

Campbelltown and Camden now teaching hospitals

Students Sana Pathan, Philippa James and Jason Lau learn from Professor Annemarie Hennessy.



The launch of the inaugural Clinical School of the University of Western Sydney's School of Medicine saw Campbelltown and Camden become teaching Hospitals.

Launched by Premier Morris Iemma, the Macarthur Clinical School will train world class doctors in the local area, helping to ensure the people of south western Sydney continue to receive quality health care in the future.

The Clinical School is already drawing doctors with some of

the finest reputations in Australia, including the inaugural Clinical Dean Professor Brad Frankum, a respected immunologist; Professor Annemarie Hennessy, the inaugural Foundation Chair of medicine with an international reputation in the field of hypertension; Professor Reginald Lord, Foundation Professor of Surgery, and conjoint professors Associate Professor Stephen Fiorentina and Associate Professor Gillian Bishop, both respected clinicians at Campbelltown Hospital.

The Macarthur Clinical School

is comprised of a Clinical Skills Laboratory; tutorial rooms including patient examination couches and one-way viewing glass for observation; a state of the art student computer centre; administration and office space.

In the first year, students will attend the Clinical School once a week for tutorials and hands-on teaching to help them develop their skills, such as how to interact with patients in ward situations, how to conduct physical examinations, take patient histories, and how to use medical equipment.

Amanda Larkin, general manager Camden/Campbelltown Hospitals and QVMH; **Geoff Corrigan MP**; **Prof Neville Yeomans**, Foundation Dean of Medicine-School of Medicine UWS; **Prof Janice Reid AM**, Vice-Chancellor UWS; **Premier Morris Iemma**, **Graham West MP**; **Phil Costa**, Mayor of Wollondilly Shire and the **Hon John Hatzistergos MLC**.



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From the Chief Executive

Mike Wallace
Chief Executive
Sydney South West
Area Health Service

2007 is an exciting year for SSWAHS as we embark on some major hospital redevelopments and service improvement initiatives.

The opening of the University of Western Sydney Clinical School at Campbelltown Hospital signifies the transformation of a district hospital into a major tertiary facility. Training doctors locally will enable SSWAHS to continue to provide quality health care to the rapidly growing population of south western Sydney. SSWAHS welcomes the arrival of the first year of students and wishes them well in their training.

An ambitious capital works program continues to progress. The new Mental Health Precinct at Concord Hospital is well ahead of its construction schedule with 40 per cent of contract works complete. This 174 bed project will enable the relocation of mental health services from Rozelle Hospital.

Demolition is expected to commence for the Liverpool Stage II redevelopment by June 2007. Design for the new facility is well advanced with tenders called for construction management of the project.

The new building will accommodate additional inpatient, critical care, ambulatory care, procedures and diagnostic services and include extensions to the education facilities of the hospital. This provides Liverpool Hospital with critical infrastructure to support its population base to 2016 and beyond.

The new laboratories and perioperative suite are now complete in Stage II of the RPA redevelopment and in commission stage. The new peri-operative, endoscopy and bronchoscopy suites will provide patients with seamless entry into the hospital, improving both service delivery and efficiency. The new laboratories will enhance the laboratory working environment, facilitating collaboration between services and improving work flows.

Stage 2b of the redevelopment program is due to commence by mid 2007, heralding the final phase of construction on

the RPA campus. The renovation of the Victoria Pavilion will complete the refurbishment of Laboratory Services and provide a new outpatient pharmacy on Level 5, giving access to outpatient pharmacy services on the Eastern Campus.

On the Clinical Redesign front, the Concord Patient Flow Project is now nearing completion of the diagnostic, solution design and implementation planning phase. The Concord team and management committee have developed some exciting plans which build on the excellent work undertaken in the past year. Solutions can be grouped around ED and Inpatient operations and management of patient flows. Implementation of short term solutions include the development of a "demand management unit" and a series of support tools and the standardising of referral processes. A number of medium to long term solutions will be progressively introduced over 2007.

Mike Wallace
Chief Executive

Ashcroft High
project supports
parents and
students



Dramatherapist Joanna Jaaniste, parent Paula Pierce, student Laura Stewart Mental Health Carer Support Worker Janette Hannaford.



Member for Campbelltown, Mr Graham West, assistant gm Liverpool, Fairfield, Macarthur and Wingecaribee community health, Kerry Plumer and John Hatzistergos MLC outside the new central Campbelltown Community Health Centre

Campbelltown Community Health back in town

Services available at the new centre are:

- Speech Pathology
- Sexual Assault Services
- Sexual Health Services
- Counselling
- Multicultural Health

The Campbelltown Community Health Centre was officially reopened at its new central Queen Street location by the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC.

Services from Campbelltown Community Health Centre were relocated to existing community health facilities in Macarthur in August 2005 due to safety concerns.

“The new building provides improved access to quality healthcare in an easily accessible and central community health centre for Campbelltown residents,”

Mr Hatzistergos said.

“The Queen Street premises, a former doctor’s surgery, is being leased to provide a friendly and pleasant environment for the people of Campbelltown to receive care.”

Liverpool and Fairfield Mental Health Service recently collaborated with Ashcroft High School and its parents’ association on the Liverpool Council funded project *Come and I Will Show my Culture*.

With the aim of increasing cultural understanding and supporting parents of school refusers, the project also increased parents’ awareness of adolescent mental health issues

through a series of drama therapy workshops. Joanna Jaaniste, project developer and drama therapist at the Liverpool and Fairfield Mental Health Service, said the project had greatly assisted parents.

