

COMA Tasmania Winter Newsletter 2018



Dr Harry Benjafield's Homeopathic Chest c. 1880-1900, on loan from the Hallam family

President's Report

It is nearly a year since the inception of COMA Tasmania. What a productive and interesting time it has been for this Tasmanian medical history museum, library and archive.

The committee has met monthly to receive reports from the curator, treasurer and president. It has considered and decided on processes to ensure a solid foundation for COMA.

Liz Bondfield and I have met each Monday to manage the activities of COMA. We have hosted a range of visitors looking over the museum, volunteers who are assisting with such projects as photographing the collection and taking guided tours. We have enlisted assistance with our computers, financial and fundraising advice, as well as establishing relationships with interested organisations. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of our donors and friends, who have supported the museum this year financially and in offering new objects for the collection.

Our seminar on March 10 this year, with keynote speaker Dr Brendan Nelson was a great success. Since then we have had a number of people contacting us to visit COMA with specific enquiries about the collection.

The committee has developed a strategic plan, having consulted with a number of people with expertise in museum management. This helped us established our priorities and direction for the next two years.

AGM Notice: We will be holding our AGM on **Saturday 29th September** at 10.00am at the Frances Parsons Building, Jane Franklin Hall. After the meeting our new committee will be elected. Copies of the strategic plan will be available, and reports presented outlining the activities of COMA Tasmania

were brave and determined in Tasmania. You can find out more about this collection, and view our new online database [here](#).

New acquisitions

Over the winter we have received a number of significant donations, and we would like to acknowledge and thank our donors:

- Mr John Nicholson: pharmaceutical powder folder from Ash, Bester & Co. Pharmacy.
- Professor Sasanka Dhara: anaesthetic equipment
- Calvary Hospital Archive: medical book collection c 1920s
- Mrs Sally Nutting: books from her grandfather, Dr Geoffrey Packham c 1910s-20s.
- Dr Baumwol on behalf of Optometry Tasmania: an Updegrave Synchroniser from Padman & Padman Optometrists
- Ms Michelle Blake: books on family planning and marriage guidance c 1930s-40s
- Thomson family: Dr 'Mac' Thomson's visiting diaries c. 1954-1994
- Dr Glenn Richardson: Dangerous Drugs Register c. 1962-1990
- Jane Franklin Hall: Medical student's study skeleton c. 1960s
- Ralph Tapping: framed pictures
- Michael Graham: framed pictures

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Hallam family for the loan of Dr Harry Benjafield's homeopathic chest.



A medical student's study skeleton from Jane Franklin Hall