

8 May 2014

Bowral Hospital celebrates International Nurses Day

Bowral & District Hospital will celebrate and thank nursing staff for their commitment to patient care and clinical excellence during International Nurses Day celebrations on Monday 12 May.

Bowral & District Hospital Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery Ms Karen Kenmir said nurses are the backbone of our health system, with the majority of people relying on their outstanding commitment to patient care at some point in their lives.

“Nurses are at the forefront of patient care and treatment, from the moment the patient arrives at the Hospital until well after they are discharged,” Ms Kenmir said.

“They possess advanced clinical knowledge that is vital for improving the overall health and wellbeing of patients and supporting the healthcare team.

“International Nurses Day provides us with an opportunity to recognise the outstanding contribution that nurses make to healthcare throughout the year.

“This year as the Hospital celebrates 125 years of caring for the local community, we reflect on how much nursing and hospital conditions have changed.

“Without the technological and medical advances we have today, life at Bowral & District Hospital would have been very different in the 1880s.

“There was no water supply and no hot water. Water was drawn from a well in the ground and an underground tank near the building.

“There were no telephones, no electricity and not even any gaslight. There was no sewerage so the night cart came twice a week to empty the pans.

“The early matrons were responsible for patient care seven days a week, 24 hours a day. They were also responsible for the day-to-day management of the Hospital including the inventory of stores and equipment and sometimes even for the cooking, scrubbing and cleaning,” she said.

Ms Kenmir said while conditions and roles for nurses in hospitals had changed substantially over the past 125 years, the dedication nurses show and the invaluable role they play in helping the Hospital provide quality health care to the community remained the same.

Celebrations for International Nurses Day will be combined with International Midwives Day to recognise all nurses and midwives at Bowral Hospital. Activities will include:

- Staff BBQ Lunch, kindly supported by Bowral and Mittagong Rotary
- Exhibition of historical photos of the hospital for the past 125 years

International Nurses Day is officially held on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale who is recognised as the founder of modern nursing. The theme for this year's event is 'Nurses: A Force for Change – A vital resource for health'.

International Midwives Day is officially celebrated on 5 May and the theme for 2014 is "Midwives changing the world one family at a time".