“Parents of adolescents have a harder job than ever today as they help their children to be future good citizens.

“By working with their questions and role-playing actual situations, parents learnt to understand how their children see issues, which helped them make compromises and empower their children accordingly,” said Ms Jaaniste.

Involving the community in health care

“This philosophy of participation underpins the provision of our health services, and means better delivery of health care by ‘working with’, rather than ‘doing to’, people.”

Professor Jeremy Wilson, chairman of the Area Health Advisory Council



The SSWAHS Community Participation Framework setting out the Area’s formal community participation processes was officially launched at the Liverpool Catholic Club. Consumer Community Council members received certificates of appreciation for their involvement in the framework and those who have completed community representative orientation training also received certificates of completion at the luncheon.

Community participation means involving consumers, carers and communities in the planning, delivery and evaluation of health care, and there is growing evidence to support its importance in health care delivery.

SSWAHS has been a pioneer in the development of a formal structure for community participation. Around 200 community representatives have now received training in the processes set out in the new framework.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Jeremy Wilson, chairman of the Area Health Advisory Council (AHAC) said the framework demonstrates an increased commitment to community participation across SSWAHS.

“The Framework reflects a stronger and more structured commitment to community participation across the health service,” Professor Wilson said.

Gwen Scotman, the consumer Consultant for the Liverpool/Fairfield Mental Health Service receiving her Certificate of Appreciation from Dr Teresa Anderson.

“This philosophy of participation underpins the provision of our health services, and means better delivery of health care by ‘working with’, rather than ‘doing to’, people.” +

Helping young people fight depression



The Corner Youth Health Service at Bankstown Community Health Centre recently launched *The Art of Fighting Depression*, a resource kit for workers supporting young people experiencing depression.

The kit contains a set of conversation cards featuring comic-strip artworks by local artists, with questions designed to facilitate discussion about depression and suicide.

The Corner Youth Health Service found depression and suicide issues were the main reasons teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 were referred for counselling.



Watering Wounds

According to a recent study by the University of Western Sydney and SSWAHS, water that is suitable for drinking could be a simple, cheap and effective way to clean wounds.

Professor Rhonda Griffiths, director of the South Western Sydney Centre for Applied Nursing Research, said in the absence of existing research the study was undertaken to determine whether the established practice of showering leg ulcers, common in the community setting, is a safe practice.

A six-week double-blind, randomised controlled trial was completed with Fairfield and Hoxton Park community health centre patients who did not have a weak immune system, deep wounds or burns.

“None of the wounds cleansed with tap water showed signs of infection and we found no indication that the healing rate was slower,” Professor Griffiths said.

“We came to the conclusion that where there is access to tap water that is suitable for drinking, it is an effective and certainly cost effective solution for cleansing wounds.”

Water for Wound Cleansing, by joint SSWAHS/UWS researchers Ms Ritin Fernandez, Professor Rhonda Griffiths and Ms Cheryl Ussia, has become one of the top 25 accessed reviews in The Cochrane Library, an international library which holds more than 2,500 systematic reviews of health care interventions. +

Professor Rhonda Griffiths

“We came to the conclusion that where there is access to tap water that is suitable for drinking, it is an effective and certainly cost effective solution for cleansing wounds.”

Professor Rhonda Griffiths, director of the South Western Sydney Centre for Applied Nursing Research

Social worker Therese King said the cards aim to encourage young people to talk about depression in an open and meaningful way.

“The questions on the cards explore the pressures on young people to meet certain expectations and ask what young people can do to resist these pressures,” Ms King said.

KEEPING IT CLEAN: Sterilisation technician Mariama Djalo with the new batch washer disinfectors with Air Glide System at RPA.



New \$1 million sterilising unit boosts RPA patient safety

RPA has invested \$1 million in an automated, computerised system to decontaminate and sterilise operating theatre equipment.

The bank of eight new, batch washers/disinfectors with air glide system is the biggest of its kind in Australia, and the second largest in the world.

The new equipment improves safety for patients and staff in the Theatre Sterile Supply Unit (TSSU), doubling the length of time the equipment is treated.

"This investment in new equipment reduces manual handling for staff, tracks inventory and improves patient safety," executive director of RPA, Di Gill said.

"We have stringent quality assurance checks in place to ensure that all equipment is accounted for, in working order and that no cross-over or contamination occurs.

"Equipment required back in theatres urgently can be sorted, cleaned, decontaminated, sterilised and dried in less than three hours." +

"RPA is constantly striving to improve our already high standards of safety. This investment reduces manual handling for staff and improves patient safety."

Executive director of RPA, Dr Di Gill

HOW IT WORKS: Decontamination and Sterilisation

- Dirty equipment in closed carts is sent down by elevator to the TSSU from the 22 operating theatres directly overhead.
- At the TSSU it is sorted into computer-programmed racks.
- A conveyer belt delivers the contaminated equipment into the next available machine in the bank.
- The machine reads the pre-programmed sensor and washes, decontaminates and disinfects the equipment to Australian standards.
- After decontamination, the equipment is sorted into trays containing everything necessary for each specific type of operation. Each piece is checked to ensure every part is accounted for, nothing has been left behind in the operating theatre and all are in perfect working order.
- The trays are wrapped and go to the next bank of machines where they are sterilised by steam or hydrogen peroxide.

