SAVING OUR PAST, INFORMING OUR FUTURE:

Health Libraries and Organisational History



Cherish McDonald
HNE HEALTH LIBRARIES

HNE HEALTH LIBRARIES
linking evidence with practice

NSW GOVERNMENT
Hunter New England Local Health District



Hunter New England Health Libraries proudly acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the many lands and waters across our region, upon which we live, learn, and share knowledge.

We pay our deepest respects to the **Awabakal, Kamilaroi/Gomeroi, Gomilaroi, Geawegal, Bahtabah, Thungutti, Anaiwan, Biripi, Worimi, Nganyaywana, Wonnarua, Banbai, Ngoorabul, Bundjalung, Yallaroi, Darkinung, Ngaraba**l, and all other nations who have cared for this Country for tens of thousands of years.

We honour their ancestors, Elders past and present, and recognise the enduring strength, knowledge, and cultural resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We acknowledge that these lands have been places of learning, storytelling, and knowledge exchange for tens of thousands of years. Through our library services, we commit to fostering culturally safe and respectful spaces that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being, and doing. We recognise that true learning and innovation are strengthened by diversity, inclusion, and the voices of communities who hold deep wisdom about health, wellbeing, and resilience.

Together, we look forward to building a future of knowledge sharing that reflects the strength of Country, the power of collaboration, and the shared vision of healthier communities for all.

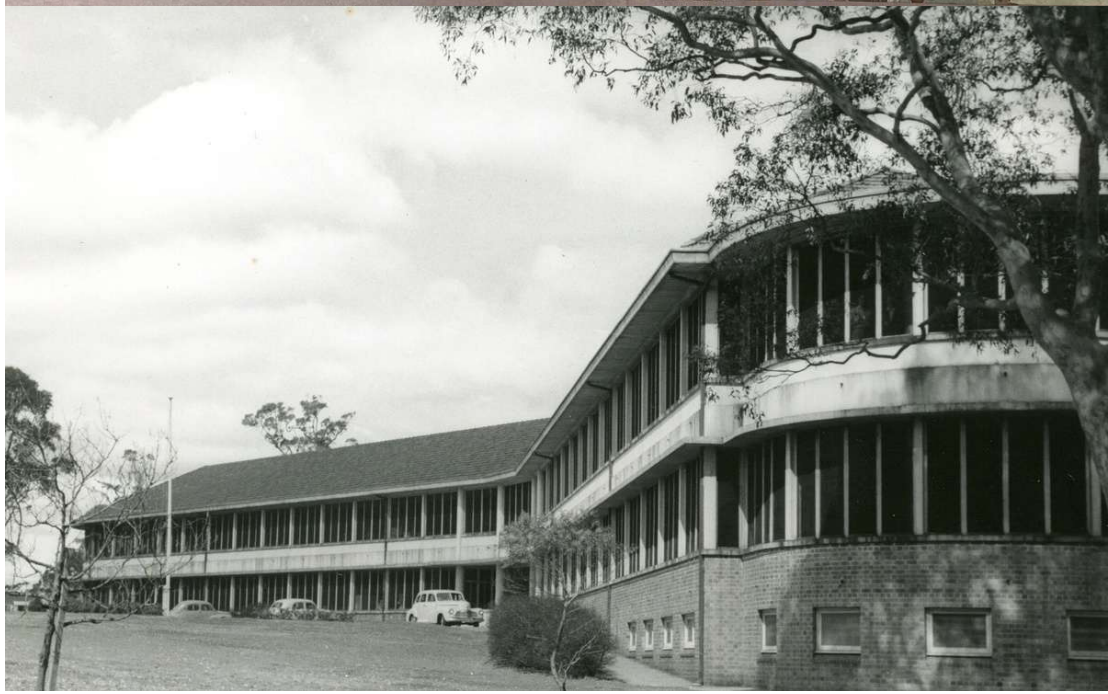
Artwork: Lakkari Art, NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2024–2034

“WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SOME OLD ART?”



A LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM NEEDS ORGANISATIONAL MEMORY





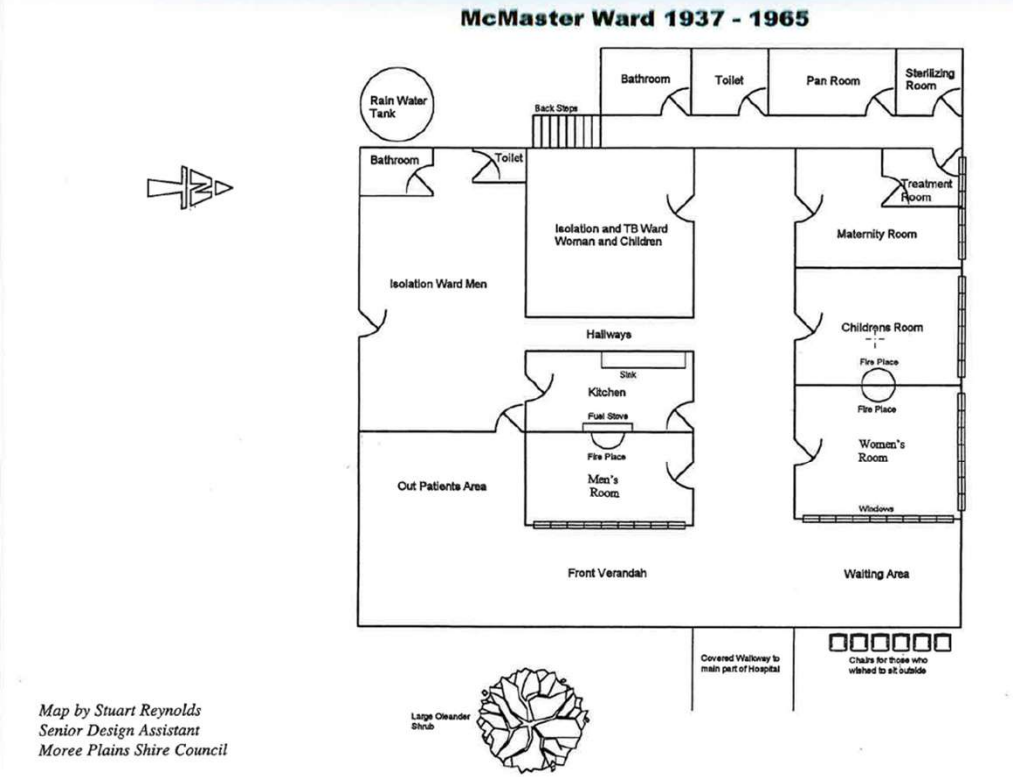
BEFORE YOU THROW IT AWAY: PAUSE, ASK, REFER.

Could it be part of your organisation’s history?





WHOSE ORGANISATIONAL MEMORY IS PRESERVED?



Map by Stuart Reynolds
Senior Design Assistant
Moree Plains Shire Council



Nursing staff of the McMaster Ward

L/R Eleanor Duncan nee Smith, Margaret Wells nee Johnson, Jeanette Kinchella nee Jenkins, Muriel May Cutmore-Graham nee Tighe and Beverley Kibbles standing in front of Muriel May.
Eleanor Duncan, Margaret Wells and Muriel May Cutmore-Graham are deceased.

