



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

From the President

We have now reached the end of our 10th year as an organisation and things are starting to move with the building. The external carpentry is complete; quotes for the plumbing of the administration area and the electrical re-wiring of the museum are to hand and are much lower than expected. We are still awaiting the results of the current round of Jupiter's funding and were notified today that results will be several weeks away. The external painting involving the RRC and a "Work for the Dole" scheme is scheduled to be carried out before the end of the year.

Our office is now situated in the air conditioned Donga at the Heritage Village. The purchase of a new higher capacity computer will enable our volunteers to process more of the collection. A donation of a reconditioned lap top computer has been received from the Regional Partnership Office; this is greatly appreciated and will help with the data processing work.

The donation of sufficient office furniture to meet our needs was gratefully received from the Base Hospital prior to the demolition of the Nurses' Quarters. The work of filing all the nursing records from 1940's to early 1980's has begun. If anyone would like to assist with this or the sorting and naming of instruments please phone me on 4928 5443. I hope to arrange working bees in the New Year.

The Heritage Village is hosting the Regional History Expo next July and would like our Museum or part of it to be open to the public. This is a tall order but if we get the Jupiter's grant for the internal carpentry and joinery it will be with a mighty effort possible to achieve.

On behalf of the management committee I would like to wish you all a happy, joyous and

safe festive season and hope to see more of you participating in activities in the organisation next year.

Yvonne Kelley

Notes from the Annual General Meeting

The Association's Annual General Meeting (its tenth) was held on 24 September 2008. Members elected to the Management Committee are listed at the end of this Newsletter. Here is a brief summary of points made by President Yvonne Kelley in her Annual Report for 2007-2008.

The Association has been successful in acquiring a museum building and having it relocated to the Heritage Village. The building's lead paint and asbestos have been removed and external carpentry completed. External painting is about to be done by the Rockhampton Regional Council in partnership with Mission Australia's Work for the Dole program. Applications have been made to the Jupiter's Community Benefit Fund for support with internal carpentry. The interior of the building can then be painted, also with the support of the Work for the Dole project. Other major work is internal rewiring, floor coverings and treating the windows to limit uv light which may damage items in the collection.

The collection has grown significantly during the year due to the closure and demolition of the former Rockhampton Hospital Nurses' Quarters. As well as items for the collection, the Association was able to collect a significant amount of furniture items such as tables, chairs, bookshelves and filing cabinets which will be sufficient to furnish the new museum. A donation of hospital furniture was also received

from the Maryborough Hospital Museum Committee after they had to vacate the hospital premises.

Meanwhile the Association continues to maintain its small display in the Lakes Creek Cottage at the Village. There is also a shipping container full of historical material at the Village. The Association's office has now been relocated from the COIN building in the City to a building at the Village which is convenient for those working on the collection. This has happened as a result of changes which will occur when COIN moves to the new Rockhampton City Library building which is now open. While the main museum building is being prepared, a number of activities are running in parallel. During 2007-2008, an Association logo and website have been developed (see the report in this Newsletter). Dr Tom Dewar is continuing the collection of oral histories of important practitioners who have served the region (eg Norma West, Bill Renton Power, John Lowry, Malcolm Whaites, Billie Loscher and Yvonne Kelley have been added to the large collection which has been made over the past few years). Mr Reg Fitzpatrick is assisting with the transfer of interview material from tapes to the mp3 format. Debbie Richards and Lorraine Antonello continue the work of documenting and cataloguing the collection in the Mosaic software database.

The major "social" event for the year was the very successful Commemorative Wake for the former Rockhampton Hospital Nurses' Quarters/SAB which was conducted in association with staff at the Rockhampton Hospital. The major fund-raising event was a Cent Sale (see report in this Newsletter).

In her report, Yvonne acknowledged the support of all members of the Association and its Management Committee who have contributed during the year, plus staff of the Rockhampton Hospital, staff of the Rockhampton City/Rockhampton Regional Council, staff at the Rockhampton Heritage Village and Friends of the Village who oversee our display every day.

Yvonne thanked Zoe Scott, the Central Queensland Museum Development Officer who left the region after providing support for

several years and welcomed the new Museum Development Officer, Bronwyn Roper who is the daughter of one of the Association's inaugural members. Yvonne also expressed her appreciation to those who may have been involved in nominating her for the Order of Australia Medal.

Our Patron Dr Con Primmer and wife Cecily visited Rockhampton during the year and maintain a keen interest in the development of the Collection. They plan to be present at the Grand Opening which Yvonne hopes will be possible during 2009 – Queensland's 150th birthday.

Fundraising Cent Sale 19 July 2008

Late 2007 Yvonne and I were discussing fund-raising ideas with a lady, Louella Hall. Louella had had many years experience coordinating successful events for the Frenchville State School where her children had attended.

I had experience with helping to coordinate a cent sale with a group from Parkhurst State School and was enthusiastic about an event of this type. A proposal was tabled and the rest is history – on the 19 July 2008, the Association held a profitable Cent Sale - our most successful fundraiser to date.

Yes, members participated in many months of planning and activity to assign, delegate and perform tasks. From these endeavours, the day itself flowed very smoothly with pleasure and appreciation being expressed by numerous attendees from the community. Apart from some food stuffs and drinks, there were very little to pack and cart away. Glenmore High School purchased the remaining packet chips and soft drinks for their Cent Sale a month later.

Louella Hall was essentially integral to this event and the Association is extremely grateful for her sharing of ideas, knowledge and vast amounts of volunteer time. Louella had members of her family present and active on the day also. Louella is not a member of the Association so her assistance was especially appreciated..

