Worth their weight in gold

The District celebrated the vital role nurses play in our healthcare system on International Nurses Day in May.

Among other activities, nurses were treated to a BBQ lunch at Bankstown, a high tea at Bowral, bed making competitions at Camden, a ‘pin the lamp of Florence’ competition at Campbelltown, an award ceremony at Fairfield and a dance group performance at Liverpool.

District Director of Nursing Kung Lim said nurses played an invaluable role in helping our Hospitals provide quality healthcare to the community.

“A nurse’s role is crucial and has come a long way over the years. Not only do they provide important patient care, but they also possess advanced clinical knowledge and provide essential support to other members of the health care team.

“Nurses are the backbone of our health system, with the most people relying on their outstanding commitment to patient care at some point in their lives.

“International Nurses Day is a great opportunity for us to thank and express our gratitude to our nurses.

“It also gives nurses the opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie and shared commitment to their profession,” she said.

This year the District held a Nursing and Midwifery Showcase, which highlighted programs and research that nurses are involved in across the LHD.

To watch a video or see more photos of International Nurses Day celebrations, visit the South Western Sydney Local Health District YouTube or Facebook page: youtube.com/SWSHealth facebook.com/SWSLHD
From the Chief Executive

Welcome to our new look newsletter, the District News. I hope you find it a useful and informative way to find out what’s been happening in our Local Health District over the past month. I encourage you to send in your stories and your achievements so that they can also be shared with staff and stakeholders from across the District. Following the many events held across the District to celebrate International Nurses Day, I’d like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the vital role nurses play in delivering the best possible care.

Thank you for the work you do every day to care for our patients – young and old – at our facilities and out in the community. Your efforts are tireless and very much appreciated. The celebration events held can be seen on the District’s new YouTube channel SWS Health TV and our Facebook page South Western Sydney Local Health District.

I am pleased to let you all know about the Respecting the Difference – Aboriginal Cultural Training Framework for NSW Health. We were the first District in NSW to launch the training Framework which will soon be rolled out across all other facilities.

The training is especially important for SWS LHD staff as we have more than 11,200 residents identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in our area. This is an important cultural change for the District which will help us to improve our understanding and relationships with our Aboriginal staff, patients and community. The healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal people can really be improved when all our staff have a greater awareness of Aboriginal culture.

Following World No Tobacco Day, I would like to encourage staff who have considered quitting to take up the District’s offer of free NRT. For more information contact your Hospital pharmacy. Quitting is a big step to take, but is one of the best decisions you could make towards leading a healthier and happier life.

Board Update

I’m delighted to announce that the District has launched a Facebook page, which provides information and encourages community participation. Many of you have access to Facebook through your smartphones or private internet connections. I encourage staff to search on Facebook for South Western Sydney Local Health District and ‘like’ or ‘share’ the page for updates on what is happening at facilities across the District.

The District also has a new YouTube channel called SWS Health TV where you can see the latest videos from across the District.

While the Media and Communications Unit trial the Facebook page we will continue to explore how other social media applications such as Twitter could be used to improve consumer engagement.

In this edition, you will find an inserted print out of the interim social media guidelines which have been developed for the District. The guidelines are designed to inform staff about how to harness the benefits of using social media while minimising the potential risks. The guidelines are also available on the intranet.

This month I attended the launch of the SWS LHD Consumer and Community Participation Framework, which sets out the aims, structure, role and processes for community participation in SWS LHD. NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner helped officially launch the Framework and congratulated the District for its ongoing commitment to involving consumers, carers and community members at all levels of the organisation. Involving the community in the development of health services is key to successful healthcare delivery and community engagement is strongly supported by the District Board.

I would like to congratulate all those involved in developing the Framework. Through their participation and by sharing their views and perspectives, community members make a valuable contribution to SWS LHD and a real difference to how health services are provided.

Respecting the Difference

Last month South Western Sydney became the first District in NSW to launch the Respecting the Difference – Aboriginal Cultural Training Framework for NSW Health.

The training is designed to improve staff knowledge and understanding of the diverse culture, customs, heritage and protocols in Aboriginal families. It consists of an online learning component, face-to-face generic subject content and local content.

District Chief Executive, Amanda Larkin and Aboriginal Elder Uncle Ivan Wellington signed a commitment statement, outlining the District’s commitment to providing respectful, responsive and culturally sensitive services and to improving staff knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture.

To undertake the training visit the Centre for Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) page on the intranet.
NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner visited Liverpool Hospital’s state-of-the-art hybrid surgical theatre and interventional radiology suite which is used to operate on critically ill emergency trauma patients.

Affectionately dubbed the RAPTOR suite (Resuscitation with Angiography, Percutaneous Techniques, and Operative Repair), the room is a unique new concept which could mean the difference between life and death for trauma patients.

“The RAPTOR suite contains both operating and interventional radiology imaging equipment so unstable patients who are haemorrhaging do not need to be transported to alternate venues for surgery and for interventional radiology,” said Director of Trauma Services at Liverpool Hospital Dr Scott D’Amours.