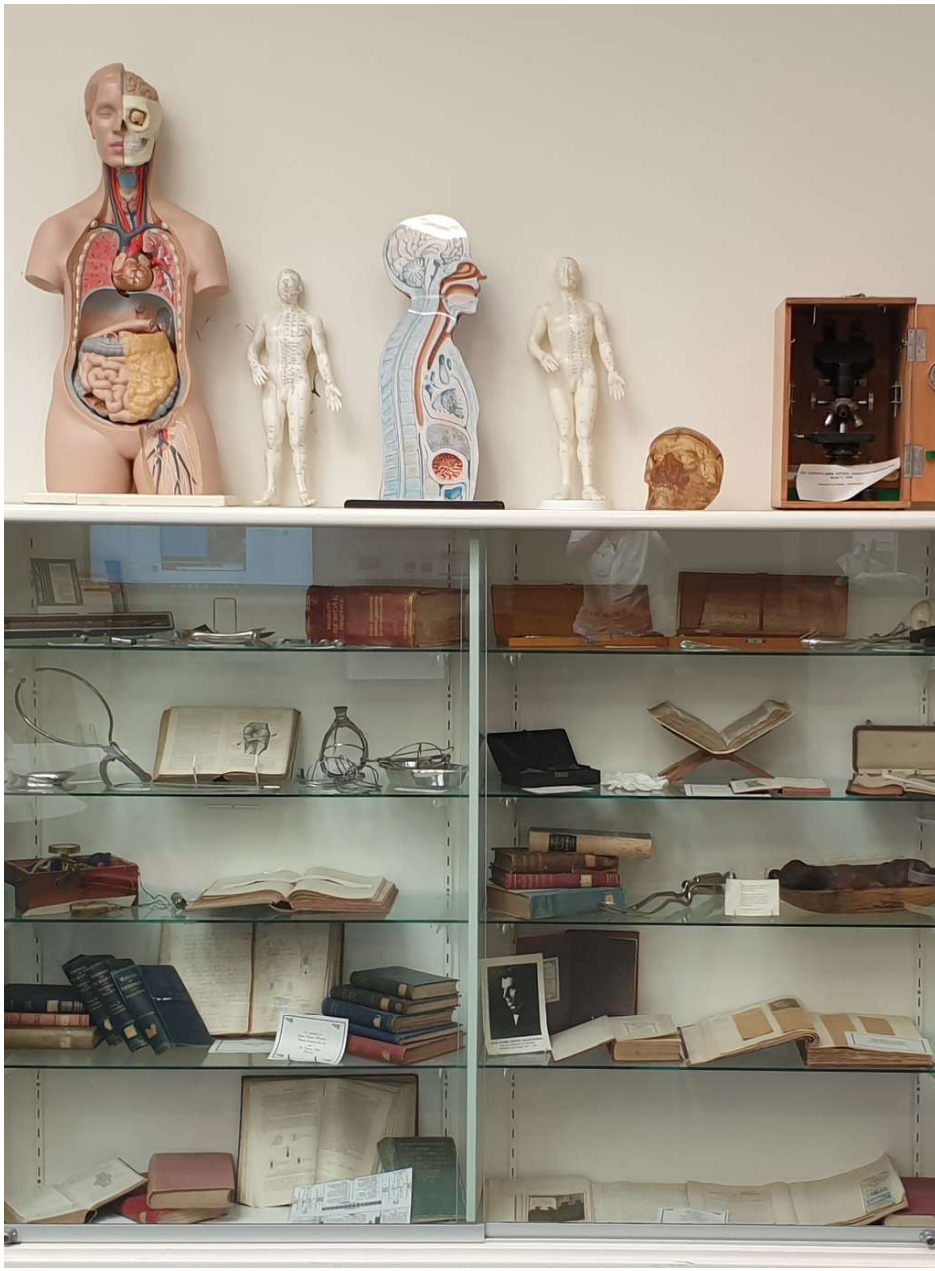
Preservation determines whose knowledge becomes part of the organisational record.

WHY HEALTH LIBRARIES?