Recognition of the enormous amounts of time spent 'gophering' and coordinating must be given to Yvonne Kelley. Yvonne again held all the strands together and was the lynchpin to the flow of the event.

A big 'Thank You' is expressed to those members of the Management Committee and their partners, children and grandchildren who were extremely active on the day. To those members of the Association who willingly give time and stamina when needed for events such as this a special flow of appreciative warmth – you were there to help with catering, man the front door and ticket tables, and clean up. Thank you.

I started to name individuals for recognition of efforts and participation and found that I quickly became very confused – so many people did so much. Please know you helped and are recognised for your efforts.

The detail involved in coordinating and holding this event is contained in the archival records of the Association. The minutes of planning meetings list the names of people who contributed time and prizes as well as the tasks they were asked to perform.

The fundraising bar has been held high again; what event or events are planned for 2009 to have our building and its displays open to the public and showcasing the collected health history of Central Queensland?

Debra Richards, member

Watching our website

One of the Association's achievements in 2008 was the development of our own website as a means of publicising and promoting our collection. Readers of the previous Newsletter will recall that the website was voluntarily designed for us by Dr Alison Payne of [Online by Design](#). One of the advantages of a professionally designed website is that the owner is able to obtain information on how the site is being used and then try to work out ways of attracting more visitors. Here are some statistics for the period 01 May 2008 until 31 October 2008.

There were 300 visits to the site by 133 individual visitors. In all, the visitors looked at an average of almost 10 pages per visit and spent an average of 6 minutes 24 seconds on the site. Of the 300 visits, 159 came in directly to the site by using the actual web address, 128 came in via search engines (mainly Google) and 13 were referred from other sites. Twenty-nine percent of visitors came to the site more than once.

Important notices

Forthcoming 2009 Rockhampton Heritage Village Markets

Monday 26 January 2009

Australia Day Markets

Sunday 08 March 2009

Craft & Hobby Markets

Sunday 10 May 2009

Mothers' Day Markets

Sunday 12 July 2009

Heritage Market (possibly)

Sunday 13 September 2009

Jazz markets

Sunday 29 November 2009

Christmas Markets

Please take the opportunity to visit the Lakes Creek Cottage during these events. You will find our display is open, with members of the Association in attendance.

You will also see the Mt Morgan Nurses' Quarters building in its final position where it is being refurbished.

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. The Association operates on a normal financial year, so that subscriptions paid now will be for the 2008/2009 year..

If you wish to join the Association, please contact the secretary, Errol Payne, by phone on 4922 3314, by email at: secretary@achha.org.au or post payments to ACHHA Inc, Box 4035, Rockhampton Qld 4700.

Membership Fees

Annual

Individual \$20.00

Couple \$30.00

Life

Individual \$200.00

Couple \$300.00

Please make cheques payable to: Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

Newsletter

If you have ideas for the newsletter, please contact me by phone or mail at the address above or by email to secretary@achha.org.au.

Of the 300 visits, 278 were from Australia, 10 from the United States, 6 from the United Kingdom, 2 from Germany, 2 from the Philippines, 1 from Canada one 1 from Poland. During the 6 visits from the United Kingdom, an average of 2.3 pages was visited with an average of 2 minutes 24 seconds spent looking at the site. Fifty percent of the visits were "repeat business". The one person from Poland viewed 34 pages and stayed on for 15 minutes. One of the visits from Germany was "cheating" because this Newsletter Editor was visiting Germany and wanting to see whether the site was working properly from a distance!

The most popular pages were the "Wake" page with 261 page views and the "People" page with 252 views. "News" attracted 164 views and "Buildings" attracted 83. With photographs being available in both small (thumbnail) versions and larger versions with detailed descriptions, it is interesting to examine which ones attracted the most attention. Not surprisingly, photos from the Wake were generally the most popular. Others close to the top of the list were the photograph of nursing staff having afternoon tea in 1900, Tannachy staff in the 1940's, nurses at the Rockhampton Hospital in 1970 and photographs of individual matrons including Norma West, Rose Christmas and Margaret Graham.

As noted above, 128 visits came through search

engines such as Google. What did the viewers type in? Forty people typed in "achha", four typed "Rockhampton hospital nurses quarters" four typed in the actual web address, three typed in "rockhampton and district: a pictorial history (oxford press)" and so on. Visits also came from searches for individual items e.g "matron gus moore", "Rockhampton hospital 1900", "'Dr Talbot' hospital Rockhampton", "nurse uniform history", "john henry o'brien" and "axelsen".

While this is a good start, we are keen to see higher usage to gain greater recognition for our Association. An important way of doing this is to have our website listed on other websites. Our web and email addresses are now included on the Museum and Gallery Services Queensland website under the Museum and Gallery Finder page. If readers are aware of other websites on which we could seek inclusion, please advise.

Errol Payne

Membership form on the web

On page 3 of this Newsletter you will find details of our membership fees etc. You may find more information about us on our website www.achha.org.au and download an Application Form at <http://www.achha.org.au/Membership%20Application.pdf>.

Association contact details:

Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

PO Box 4035 Rockhampton Qld 4700

[Incorporation Number: IA20217]

Website: www.achha.org.au

Email: enquiries@achha.org.au

Patron: Dr Con Primmer OAM

Elected Office Bearers

President: Yvonne Kelley
Vice-President: Norma West
Secretary: Errol Payne
Treasurer: Kay Smith

Committee Members

Lorraine Antonello
 Tom Dewar
 John Learmonth
 Del Leitgeb
 Carol McIver
 Bill McIver
 Jocelyn Philp