SSWAHS hospitals increase ED speed and effectiveness

Despite an increased number of patients, SSWAHS hospitals built on their improved emergency admission performance in the year to October 2006, increasing the number of patients admitted to hospital within eight hours of beginning active treatment in the ED.

- Bankstown Hospital improved its emergency admission performance by 28 per cent
- Bowral Hospital's performance remained stable
- Camden remained stable, admitting all patients within eight hours
- Canterbury Hospital improved performance by 3 per cent
- Concord Hospital improved by 11 per cent
- Fairfield Hospital improved performance by 23 per cent

■ Liverpool Hospital improved performance by 12 per cent

■ RPA improved by 18 per cent

Chief executive, Mike Wallace, said that across the Area 84.6 per cent of patients were admitted to a ward within eight hours of beginning active treatment in the ED, up from 63 per cent a year earlier.

"Staff across our hospitals have worked hard to improve the experience of all patients whether they are attending for elective surgery or presenting as emergency patients," Mike Wallace said.

"The number of people presenting at Emergency Departments grew by almost 11 per cent in the year to October 2006.

"Yet more of these are being admitted to a hospital bed if they need one within hours," he said.

"New systems such as the Fast Track system at Bankstown hospital have enabled patients categorised as less urgent to be treated in record time by treating them in a separate area of the ED with dedicated staff." +

RPA TV series needs your help



Channel 9's highly successful and widely respected RPA TV series enters its 13th season this year with a record number of episodes planned.

The key to the enormous popularity of the show is the patients, their doctors and RPA support staff who appear on it. The RPA series shows viewers the latest amazing surgical procedures, as well as giving them the chance to share in the personal journeys of the patients.

"Viewers are inspired, comforted and sometimes awestruck by the courage of patients and the dedication of RPA staff," said producer Carol Long.

Carol is on the lookout for suitable patients of all ages who want to share their story, with

the personality to help take the viewers with them on their journey. It might feel like a lonely road for patients fighting an illness but often sharing it helps others who are going through the same thing.

Carol needs the help of RPA staff to find interesting cases, so if you know of a patient keen to share their story please contact:

Carol Long, Producer

T: 02 9515 5552

M: 0416 091239

Campbelltown Midwifery Group Practice open for business

(l to r) Member for Campbelltown, Graeme West, professor of midwifery Pat Brodie, general manager Campbelltown Hospital Amanda Larkin and midwife Rochelle Bonning



“When women build trust and relationships with their midwives through their pregnancy the likelihood of good outcomes is greatly enhanced.”

Professor Pat Brodie, SSWAHS professor of midwifery

The Campbelltown Hospital Midwifery Group Practice was officially opened in December by the member for Campbelltown, Graham West.

Midwifery Group Practice is a service which allows women with low-risk pregnancies to see the same midwife before, during and after birth and is a well supported model associated with improved benefits for both mother and baby. It is currently being successfully trialed in a number of hospitals in the country, including Camden, where it has proven very popular with local women.

SSWAHS professor of midwifery, Pat Brodie, said the group practice was the result of much deliberation by an expert taskforce of senior obstetricians and midwives, with input from the local community and local physicians.

“The group practice is an exciting opportunity for Campbelltown to demonstrate advances in midwife-led maternity services in line with international models and NSW Health best practice,” Professor Brodie said.

“When women build trust and relationships with their midwives through their pregnancy the likelihood of good outcomes is greatly enhanced.” +

Planning matters

A total of 70 people participated in a staff forum at Bankstown Hospital to inform the development of an area-wide maternity services plan.

Participants included maternity services staff, local non-government services, GPs, representatives from the Area Health Advisory Council and consumer/ community council plus Dr Greg Stewart, director Population Health, Planning and Performance.

The forum was chaired by Professor Stephen Leeder from the Australian Health Policy Institute, Sydney University and signalled the beginning of the consultative process for the plan.

Participants highlighted the positive aspects of our current high-quality maternity services and provided expert comment on improving current models for our diverse and growing community. Focus group consultations are also being planned for consumers. A generic email address has been established for any further comments from forum participants: SSWAHS.MaternityServices@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Development of the obesity prevention and management plan is progressing well. Thank you to all staff who completed the mapping of services questionnaire recently advertised on the intranet bulletin board.

Don't know who to contact in planning? A generic email address is now available for any enquiries: area.serviceplanning@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Lou-Anne Blunden, Director Health Services Planning

New fundraising
cookbook for Rozelle
Hospital





Overseas nurses farewelled in style

(l to r): Christina Quist, Anne Louise Skalborg, Kerry Russell, Lian Yong, Beverley Lee and Janella Feeny

A very warm and happy function took place in the Thomas and Rachel Moore Education Centre at Liverpool Hospital when 23 students from Denmark and the UK were presented with certificates of completion of the first formal SSWAHS program for overseas nursing students.

Area director of nursing and midwifery, Kerry Russell, told the excited assembly that nursing is a truly international profession and career opportunities are enhanced by partnerships.

“Exchange experiences enrich our lives and the 23 students from Denmark and the UK have added enormous value to our profession over the course of the program and will influence the way in which we practice in the future,” Ms Russell said.

Ms Russell also thanked the great many staff who supported the program over and above the call of duty including the clinical nurse consultants who provided supervision to the students, Lian Yong for looking after their emotional well being and Sue Manlik, who handled visas, travel arrangements, publicity and the website. Christina Quist and Anne Louise Skalborg spoke on behalf of the Danish contingent and said they were very glad they had received the opportunity to come to Australia.

