

Date: 14 October 2014

## **125 year anniversary garden springs to life**

Bowral & District Hospital staff have a peaceful place to unwind following the unveiling of the new Quasquicentennial Garden today as part of the Hospital's 125 year anniversary.

The garden was given a makeover by a team of dedicated staff volunteers led by Bowral & District General Physician, Dr Simon Grant, a local expert on maple trees and a member of the Highlands Garden Society NSW.

Bowral & District Hospital General Manager Alison Derrett said the garden embraced the Hospital's history, featuring stones from the original hospital's gates.

"The gardens had always been an important part of the Hospital's identity.

"In December 1889 a man was employed once a week in summer, and once a month in winter to give attention to the grounds.

"In 1897, fifty pinus insignis trees were donated by the Director General of Forests and were planted along the Hospital's southern boundary.

"For many years a large vegetable garden was maintained and the wardsman was responsible for milking the hospital cow. About a dozen fruit trees provided fresh fruit in season and the hospital's fowls provided the kitchen with fresh eggs.

"While the purpose of the gardens have changed over the years, I can see that the pride that Hospital staff have in them remains strong.

"I'd like to congratulate the staff who volunteered many hours of their time to create this beautiful space," Ms Derrett said.

"I know that gardening and the growing of maples is a particular specialty of Dr Grant's and I can see that the garden will become even more spectacular as the maples and flowers mature.

"The grounds of Bowral & District Hospital are beautiful and there are many quiet spots for patients and their visitors to enjoy, so it's wonderful that staff now have their own special place to enjoy their lunch breaks or relax after work," she said.

The garden is home to two special locals, a magpie that staff have lovingly nicknamed Quas and Qui, a dive-bombing honey eater who recently hatched a chick in the tree beside the new garden.