



COMA Tasmania Quarterly Newsletter

May 2018



Dr Philip Thomson and Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial at the COMA Seminar, March 2018.

President's Report

COMA came to life on 10/3/18 with our successful Seminar at Jane Franklin Hall attended by 80 people. We had national ABC coverage on the evening news that day. 'Ghastly antiques medical equipment showing how far medicine has advanced' was the headline! Liz showed her talents in front of the TV camera speaking about some of the surgical instruments in the collection. Brendan Nelson spoke eloquently about the advances in medical and surgical care in WW 1 and impressed with his comprehensive knowledge and consummate communication skills. Alison Alexander was also interviewed and talked about Lady Jane Franklin's contribution to Van Diemen's Land.

We have had several groups of visitors to COMA since March. These have included a historian from Brisbane who saw the news item, some medical students, interested people who have requested being shown the collection and a group of retirees. We are booked for more tours, with the plan to train some volunteer guides how to do these visits. My most recent group appreciated me being in Victorian -era doctor's outfit and enjoyed the educational entertainment.

Liz and I meet every Monday and are working towards establishing processes to manage COMA. We have plans to make the collection interesting, accessible and educational. With an AGM to be scheduled in a few months, we plan to demonstrate some COMA achievements.

I will be working with Joanna Roswell to develop a Strategic Plan to take to the COMA committee. This is part of the process to obtain Deductible Gift Recipient status. Whilst we are registered as a charity, we need to provide detailed information to the ATO to obtain approval as a DGR registered entity. In the meantime, as stated below, we are fortunate to be have Jane Franklin Hall accepting tax deductible donations on COMA's behalf. See details on how to donate in a subsequent article.

We have received a small grant for photographic equipment and have applied for a Community Heritage grant to look at a selected number of our more interesting items. If successful, this money is allocated in November this year. In the meantime, we will be applying for other grants and requesting financial donations to help our cash flow.

Don't be comatose, be energized by what we have in COMA. If you have not already had a tour of the collection, phone and make a time to visit COMA. Jane Franklin Hall: 6210 0100.

My Best Wishes,

Philip

A Potpourri of Medical History Seminar Report



Visitors to COMA with Dr Thomson after the seminar

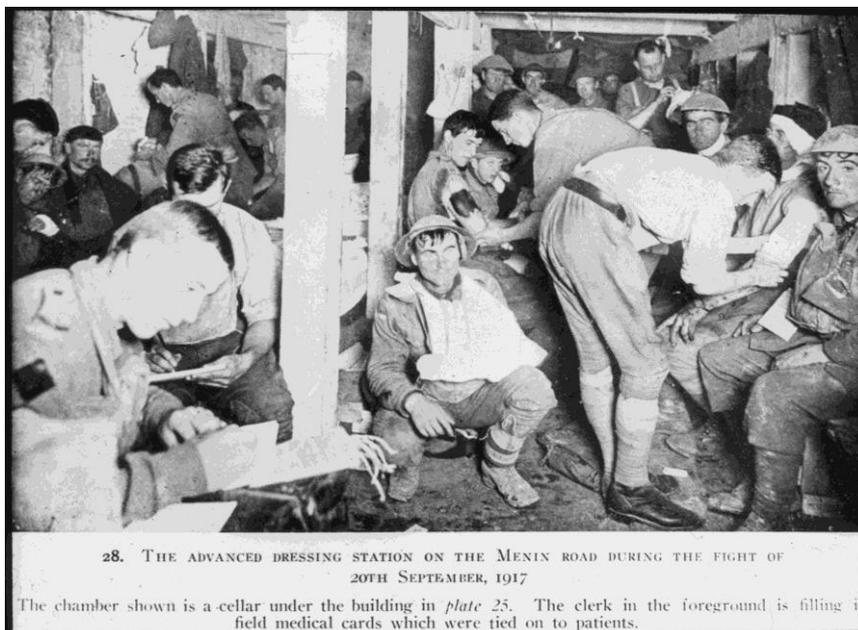
We were honoured to have such a turn-out for COMA's first seminar. A crowd of over 80 packed the Francis Parsons Hall to hear talks from Dr Brendan Nelson, Dr Jody Steele, Dr Alison Alexander and Dr Philip Thomson, share a delicious morning tea and then visit the collection. Thank you to our wonderful guest speakers, and the staff at AMA Tasmania, and Jane Franklin Hall for their support.



Committee Secretary Isobel Thomson dons a World War One nurses' uniform, courtesy of the RHH Graduate Nurses Collection.