“The experience was good, exciting, difficult, challenging and funny. Nursing in a different culture made us reflect on both our country’s health system as well as Australia’s,” they said.

Christina and Anne Louise said that they’d had to fight homesickness, and face many challenges that would make them more independent both as nurses and as people.

“We will be taking more home than we realise just yet.” ✨

“The experience was good, exciting, difficult, challenging and funny. Nursing in a different culture made us reflect on both our country’s health system as well as Australia’s.”

Christina Quist and Anne Louise Skalborg

Each year staff in the Intensive Psychiatric Care Unit (IPCU) at Rozelle Hospital raise money to provide the patients of the unit with extras not normally available through regular funding. Many patients admitted to the unit arrive off the street with little or no belongings and do not have access to immediate funds of their own. For fundraising this year they have published a cookbook containing a wide variety of

tantalising recipes for entrees, salads, main courses and desserts plus recipes for children – and even an effective hangover cure! This cookbook is excellent value at \$10 and would make a wonderful gift.

If you are interested in purchasing the cookbook please contact IPCU staff members:
Glenda NUM 1
Morgan NUM 3
Dian RN
Phone: 02 9556 9100



“Don't worry about people looking at you. People tend to watch the good dancers, not the newer ones.”

Sue Baron

Sue Baron, Band Manager and 50's dancer

Sue is a senior radiation therapist in the Radiation Oncology department at RPA. On Friday and Saturday nights she dons her bobby sox and dances up a storm, usually at one of Roc-A-Tac's gigs, the band she manages.

“I started dancing six years ago after going out with a girl I met on jury duty whose boyfriend was in a 50's band. I enjoyed it so much I decided to take lessons,” she said.

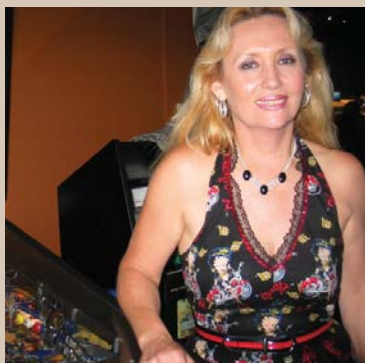
“I learned how to dance and started going to clubs with real dance floors, which are so much better than dancing on sticky pub carpet. I was talking to the band (Roc-A-Tac) one night and they said they'd lost a gig and didn't know why so I rang the club and found out. They asked me to be their manager after that and now they are the main 50's and 60's band on the club circuit.

“I was always a bit of a creative dresser and since I've been managing the band I wear a 50's skirt. The rock 'n' rollers have been around for a long time and dressing up was starting to die out. People wear their 50's gear to see Roc-A-Tac because they know they won't be the only one there. Regardless of whether or not I'm wearing sequins I always wear socks and don't dance in high heels,” Sue said.

“It's a great way to stay fit. I only take a break when the band does so I'm dancing for almost four hours. It's strenuous, like any sport really.

“It's very important to have something to do outside of work, especially in this job. I used to wake up in the middle of the night sometimes, anxious about something at work. Now I sleep so well, it helps me switch off completely from work.”

Sue has some good advice for people who might like to try dancing but feel too self conscious. “Don't worry about people looking at you. People tend to watch the good dancers, not the newer ones,” she said. +



Great opportunity to get active



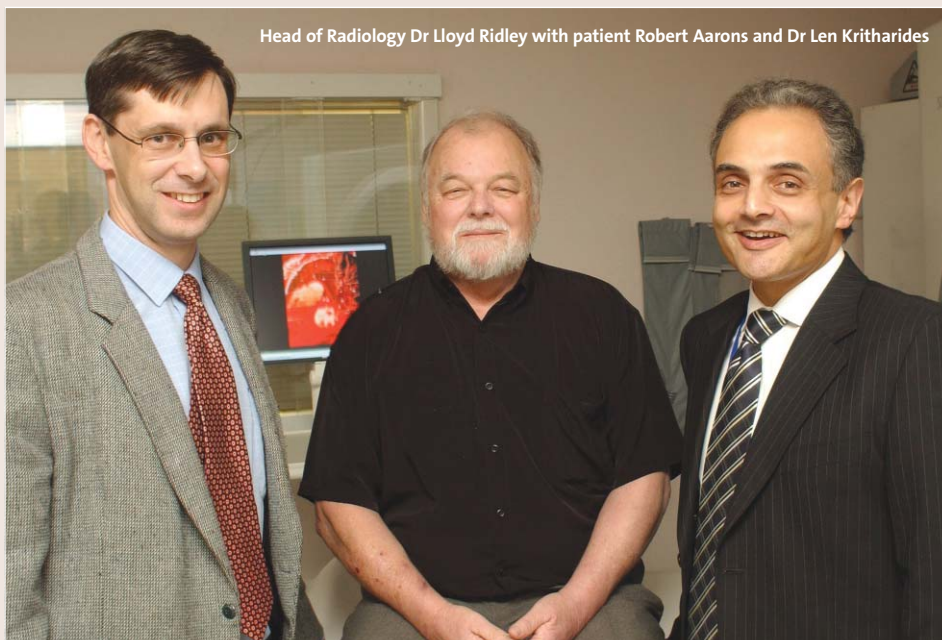
Bankstown showcases local artists

Bankstown Hospital's Arts for Health Program exhibited an impressive collection of work by Bankstown Seniors College students Ramin Saleem, Barakat Noor and Victoria Faamoana.

