

History of Pathologists in Mosman, Cremorne and Neutral Bay 1975-2010

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Dr Howard Moore Rural Bank building Spit Junction

Dr Margaret Stuckey (possibly at the above) or in Military Rd with Dr Bruce Symonds (Gp)

The last of the in house pathologists who actually did pathology on site. They did not survive in practice as far as is known beyond the mid 70s.

The era of automation was well and truly upon the area and Australia

The largest pathologist in the area in the mid 1970s was Feagn and Roche who were located in the White House in Cowles Road. There were four partners. Drs Peter Roche , Leo Feagn, John Lynch and Peter Mcdonald.

Feagn and Roche were taken over by Hanley Moir who in turn where taken over by a Spanish corporation whose main business had been as a bus company. There was eventually a merger takeover by Douglass pathology to become Douglas Hanley Moir. Initially a large amount of their work came from the Mater Hospital at Crows Nest.

Douglass pathology

Bronte Douglass was medical graduate from South Australia a Seventh Day Adventist, teetotaler who as a medical student had gone to California and seen the first of the automated pathology machines. These could perform multiple tests very quickly and very cheaply. Legend has it that he started his practice prior to being registered employing pathologists. Bronte was not a qualified pathologist indeed he registered in NSW only by doing terms at Bankstown Hospital at night as the Casualty officer.

He had great people and business skills. Bronte built an Australian wide pathology practice. This he did by encouraging the pathologists to do the pathology, involving them financially, whilst he managed the business. In 1987 just prior to the great share market crash he took his group then Australian wide consisting of multiple pathology practices public onto the share market.

It was a disaster and made his company and himself personally a target for takeover. A west Australian mining company called Sonic Mining having spare cash and good experiences with two small west Australian pathology companies it had taken over, got involved in the late 1980s early 1990s.

They are now the biggest pathology group in Australia and New Zealand with practices in the USA and Europe. They are now known as Sonic Healthcare and are involved in many medical businesses other than pathology. In Mosman their pathology practice is known as Douglass Hanley Moir.

Palms Pathology was the privatized form of RNSH Pathology (public). It had no collection centres but did pick ups from various surgeries. Generally suffered from inefficiencies carried forward from its public service background

Other smaller pathology companies (Laverneys, East Coast) also existed without actual specific collecting centers.

Macquarie Pathology a large group owned by Dr Tom Wenkert (not a Pathologist) and partners also had no specific collection centers in this area. It was absorbed by Ed Batemans Primary Healthcare.