

THE CONCORDIANS NEWSLETTER



Museum Opening – A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

The official opening of the EM Lane Concordians' Museum at Concord Hospital was a well-attended event, with standing room only. Distinguished guests included Adjunct Professor Karen Crawshaw, Chair of the SLHD Board; Deb Wilcox AM, Chief Executive of SLHD; the Mayor of the City of Canada Bay; Member for Drummoyne Stephanie Di Pasqua; representatives from DVA and various RSL Clubs. Many members of the Concordians including current hospital staff and department heads, were also present.

The formal proceedings were held in the 113th AGH chapel, where John Cullen AM, President of the Concordians welcomed attendees. Deb Wilcox delivered a brief

address highlighting the importance of preserving the hospital's history and emphasizing the support of SLHD. Curator Holly Williams spoke about the collection and remarked on the dedication of the volunteers who have helped make the display come to life.

The refurbishment of the former discharge lounge into the new museum was made possible through the support of Concord Hospital's new General Manager, Anthony Dombkins. His commitment to the project was greatly appreciated by the Concordians committee.

Alice Kang, Secretary of the Concordians, expressed gratitude to the RSL Clubs, City of Canada Bay council, DVA, and the National

Library of Australia for their generous grant support.

Following the speeches, guests proceeded to the museum for a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, followed by the official ribbon cutting. Attendees, including sponsors and donors, enjoyed viewing the collection and were impressed by the new space. The event concluded with drinks and canapés, courtesy of the hospital.

The opening marked a proud moment for all involved in the project. The strong response from volunteers has enabled the museum to open five days a week. Those who may still be interested in volunteering are encouraged to get in touch at theconcordians@outlook.com.



EM Lane Concordians' Museum

Location:

EM Lane Concordians' Museum is located in Building 7, Lower Ground Floor, Concord Hospital

Museum Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 10am – 2pm

For more information visit website:
www.theconcordians.com



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The Concordians' 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the hospital's conference rooms following the official opening of the Museum.

A total of 55 members attended the AGM and dinner.

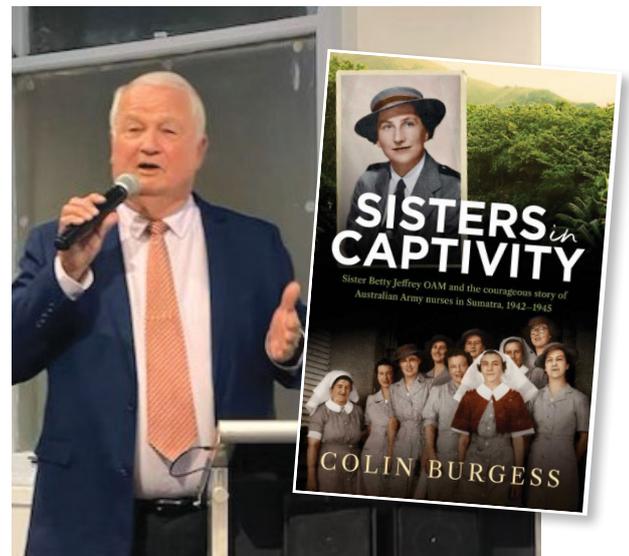
During the meeting, committee members presented their activity reports. It was noted that the Concordians' constitution requires revision. Carole Anne Priest, the Concordians' legal advisor, addressed this matter, and it was resolved that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be convened in June to adopt a model constitution.



Concordians were pleasantly surprised to find that a buffet dinner, provided by The Hub (located at the hospital), was served in place of a cocktail reception. The Greek themed buffet was sumptuous including dessert and a wonderful selection of teas and coffee to finish.

Members expressed their enjoyment of the buffet dinner and voted to return to the conference room for the November dinner.

We were pleased to have Colin Burgess, author of several books, as our guest speaker. He spoke on his latest book, *Sisters in Captivity*—a timely and relevant topic, given the museum's dedication to Ethel Lane, an army nurse, and the proximity of the event to International Nurses Day (Monday, 12 May).



STORIES FROM OUR MUSEUM COLLECTION

by Dr Fiona Starr

Trooper Jack Fleet artificial eyes and photo – WWI

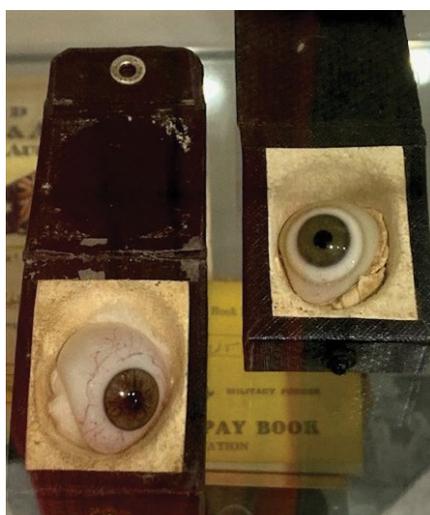
One of the most curious items in the Collection are two glass eyes in cases issued to Trooper John 'Jack' Fleet after one of his eyes was severely affected by malaria and conjunctivitis contracted in Egypt, during WWI.