Arts coordinator, Marily Cintra said the artwork demonstrated the quality of the art education at Bankstown Senior College.

"The artwork is very contemporary and expressive, and includes mixed media, digital media, painting and drawing. It speaks of the students' feelings and experiences as young people, refugees, or migrants," Ms Cintra said.

"We are pleased to have such a great partnership with the Senior College, whose support for the Arts for Health Program is really valued. These pieces will be an excellent addition to the hospital gallery." +



New generation CT scanners

Researchers from Concord Hospital's cardiology and radiology departments are using fast and powerful new generation CT scanners to study coronary bypass grafts and identify if they are still open within the first year after surgery.

The study results were presented at the inaugural cardiovascular CT conference held at Concord Hospital in November.

Nearly 16,000 coronary bypass operations are performed in Australia every year. While the majority of grafts last for 10 to 15 years, up to 10 per cent close within the first year, putting the patient at risk of further heart attacks.

Study leader, associate professor Leonard Kritharides, director of cardiology at Concord Hospital, said the main clinical benefit of using CT is that the procedure is much less invasive than conventional coronary angiography and is 95 percent accurate.

Until now it has been difficult for doctors to take reliable pictures of the heart using scanning technology because of the heart's rapid movements - one beat per second.

However new CT scanners enable doctors to take extremely detailed pictures of the heart's vessels, taking up to 400 pictures per second. Concord Hospital took delivery of its dual source 64-slice CT scanner in December. +

"The main clinical benefit of using CT is that the procedure is much less invasive than conventional coronary angiography and is 95 per cent accurate."

Associate professor Leonard Kritharides, director of cardiology, Concord Hospital

SSWAHS staff have the chance to join a new walking program by taking part in a research project. The project is being jointly conducted by the NSW Centre for Physical Activity and Health, and SSWAHS Health Promotion Service and is supported by the National Heart Foundation. A FREE pedometer and Step by Step guidebook is provided to sedentary staff wanting to get active.

The program is easy and individually tailored. It does not require fact-to-face meetings or major time commitments. To get started, call Janelle at Health Promotion on 9828 5900.

SSWAHS staff making a difference where it counts

Gaye Hudson with her favourite patient and some of the Philippino children before their surgery



Taking two weeks leave in January from her work as SSWAHS area disaster coordinator, Gaye Hudson didn't have time for post-Christmas sales, going to the beach or relaxing much at all.

Instead, Gaye went to the Philippines with a team from Interplast Australia, a non-profit organisation which provides voluntary medical teams to undertake programs of plastic and reconstructive surgery in developing countries.

The team performed 96 operations in nine days on local children who required cleft palate or burns surgery. Their youngest patient was ten weeks old.

Gaye was part of a team comprised of two anaesthetists, two surgeons and two nurses. Associate Professor Peter Haertsch, head of Plastic Reconstructive and Burns Surgery at Concord Hospital, was the surgeon on Gaye's mission. Peter has been a regular Interplast volunteer since 1987 and has made a total of 27 Interplast fortnightly trips since that time.

"Each trip costs \$50,000 for air fares, accommodation, on-ground costs and equipment. We perform in excess of 100 major operations at a cost of \$500 each.

In Australia, the equivalent operation would cost \$5000 so it's a very cost effective form of aid," said Prof Haertsch.

Gaye saw firsthand how \$500 can change a child's life in a very dramatic way.

"Without a cleft lip and palate operation, the lip splits wide open as the child grows, they have difficulty eating, and they become a social outcast reduced to begging or hidden away in villages," Gaye said.

"Sadly, a lot of little kids also receive burns from oil lamps out in the country. One girl was unable to use her hands because of burns adhesions. The surgeons performed an operation which enabled her to use her thumb so she could at least hold things."

Gaye described conditions in the hospital as 'very basic'.

"In the Philippine hospital system, patients need to provide and pay for their own medicines," she said.

"It was a wonderful experience to go to a country and assist in providing care to people who otherwise could not afford any form of treatment and make a difference to so many lives."

Gaye Hudson, SSWAHS area disaster coordinator

"Because there is no post-operative care, they also need to be relatively healthy or have a supportive family.

"There were some kids we couldn't operate on because their hemoglobin was too low, they were malnourished or they had a temperature. Some children also suffer from rickets and worms. Out of 120 children brought to us, we could only operate on about 90," Gaye said.

"The experience taught me the importance of teamwork, how to work with a lot less than you're used to, and utilise the resources on hand. It also made me reflect on and appreciate what we have here.

"It was a wonderful experience to go to a country and assist in providing care to people who otherwise could not afford any form of treatment and make a difference to so many lives," she said.

"I would definitely like to do some more projects like this." +

Interplast always needs financial support and volunteer doctors and nurses. For further information please visit www.interplast.com.au



Feting 50 years at Fairfield Hospital

Fairfield Hospital's Christmas fete, held in the hospital's grounds in late November 2006, marked the final event in the hospital's 50th anniversary calendar.

Featuring a host of fun activities including a display of Hot Rod cars, pony rides, face painting and jumping castles, and sponsored by SGE Credit Union, proceeds from the day will be used to make patients' stay in Fairfield Hospital more comfortable.