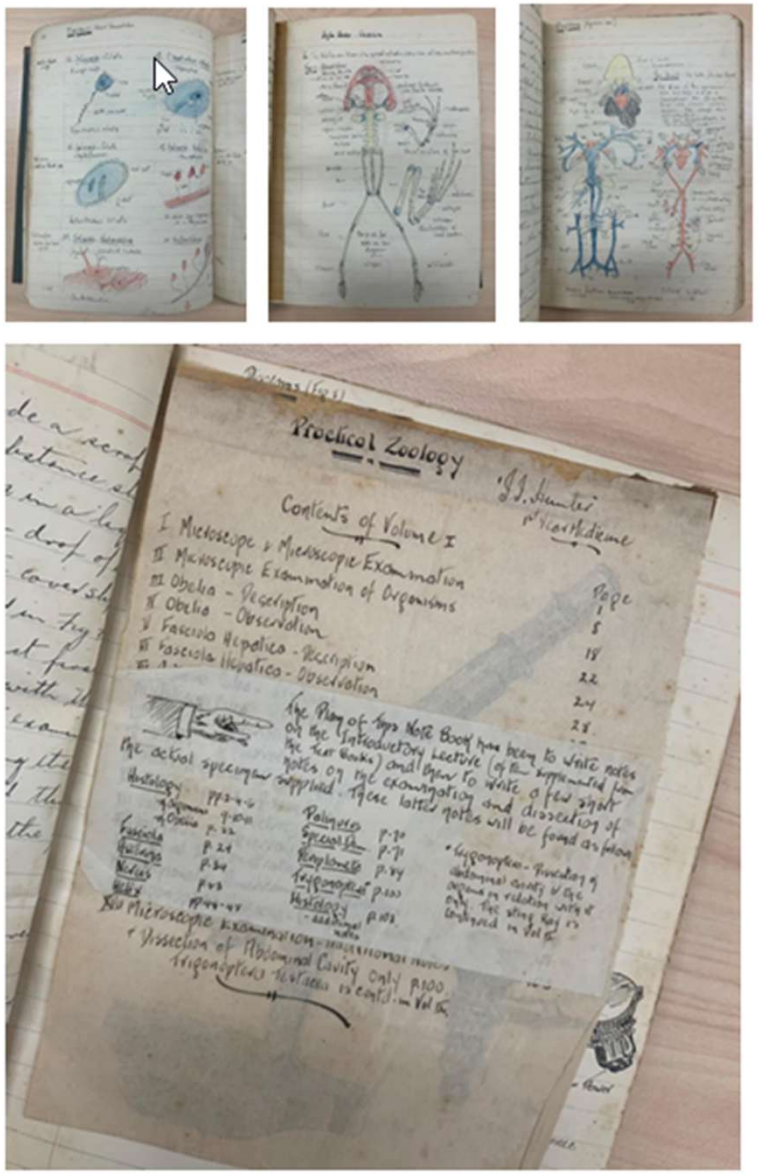
Existing expertise, applied to a new problem



BUILDING THE CAPABILITY AT HNE HEALTH LIBRARIES



THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE BACK



1
Where is organisational memory most at risk?

2
Who is contacted when potentially significant material is found?

3
Can the material be discovered and used?

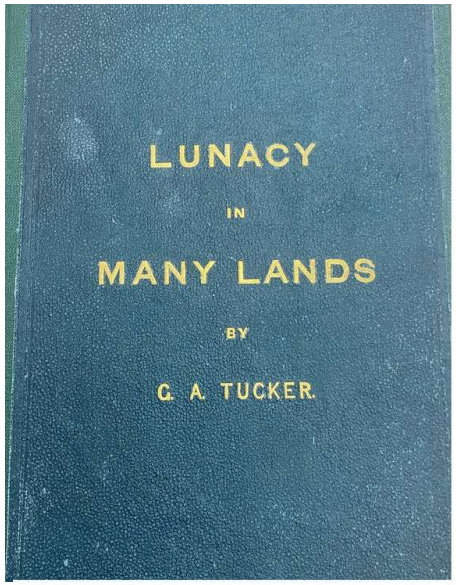
ORGANISATIONAL MEMORY IS A STRATEGIC LIBRARY CAPABILITY

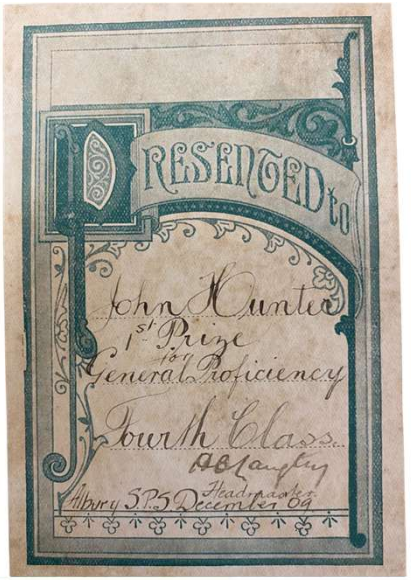
Preserve. Describe. Connect. Reuse.













REACH OUT

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