academic historian into the field. Janet McCalman, one of



the founding editors of the ANZSHM journal *Health and History*, wrote *Sex and Suffering: women's health and a women's hospital: the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, 1856-1996*. As a review by Judith Godden remarked at the time 'Who else but Janet McCalman could turn a long, detailed history of a hospital into an absorbing read?'

Across the Tasman, McCalman's exploration of women's health issues has been matched by the work of Linda Bryder. In 2003 Bryder was awarded a Marsden Grant by The Royal Society of New Zealand for this purpose, since when she has published two books – *A History of the 'Unfortunate Experiment' at National Women's Hospital* (2009) and *The rise and fall of National Women's Hospital: A history* (2014).



Back in Australia, Judith Godden who, like, Bryder, is a former ANZSHM president was commissioned some years ago to write the history of Sydney's Crown St Women's Hospital, which opened in 1893 but was closed in 1983 when its facilities transferred to Westmead Hospital. That project is, as yet, still incomplete but many will join me in hoping it will soon see the light of day.

The efforts of these three long-time stalwarts of the ANZSHM have ensured that the 1990 Royal Hospital initiative has prospered and the history of women's health in Australasia has more than kept pace with developments elsewhere.

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE 15 FEBRUARY 2015.**