Caption: Children at the Fairfield Hospital Fete

TOE-to-heart: new non-invasive cardiology service for Fairfield Hospital



John Hatzistergos welcomed the introduction of the TOE service to Fairfield Hospital.

Early February saw the launch of the new transoesophageal echocardiography (TOE) service at Fairfield Hospital by the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, and Ninos Khoshaba, candidate for Smithfield.

The TOE service uses an ultrasound camera inserted via the patient's oesophagus, and allows for close examination of the heart's valves, and identification of any blood clots, holes or lesions in the heart.

In only fifteen minutes, the TOE procedure enables doctors to safely administer electric cardioversion treatment for patients with irregular heartbeats by identifying any existing blood clots in the heart; particularly in patients who have had a stroke, or congenital heart defects such as holes or lesions in the heart.

John Hatzistergos welcomed the introduction of the TOE service to Fairfield Hospital.

"The TOE service means more local residents now have access to a larger range of non-invasive cardiology services than ever before," he said.

One of a number of new non-invasive cardiology services introduced at Fairfield Hospital, the TOE service completes the hospital's 12-month development of cardiology services, and means it now has a fully developed non-invasive cardiac laboratory. +

"The TOE service means more local residents now have access to a larger range of non-invasive cardiology services than ever before."

The Hon John Hatzistergos MP

NEWS ROUND-UP

Staff changes

Congratulations to Dr Teresa Anderson who has taken on the role of area director of clinical operations. Glenda Cleaver, previously general manager of Bankstown Hospital, has been appointed general manager of Liverpool Hospital.

Mark Shepherd, previously general manager of Fairfield Hospital, has been appointed acting general manager of Bankstown Hospital. The new acting general manager at Fairfield Hospital is Anthony Schembri, who was previously area clinical director for Allied Health and Clinical Support in the western zone.

Dr Peter Kennedy, director of Clinical Governance, has been seconded to the Clinical Excellence Commission since 15 January 2007. Professor Hugh Dickson has been acting director of Clinical Governance during this period.

New director for the Centenary Institute

Professor Mathew Vadas has been appointed director of the Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology, taking over from Professor Antony Basten, who founded the Institute 15 years ago.

Professor Vadas is chair of the medical research advisory board of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation and is also a clinical professor of immunology and medicine at the University of Adelaide.

The Centenary Institute is a centre of excellence in medical research with a portfolio of projects in immunology and molecular medicine.

Former SSWAHS midwife wins award

Congratulations to former SSWAHS research midwife, Charlene Thornton, who was recently awarded the Salteri Family Young Achiever Award for Best Contribution to New Knowledge by a PhD student at the Heart Research Institute's awards.

As part of the Heart Research Institute's Vascular Immunology Research Group, Ms Thornton has developed clinical outcomes measures for mothers and babies after high blood pressure in pregnancy. These measures will allow a direct comparison between obstetric services around Australia and the world. They have also been adopted in British Columbia, Canada. +



Marily Cintra

Artist receives national award

Liverpool Arts Co-ordinator Marily Cintra was awarded the 2006 \$50,000 Ros Bower Award for her outstanding achievements in improving community wellbeing through the arts.

The annual award aims to recognise distinguished effort in fostering and furthering the philosophies and principles espoused by Rosalie Bower, founding director of the Australia Council's Community Arts Board.

Ms Cintra's work and lasting influence can be seen in the Quiet Dreaming Place at Liverpool Hospital. +

"For us, the only hope is for the arts to become part of the everyday lives of a majority and not a minority of the people."

Ros Bower



(l to r): Fairfield Hospital volunteers Betty Atterton, Judith Lowe, Jean Ingham, Helen Eid, Margaret Mason, Chris Storey, John Watt.

SSWAHS celebrates volunteers

Hospitals throughout SSWAHS celebrated International Volunteer Day with a series of special lunches and breakfasts thanking volunteers for their invaluable work.

Volunteers play a significant role in hospitals by participating in a wide range of activities including fundraising, pastoral care, meeting and greeting, and operating gift shops and information desks.

At RPA, volunteers were treated to a lunch at Pymont's Restaurant in Star City, while Bankstown, Fairfield, Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals celebrated with special functions on site.

RPA volunteer coordinator Rhonda Moore said the lunch was organised to give thanks to volunteers for the enormous contribution they make to the RPA community.

"RPA has a broad range of volunteers who generously give up their time to perform a variety of tasks including fundraising, patient transport, flower and paper deliveries, clerical work and much more," Rhonda said.

Glenda Cleaver, manager of Bankstown Hospital, said its 140 volunteers work tirelessly within the hospital and community, providing services to all wards and many departments as well as escorting patients and visitors throughout the hospital.

"The continued efforts of our fabulous volunteers are greatly appreciated, particularly their extensive fundraising efforts - only last year our volunteers assisted the Hospital Auxiliary in raising \$83,000," Glenda said.

The International Day of Volunteers is a United Nations initiative celebrating the contribution of volunteers to their local communities. +

"RPA has a broad range of volunteers who generously give up their time to perform a variety of tasks including fundraising, patient transport, flower and paper deliveries, clerical work and much more"

Rhonda Moore, RPA volunteer coordinator

John Hatzistergos, Member for Drummoyne, Angela D'Amore and Professor Les Bokey testing the new technology in the digital operating theatre at Concord.