“This saves time which, in emergency trauma patients, can be life saving,” he said.

Director of Radiology at Liverpool Hospital Dr Glen Schlaphoff said the RAPTOR concept was a holistic approach to the critically injured patient.

“The suite allows interventional radiologists and surgeons to work on a critically ill patients together, in order to save time in an emergency situation,” said Dr Schlaphoff.

Liverpool Hospital General Manager Mr Anthony Schembri said the suit was a reflection of the advanced technology and technique employed at the Hospital.

“Liverpool is one of the busiest trauma Hospitals in the state and is set to get busier as the population grows, so technology such as this is vital to help us keep up with demand.

“As well as emergency trauma cases, the RAPTOR suite is also used daily for complicated elective surgery procedures involving endovascular work, where imaging during surgery is beneficial,” he said.

CP Framework launched

During her visit to Liverpool, NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner helped to officially launch the SWS LHD Consumer and Community Participation Framework, which outlines how the Local Health District works with patients, carers and the community to deliver local health care.

“The Community Participation Framework identifies the formal processes that ensure we involve health consumers and the community in our health care delivery, on a day to day basis and in long term planning,” said SWS LHD Consumer and Community Participation Chairperson, Mr Bill Little.

“It captures the 10 year history of how and why participation has developed and outlines the commitments made to ensure this continues into the future.”

“Our Community Participation Networks have helped to develop and implement programs and services across the District. These have included The HUB Community Health Centre in Miller and Team Around the Child - a pilot project running at Campbelltown Hospital and Bankstown Community Health Centre,” Mr Little said.

The LHD is looking for local community representatives to become members of each Hospital’s Community Participation Network.

For more information or to get involved call the Community Participation Unit on 9612 0637.

New BreastScreen service

A new BreastScreen clinic has opened in Campbelltown, providing women living and working in the region with an important free health check.

BreastScreen is a quality screening service that ensures two specially trained doctors independently examine each woman’s x-rays. The service is free to all women over 40.

“Women are attended to by friendly, female staff in a confidential environment. No doctor’s referral is needed for this free, early detection service,” said SWS LHD Acting Director BreastScreen NSW, Genevieve Wallace.

The BreastScreen Clinic is located at 4 Browne St, Campbelltown.

To book a free BreastScreen appointment call 13 20 50.

Chief radiographer Marie Smith with Camden MP Chris Patterson and Wollondilly MP Jai Rowell.

From left: Director of Trauma Services at Liverpool Hospital Dr Scott D’Amours, NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner, SWS LHD Board Chair Professor Phillip Harris and Director of Radiology at Liverpool Hospital Dr Glen Schlaphoff.
Camden Hospital celebrates PACS news

More than one hundred guests including the Minister for Health Jillian Skinner, Member for Camden Chris Patterson, former and current staff, members of the auxiliary, and the local community helped Camden Hospital celebrate 110 years of caring for the community.

A giant cake was cut and an exhibition showcasing a display of historic photographs, medical equipment and nurse’s uniforms through the ages was launched.

General Manager Leisa Rathborne said she was humbled but not surprised by the overwhelming number of people who attended the celebration.

“When the Hospital first opened in 1902, it had 12 beds and was supported and run by the community through a Hospital Committee.

“The Hospital has grown a lot since then. It now has more than 74 beds and treats around 69,000 patients each year.

“But over a century later one thing that hasn’t changed is the unwavering support of the local community,” she said.

An open day was also held, with hourly tours of the hospital and delicious Devonshire tea.

To see photos and videos of the celebrations visit www.swslhd.nsw.gov.au/ccq/camden110

Launch of Libraries on the Web

In June 2011 the Clinical Library & Information Network (CLIN) upgraded to the V-smart Library Management System, with the Library Catalogue now published on the Internet.

This gives staff access to search for print and electronic resources, renew their loans and reserve items across the network from home as well as from their work stations.

CLIN Libraries are located at Bankstown, Bowral, Campbelltown, Canterbury, Fairfield and Liverpool Hospitals.

Quick News

Paediatric Unit art donation

A colourful painting of native animals holding a night concert was hung in Bowral Hospital’s Paediatric Unit to commemorate the late Dr Judith Dey AO.

Dr Dey contributed to many local organisations after retiring to Bowral in 1985, following a distinguished career in paediatrics.

Dry July

Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre has again been chosen as a beneficiary of Dry July, a fundraiser which challenges people to give up alcohol during July.

If you think you can go dry for the month while helping raise funds for cancer patients, join the Liverpool Hospital Dry July team at www.dryjuly.com/team/liverpoolhospital

Mother’s Day makeover

To celebrate Mother’s Day and brighten the stay of families receiving support, Karitane facilities across NSW were given a makeover thanks to Bunnings Warehouse.

Bunnings staff and volunteers lent a hand to their local Karitane Centre to help support 22,000 families who access Karitane’s services each year.