



**THE CONCORDIANS
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 6 SUMMER/AUTUMN 2025**

Bringing together past and present staff of the hospital to share and exchange experiences in a collegial, supportive and relaxed atmosphere.

Our Mission is to embrace and articulate the origins and history of the hospital, to promote its unique culture of communications and compassion and to nurture and support our members

SAVE THE DATE

9 May 2025

Time: 4pm

Place: 113 AGH Chapel

**Official Opening of the EM Lane Concordians Museum
Followed by the Concordians AGM and Cocktail**

The Opening will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Concordians and a cocktail in the hospital's conference rooms, lower ground floor. Any agenda items for the AGM should be forwarded to the secretary

at theconcordians@outlook.com

Concordians will receive an invitation in the next few weeks and tickets for AGM and cocktail will soon be available on the Concordians website for \$60 per person.

<https://www.theconcordians.com/events-and-agm/>

Membership

Following the incorporation of the Concordians, annual membership fees are due from December onwards. The fees remain a very low \$10 and members receive a newsletter four times a year and reduced prices for Concordian functions. We are currently seeking registration as a charity which will make any donations to the Concordians tax deductible. This will require a modification of the Concordians' constitution and will be discussed at the AGM in May.

Make sure that you are up to date and that we have latest details by visiting the new membership page at <https://www.theconcordians.com/membership/> The web site now accepts credit card payments, which makes renewal very easy.

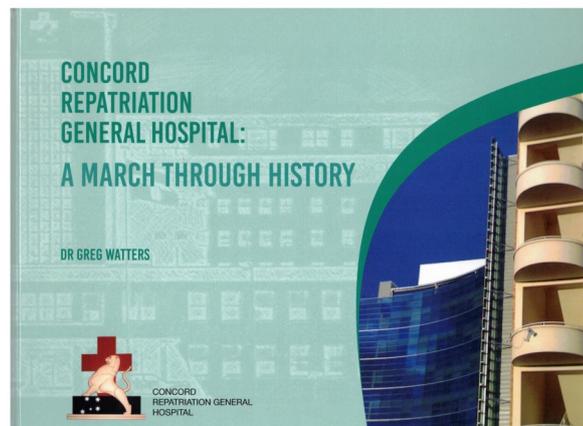
Encourage your friends and colleagues to join.

Concord Repatriation General Hospital : A March through History

Some copies of the hospital history, which was commissioned by the Concordians, are still available. The book covers the history of the Hospital from its beginning as an Army camp, the 113th Australian General Hospital, through its time as a Repatriation hospital and up to the current day. It is richly illustrated with over 300 historic photographs.

Make sure you get copies for yourself and your friends before they run out. <https://www.theconcordians.com/book-publication/>.

Author :Dr Greg Watters



News from the E M Lane Concordians' Museum

The moment has finally arrived and the museum will be re-opened in its new and greatly expanded location on May 9

The team has been hyperactive over the last few months to ensure that everything is ready. The old discharge lounge has been rejuvenated by new lighting and a fresh coat of paint and the display cases are in place. The museum will have modern Audio-Visual equipment and will feature occasional special exhibitions and presentations.

A day combining touring the museum and the Kokoda walkway will give any visitor a deep understanding of the service that the Hospital has provided to the defence, veterans and local community over the last 84 years.

Thanks must be given to the many volunteers who have helped with the project, the large number of donors and the Hospital and Sydney Local Health District administrations which have wholeheartedly supported the museum's reopening.



If you are interested in becoming a museum volunteer, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jan Bell on 0418410612 or at theconcordians@outlook.com



Introducing Dr Fiona Starr

The Concordians Association is responsible for the conservation, research, collection development and display of the museum collection. We want to share this rare collection and the personal stories reflected in its objects with the community, including patients and visitors to the hospital, school groups and the wider public.

The first step in this process is to assess the significance of the collection, to better document what we hold, recognise the collection's strengths, the opportunities and threats relating to its long-term preservation, and to understand its place in relation to other similar collections around Australia.

For this work, we've been fortunate to be granted a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia, and the assessment is currently being carried out by a professional curator and historian, Dr Fiona Starr.

Fiona was awarded a PhD in Heritage Conversation from Deakin University and currently leads Australian Lived Histories. For over 25 years she has worked with both large and small museums, historic property owners, corporate clients and local and state government organisations, and managing historical and archaeological collections. She was Curator of Hyde Park Barracks and The Mint for Sydney Living Museums

Fiona believes that the EM Lane Concordians museum is the only one of its kind in Australia. Its collection of uniforms, artefacts, memorabilia and documents is a unique and important resource commemorating Australia's military and repatriation history. The collection reflects on hundreds of fascinating personal stories dating from the Boer War in the 1890s through to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war.

Fiona's first task is to assess and better document all the collected items. This will allow the strengths of the collection to be recognised as well as the opportunities and threats for its long term preservation.



Museum Curator

Holly Williams is an experienced curator with a focus on diverse contemporary art practices and innovative public programming. A skilled creative producer specialising in interdisciplinary activities, Holly has worked on complex projects across contemporary art, design, architecture, science, archival collections, site-specific public art, time based and experimental installation practices for a diverse range of settings and audiences. She recently completed a permanent exhibition for the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra. Having curated/co-curated more than 25 exhibitions to date, Holly has extensive experience working through all aspects from conception and strategy to successful project delivery for a range of clients from small-scale independent arts organisations to large Federal Government initiatives.

Holly Williams (cont.)

Holly will be responsible for concept development and content installation. This will include exhibition-specific curatorial development work, including working with volunteer team and donors/experts on identifying key content themes for the museum re-opening display. Identifying suitable objects for display in each theme and providing advice on design and object display. Holly's curatorial work is funded through Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Saluting Their Service grant.

Oral History of Civilian Nurses in Vietnam

DVA has also awarded a grant to the Concordians to document the stories of the surviving members of the teams of doctors and nurses who were sent from the hospital to give aid to the civilian population of Vietnam. Stories of Vietnam Veterans with close association to the hospital will also be included in the project.

John Gatfield formerly of Channel 9 and Sky Sports and videographer Stephen Preece will conduct interviews on camera. The final product will be launched on Vietnam Veterans Day in August this year and be included in the museum collection for viewing. It will also be distributed to RSL sub-branches in NSW.



Jan Bell (standing) and the late Myra Chenery (Head of the School of Nursing) with paediatric patients during their secondment to Vietnam.

Vale

Prof Allan Granville, Respiratory Physician

Allan passed on 22 December 2024. He was a medical and respiratory medicine registrar at the hospital in the 1980s and was a staff specialist for a period before becoming the Director of Lung Transplantation and Head of Service at the Department of Thoracic Medicine at St Vincent's.

Donations

The Concordians greatly acknowledges the donations made by the following people and organisations:

- Clinical Associate Professor John Cullen
- Concord Chamber of Commerce
- City of Canada Bay

Contact Us

The Newsletter is a great way to let fellow Concordians know what is happening. Let us spread the word on any approaching reunions or personal milestones. We also welcome any personal reminiscences and photos of life at the hospital

Send your contribution to theconcordians@outlook.com

Website

The Concordians website is regularly updated and can be found at: <https://www.theconcordians.com/>

Looking forward to seeing you at the Museum opening and AGM