(l to r) General manager of Campbelltown Hospital Amanda Larkin, member for Camden Geoff Corrigan, Tharawal representative Muriel Brandy, The Hon Cherie Burton, member for Campbelltown Graham West, Dr Greg Stewart, Dr Victor Storm



New Mental Health Unit opens in Campbelltown

A new \$6 million sub-acute Mental Health Unit was recently opened at Campbelltown Hospital by the Hon Cherie Burton.

The new unit will focus on the recovery and rehabilitation of patients presenting with mental illness for the first time or who have an emerging mental health disorder, with the aim of helping their safe return to the community

The new unit features 20 single bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Individual sitting rooms and courtyards shared between five and six rooms.

As well as having strong links with local community services, the new unit will provide a focus on healthy lifestyle and exercise and is equipped with a residents' kitchen where clients can cook for enjoyment and learn new skills.

The state of the art facility provides a welcome addition to the range of mental health services available to the residents of south western Sydney.

Most patients will be admitted to the service from acute facilities on the Campbelltown and Liverpool Hospital campuses once they are assessed as requiring less acute care. +

The state of the art facility provides a welcome addition to the range of mental health services available to the residents of south western Sydney.



Operating theatres go digital at Concord

Two new digital operating rooms, the first adult public integrated digital operating room facilities in NSW and one of only a few integrated digital facilities in Australia, were recently opened at Concord.

The new \$2 million theatres will be used predominately for minimally invasive surgery (MIS).

Professor Les Bokey, Director of Gastro and Liver Services, Eastern Zone of SSWAHS and Professor of Colo-rectal Surgery at the University of Sydney, said MIS helps reduce surgical trauma and assists with patient recovery.

"MIS, sometimes referred to as 'key-hole' surgery, uses digital camera and video technology to visualise the area of surgery within the body cavity, while thin (5-10mm) instruments are used to conduct the procedure through small incisions," Prof Bokey said.

"This helps to minimise surgical incision, reduce postoperative pain and improve surgical recovery.

"The sophistication of the digital operating rooms, which incorporate touch screen control of surgical equipment and the room environment, supports the delivery of such technologically advanced and innovative surgery."

Professor Bokey added that the digital operating rooms also enhance the hospital's educational and training capacity.

"The new rooms incorporate audiovisual capabilities which enable remote viewing of surgical procedures and interaction with the operating team from conference or lecture rooms for educational purposes," he said. +

Camden cyclists gear up



Beginner cyclists in Camden brushed up their technique recently at a cycling skills course organised by SSWAHS Health Promotion Unit. In addition to a ride along the Camden cycleway and a tour of historic Camden, participants also learnt about changing gears, applying brakes safely, various cycle manoeuvres and local cycleways.

Run by local bicycle group MACBUG, in partnership with Camden Hospital and Camden and Campbelltown councils, the cycling course is part of the work of the Health Promotion Unit, with the goal being to encourage more people to take up cycling as a form of exercise. For further information about cycling courses, please contact Jenni Bindon, Health Promotion Officer, 02 9515 9068.



Executive Secretary Respiratory and Critical Care Services and Imaging Services, Suzana Denadija with Lana Donaldson

Lana Donaldson retires

Lana has enjoyed a long and rewarding career in the health industry since training as a nurse at Concord Hospital in 1965. She worked as a registered nurse before moving into critical care services from 1974 to 1983. She worked in ED, ICU and became the nurse unit manager of CCU from 1978 to 1983. Lana then progressed into nursing staff development for the next five years, educating nurses in the workplace.

The next 12 years were spent as the clinical nursing consultant in cardiology/ cardiac rehabilitation until she took a position with the AHS in 1999.

The new millennium saw further career progression into the role of clinical manager for respiratory, critical care and imaging services covering RPA, Concord and Canterbury Hospitals.

The many people she has worked with over the years will miss Lana, who is looking forward to spending quality time with her family and friends on her farm. +

Do you know of a colleague who is retiring?

Contact *Healthtalk* on 9828 5702 or 9515 9643



“The management side can be challenging at times, but I find these challenges help to develop new projects and fresh ideas.”

Belinda Pellizzon, Nurse Unit Manager, Fairfield Hospital Emergency Department

My Job

Belinda Pellizzon, Nurse Unit Manager, Fairfield Hospital Emergency Department speaks to Healthtalk about her job

There are many facets to my job and every day is different.

My am responsible for staff rostering, ensuring a safe working environment and managing patient flow. I am also responsible for meeting Department of Health benchmarks, which means preparing reports and collecting data, then disseminating this information to staff as well as budgeting, recruitment, troubleshooting situations and handling patient complaints.

I began working in ED 12 years ago. During this time I gained CNS (clinical nurse specialist) status and acted in the position of NUM ED on several occasions.

In 2000 I was seconded as after hours nurse manager, and in 2004 I was offered the role of acting NUM ED, and felt the job was meant for me. In 2006 I was

permanently recruited to the role.

The management side can be challenging at times, but I find these challenges help to develop new projects and fresh ideas.

I make sure I work clinically each week, which I really enjoy, in order to maintain my nursing skills.

What is your greatest achievement

Becoming NUM ED, which has allowed me to implement a new system within the Emergency Department here at Fairfield Hospital that has improved efficiency.

How do you like to unwind?

By spending time with my two children, husband and family.

Favourite holiday destination?

Anywhere away from the hustle and bustle of the city!



Bankstown acting director of nursing and midwifery, Jon-Michael Amesbury with Linda Byrnes.

