

RBWH Staff Council and Team Royal

Discover the Royal Newsletter

RBWH has a remarkable history, filled with milestones and moments that have shaped healthcare in Queensland and beyond. The first public hospital in Brisbane, the Moreton Bay Hospital was established in 1849. The number of patients in the first year was 94. The Queen approved the prefix 'Royal' to the Brisbane Hospital in 1966 and in 1967, the Queen approved the prefix 'Royal' to the Brisbane Women's Hospital. The amalgamation of these Hospital occurred in 2003. Today, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital is a 1000 bed facility and the largest tertiary hospital in Queensland. *Read more at [History of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital | Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital](#) and [History](#).*

The history of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is intertwined with the broader context of colonial dispossession and the fight for health equity. Aboriginal people lived on the land where the hospital would eventually be built, with deep cultural and spiritual connections to the area. The cultural significance to the Dreaming stories describing the creation of what is now known as the Brisbane River. The traditional custodians of the Herston Precinct and areas surrounding are the Turrbal people, who traditionally lived on the north of the Brisbane River, their name for the central Brisbane area is 'Meanjin'.

We are excited to announce the launch of a monthly newsletter, 'Discover the Royal', where we'll explore and celebrate notable sites around the campus. Each month, we'll highlight a fascinating piece of RBWH history and include a fun trivia question to keep you guessing! The answer will be revealed in the next email. Stay tuned for a deeper dive into another historical site in next month's edition.

Let's take this journey together as we reflect on our legacy and inspire the future!

Do you have a memorial or dedication area near you and would like this to be featured in the newsletter? Please contact us to have this included in Discover the Royal: RBWH-CC-Secretariat@health.qld.gov.au and teamroyal@health.qld.gov.au.

Did you know we have a famous War Dog Memorial on the RBWH campus?

Her name was 'Smoky'. Smoky was found in 1944 in an abandoned foxhole in the New Guinea jungle and eventually sold to Corporal William A. Wynne for two Australian pounds. Smoky accompanied Wynne on his travels from New Guinea, to Australia, to Biak Island, to the Phillipines, Okinawa, and Korea and finally home to America. Smoky entertained troops and helped engineers build an airbase by running wire through pipes which saved time and soldiers' lives. *'The tiny Yorkshire Terrier became a decorated war heroine'*.

Corporal Smoky *'has the distinction of being the world's first therapy dog for Veterans suffering PTSD'*. Her work as a therapy dog continued for 12 years during and after World War II.



Image courtesy of Bill Wynne

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A wonderful memorial for Smoky is situated outside the Pulse Café (picture below). The memorial statue was unveiled at the RBWH in 2012 as a way of honouring all war and service animals – [A statue for Smoky, and other unsung heroes](#).



Fun Fact: Smoky, the dog in the helmet was named from Wynne bathing Smoky in his helmet on a daily basis to prevent ticks and keep her comfortable in the tropical heat.

You can read more about Smoky's story at [Smoky the Brave War Dog | Places of Pride](#). Staff Council has two books about Smoky if you would like to learn more about the extraordinary achievements of Smoky:

1. *Smoky the war Dog*, by Nigel Allsopp
2. *Yorkie Doodle Dandy, A memoir* by William A. Wynne

To continue the theme of therapy dogs, Team Royal recently organised a Puppy Pats and Chats with some cute puppies from Karmably - [Karmably - Home of Baby Goat, Lamb & Puppy Mindful Fun](#). The puppies were a huge success and provided staff an opportunity to spend time with some very cute puppies. Everyone had a smile on their face which recognises the importance of animal therapy as well as bringing us joy and laughter.

Trivia Question: Who was the first medical graduate to be trained wholly in Australia?

Team Royal (teamroyal@health.qld.gov.au) and **Staff Council**

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**We want to hear
from you**