Highlights from the Collection

A talk on the care of wounded servicemen



28. THE ADVANCED DRESSING STATION ON THE MENIN ROAD DURING THE FIGHT OF 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1917

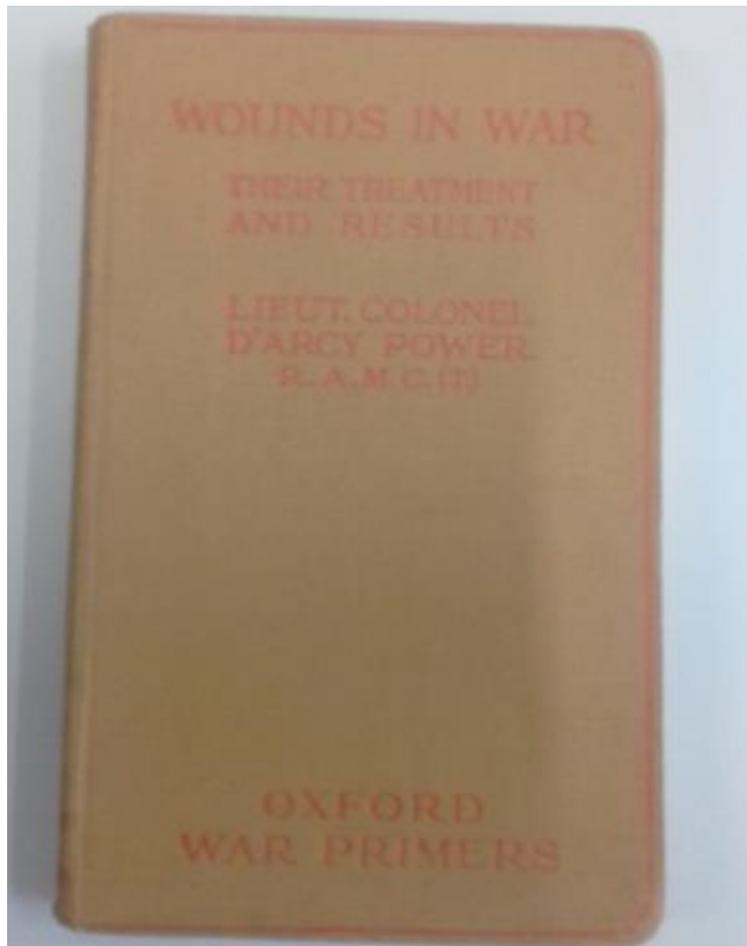
The chamber shown is a cellar under the building in plate 25. The clerk in the foreground is filling in field medical cards which were tied on to patients.

One of the glass plate sides from Dr Fay's talk, now part of the Fay Collection at COMA Tasmania.

At the height of World War Two, Dr Frank Fay gave a talk to members of St John's Ambulance Hobart on the evacuation and care of wounded servicemen in war-time. It was something he could speak with authority on as he had served as a doctor during World War

One. The young Doctor Fay graduated in 1915, then enlisted in the 8th Artillery Brigade, before joining the Australian Casualty Clearing Station as an assistant surgeon in 1916. He put together a series of photographs and notes on a set of glass plate slides for his talk - we can only imagine his feelings looking at those photographs after nearly thirty years. This collection was ultimately offered to COMA Tasmania to be digitally reproduced by the Fay family.

The Oxford War Primers



One of the 'Oxford War Primers' bought by Dr Lewis for his time on HS *Karoola*

In October 1915 a Dr Lewis, newly made a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps, was waiting to sail on Australia's first hospital ship HS *Karoola*, from Southampton to Gallipoli. He bought three pocket sized texts to prepare himself for receiving and treating wounded servicemen: 'Wounds in War: their treatment and results', 'Gunshot Injuries of Bones' and 'Medical Hints for Doctors temporarily employed with the troops', and wrote his name, the date and the name of his ship in each.

Hastily published in the first few months of the war, these books tried to prepare doctors and nurses for the unimaginable numbers and kinds of casualties they would encounter at Gallipoli and other fronts

Have you noticed our new logo?



COMA Tasmania Logo Competition winner Daniel Guilbert, centre, with his Mum and sister.

Late last year COMA Tasmania had a competition amongst the student population at Jane Franklin Hall to come up with a logo that could represent our new museum. Electronic Engineering student Daniel Guilbert came up with the winning design. When we asked for a bit of information about himself Daniel replied: *'I hail from the North-West coast of Tassie - Ulverstone to be precise, and I am studying Electrical Engineering. This will be my fourth (and hopefully final!) year at Uni! Back in high-school I enjoyed playing around with Photoshop and mocking up logo concepts and I'm glad to be able to finally put my skills to good use. It was a pleasure working with the COMA team and I'm proud that my design was selected for use. I hope the collection continues to grow strong into the future.'*

Photographing the collection

We have just been able to purchase a small camera studio for photographing our collection, enabling us to create high resolution images for research, and to enhance the accessibility of the collection online. Our thanks to Galleries, Libraries, Archives Museums (GLAM) Peak *Digital Access to Collections* program, for the grant to make this possible.

If you would like to work with the collection, we would like to hear from you! You could join us to help photograph and document new acquisitions, and improve what we know about the collection.

Considering making a donation to COMA?

COMA Tasmania now has Tax Deductible Status via an auspicing agreement with Jane Franklin Hall. This means your financial donation can now be tax deductible.

Any donation can be sent to **Account Name:** Jane Franklin Hall Inc., **Bank:** Westpac, **BSB:** 037010 **Account:** 520578. In the reference line please write 'COMA', and advise Jane in writing at office@jane.edu.au or by mail at 6 Elboden St South Hobart 7004, so they can send out a receipt.