Celebrating nursing at Bankstown Hospital

Bankstown Hospital’s Nursing Services’ inaugural Annual Meeting – held under the banner of ‘Celebrating Nursing’ – showcased the latest research, initiatives and service developments by nurses at the hospital.

Throughout the day, nursing professionals presented the latest innovations from their different specialities, ranging from wound management techniques to falls prevention from the aged care areas.

Awards were also presented to three outstanding nurses.

Gayle Cheung was named Bankstown Hospital Nurse of the Year for her dedicated and professional approach to patient care.

Nicole McGreal received the NSW Nurses Association Award for Clinical Excellence for her work on the Vocational Education and Training scheme, which was recently commended by the NSW Minister for Health, John Hatzistergos.

Linda Byrnes nurse unit manager of the paediatric ward, was presented with the Bankstown Hospital Nursing Executive Award. +



Wheels for Life \$37,000 donation

Patients at Campbelltown Hospital are benefiting from new equipment purchased with a \$37,000 donation from Paul Wakeling Motors' *Wheels for Life* program.

Amanda Larkin, general manager of Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals, and Queen Victoria Memorial Home, said the car dealership had demonstrated exceptional support for both hospitals.

"Since 1997, Paul Wakeling Motors' *Wheels for Life* program has raised nearly \$460,000 for Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals," Ms Larkin said.

"This latest donation helped us purchase four phototherapy lights to treat jaundice in babies, a mobile shower trolley and a vital signs monitor."

Scott Wakeling, managing director of Paul Wakeling Motors, said the *Wheels for Life* program allowed the 21-year old Campbelltown business to give something back to the local community.

"We donate a percentage of each car sale to the *Wheels for Life* program, raising on average \$40,000 per year for equipment purchases at Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals," Mr Wakeling said. +

Left to right: Amanda Larkin, general manager, Melissa Cooke, NUM Special Care Nursery, Scott Wakeling and Paul Wakeling, Paul Wakeling Motor Group

"Since 1997, Paul Wakeling Motors' Wheels for Life program has raised nearly \$460,000 for Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals."

Amanda Larkin, General Manager, Camden/Campbelltown Hospital

Students pull their socks up for Canterbury Hospital





Dr Ted Wu, recognised for mentoring young doctors at RPA.

RPA doctor wins award

Dr Ted Wu, director of Clinical Training and endocrinologist at RPA, has been named as the Geoff Marel Award recipient for 2006 by the Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET) in recognition of excellence in the support of junior doctors.

Dr Wu received the award for his work running the orientation program for interns, supporting overseas trained doctors and doctors in difficulty, and the development of a streamlined system of ward admissions for after hours Emergency Department patients. He has also implemented systems to develop teaching skills amongst clinicians.

Dr Wu said that the award reflects the excellent culture of teaching, support and supervision of interns and residents at RPA.

“Even though it is a very large and busy hospital, RPA is still able to help junior doctors reach their fullest potential, regardless of their background or abilities when they first start here,” he said. +



Left to right: Dr Teresa Anderson farewells Liverpool Hospital's director of nursing Leanne Mills

Farewell to Leanne Mills

Many former colleagues attended a farewell for Leanne Mills, director of Nursing and Midwifery Services at Liverpool Hospital to acknowledge her hard work and achievements during her time at the hospital.

Leanne began working at Liverpool Hospital ten years ago as the divisional director of Nursing for Medicine, before being appointed director of Nursing, where her leadership was instrumental in improving nursing services. She will also be remembered for her wicked sense of humour which helped staff cope with some of the many challenges they faced. In 2004 Leanne also spent nine months at Campbelltown Hospital supporting the nursing service during a very difficult period.

SSWAHS congratulates Leanne on her new role as director of Nursing and Midwifery Services at St George Hospital, and wishes her well with this new challenge. +

SSWAHS congratulates Leanne on her new role as director of Nursing and Midwifery Services at St George Hospital

Students at St Mel's Primary School in Campsie have raised \$280 for Canterbury Hospital's children's ward through a Silly Sock fundraising day. Staff and students from the school presented the cheque to the Gumnut ward on Tuesday 5 December 2006.

In October 2006, St Mel's students donned their silliest socks and made a gold coin donation to take part in the Silly Sock fundraising day.

Gary Miller, general manager of Canterbury Hospital, said he is pleased to see the local community showing its support for the hospital.

“We are very grateful to St Mel's Primary School for this donation which was used to purchase DVDs for patients in the Children's Ward.”

Busby Auxiliary raises funds and recognition

Busby Auxiliary was formed in 1984 and currently has around 15 members.

Liverpool Hospital's Busby Auxiliary has been busy again, this time raising a staggering \$65,150 for equipment including a vital signs monitor, bladder scanner, a patient lifting hoist and a dialysis machine.

The Busby Auxiliary's efforts have not gone unnoticed by the wider community. At the 2006 Liverpool City Council awards, the Auxiliary was presented with the *Companion of the Order of Liverpool*, the highest level award, in recognition of its 22 years of service.

Busby also received the Sir Norman Knox Rose Bowl from the United Hospital Auxiliaries State Conference. This award is given to the Auxiliary that raises the most money in the Sydney metropolitan area and Busby has received this award a total of seven times.

Busby Auxiliary was formed in 1984 and currently has around 15 members. +

Members of the Busby Auxiliary receive the *Companion of the Order of Liverpool* at the Liverpool City Council Awards function.