John Fleet, a twenty-year old farm hand from Sydney, enlisted in January 1915, and served with the 1st Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli, then the 12th Light Horse in Egypt. In October 1916 he was admitted to the 14 AGH in Cairo, suffering from malaria. On discharge, he was attached to the Australian Postal Corps (on light duties, due to his illness), but returned to serve with the light horse regiment in early 1917.

Very soon, he was suffering the effects of malaria again and was admitted to hospital. He was sent to a rest camp in Abbassia in mid-1917, and throughout 1918 continued to be in and out of service due to his illness. In April 1919 he was admitted to the 14 AGH with conjunctivitis and was returned to Australia and discharged from service.



Fleet was issued with two artificial eyes (for interchangeable use in place of one eye he had lost due to disease). One has red veins, and one is clear, so he could choose to wear the one which more naturally matched his other eye. On the back of the postcard portrait photograph is written: 'Sent to Nurse Slater / 119 Warner Street / Valley'. The 'nurse Slater' referred to could be Muriel Matthew Slater, 41 of the AANS. Further research is needed to understand the connection and the story of this postcard photograph and the eye condition Fleet suffered and the treatment he received in order to need these artificial eyes.



NEW PROJECT LAUNCH: HONOURING THE VOICES OF VIETNAM

The EM Lane Concordians Museum is proud to announce its next major project—a powerful collection of oral histories from civilian nurses and servicemen who served during the Vietnam War.

This moving compilation of interviews captures the deeply personal stories of care, courage, and service from those who were there. Among them are nurses from Concord Hospital, who were sent as part of the civilian medical teams that supported the South Vietnamese civilians during the conflict.

The completed video presentation will be officially launched on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2025, and will be available for viewing at the museum. This project offers a rare opportunity to hear firsthand reflections from those who provided critical support in one of Australia's most challenging military engagements.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT CONCORDIANS DINNER EVENT

We're pleased to invite all Concordians to our next dinner event, which will be held on:

 Thursday, 14 November 2025

 Conference Rooms, Concord Hospital

 Commencing at 6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of good company, conversation, and connection. We look forward to seeing you there!

For enquiries please contact:
theconcordians@outlook.com



An Outstanding Tutor honoured

On May 3rd, Graham Dunn was honored with the NSW Educator of the Year Award by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, recognizing his 30 years of dedication to teaching.

Graham began his career in Australia in 1989 as a staff specialist at Concord Hospital. His passion for teaching quickly became evident, initially mentoring medical students and surgical trainees, and later

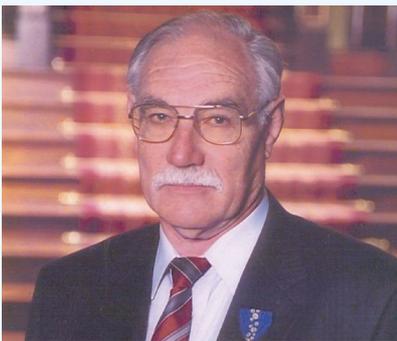
becoming a sought-after tutor for radiology trainees and overseas-trained radiologists. His Monday night tutorials at Concord became a staple for radiology candidates across NSW, known for their clarity, depth, and collaborative spirit.

Beyond teaching, Graham was a cornerstone of interventional radiology at Concord, balancing roles at both Concord and Strathfield Private Hospital. His commitment

extended to weekends and late hours, always ensuring support for registrars and patients alike.

Though he resigned from Concord a few years ago, his legacy endures through the naming of a training day in his honor and the continued success of his students, many of whom have excelled in fellowship exams.

VALE PROF PETER KENNEDY A.M., F.R.A.C.S., M.D.S., M.B., B.S.



Peter was a dentist with a post graduate Master of Dental Surgery. The opportunity to do medicine presented itself in the late 60's. Following his graduation, the door to Concord Hospital opened. That was a perfect example of "Cometh the hour, Cometh the man". The hospital needed a Head and Neck service, and Peter was the one to establish that facility which unified

his surgical and dental skills and was of great import to our old soldiers whose war time sun exposure provided a steady stream of surgical pathology.

But there came a time when such complex surgery became overwhelming, so he hung up his scalpel and retired. It was the shortest retirement as the following day the then General Manager of the hospital telephoned Peter imploring him to return as a VMO in Burns. And so, another chapter began. Peter joined the team looking after patients who became household names such as Turia, Sophie and Gabby, patients with Steven Johnson syndrome, or meningococcal disease and all those patients who did not become household names injured by fire, hot materials, motor vehicle accidents, warfare etc. and those

who were injured because they were either victims or perpetrators or those who were just plain silly. With this came the requirement for continuing education, so his presentations at conferences and meetings became fixtures on our calendar. The John Boswick Wound Symposium held annually in Maui provided a forum for Peter and his colleagues to let the international burn community know that Australia was a formidable force in modern burn injury management.

Peter was a legend when it came to research, teaching, mentoring, learning, caring, and stepping up when needed. The later was exemplified in 2002 when the Bali Bombing occurred. His contribution to the life of Concord Hospital was invaluable – he will be sorely missed.