

# The Ramsay Way

THE CORPORATE NEWSLETTER OF RAMSAY HEALTH CARE

## Board tours Gold Coast facilities



**Above:** John Flynn Private Hospital Director of Clinical Services, Diann Sapwell, touring the Ramsay Health Care Board through the Hospital.

**Left:** The Ramsay Board view a procedure in the John Flynn Cardiac Catheter Laboratory.

The Board of Ramsay Health Care recently visited Ramsay's newly acquired hospitals on the Gold Coast, John Flynn Private Hospital at Tugun and Pindara Private Hospital at Benowa.

The Board and Chief Operating Officer Chris Rex were provided a full tour of the facilities and were able to properly review potential development opportunities at these hospitals.

They were also introduced to staff and key doctors at the facilities during their visit

John Flynn is a 268 bed, acute care hospital, located on the southern end of Queensland's Gold Coast, within 5 minutes from the Gold Coast Airport. The hospital provides services to the population of the Gold and Tweed Coasts extending into the NSW Northern Rivers area. The hospital provides a wide range of health care services with a 24 hour emergency care centre, comprehensive cardiac services, general and orthopaedic Surgery, oncology, medical services, maternity and paediatrics, renal dialysis, day surgery and rehabilitation services.

Pindara Private Hospital is located at the northern end of the Gold Coast and provides 203 acute care beds and a wide range of onsite facilities including a 24 hour emergency department, six operating theatres, intensive care and coronary care units, a state of the art cardiac catheter laboratory and maternity unit.

## Ramsay Library Launched



A new Ramsay National Library Service was launched in August and is now available for staff and doctors who work across Ramsay Health Care and its facilities via the Ramsay intranet or internet

The Ramsay Library contains links to a great number of journals, online books, essential resources such as Australian Standards, and well-known bibliographic databases.

(see story on page 2)

## Caring for the Community

Ramsay Health Care has made significant commitments to charitable organizations recently. In this edition of The Ramsay Way, Ramsay announces a commitment of \$50,000 towards schizophrenia research and the development of a national schizophrenia database.

Over the last few years, Ramsay Health Care has also sponsored "Giant Steps" a school for autistic children and this year Ramsay's donation will go towards teaching literacy skills to students with autism. (See page 3 for further details).



**Left:** Children enjoying the Giant Steps Program – proudly supported by Ramsay Health Care.

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## PAT'S DESK

One of Ramsay Health Care's objectives is to take a leading role in nurse training and medical education throughout Australia.

We are now starting to focus on how our hospitals currently support the education of nurses and doctors. Many hospitals are working very closely with universities and TAFEs now, providing strong support to the future health workforce.

The recent COAG reform agenda, announced on July 14, 2006, has further focused the health sector on improving this access. An additional 1,000 higher education nursing places, and 605 medical school places across Australia will be funded by the Australian government over the next four years. In addition, an increase in funding support for nurses' clinical training will be provided.

To ensure we are positioned and able to assist in this large increase in workforce education, Ramsay Health Care has recently appointed Ella Lowe to coordinate medical, nursing and allied health education across the group. Initially, Ella's key tasks are to complete a comprehensive options paper on education across the group. She is also working on written submissions to the COAG reforms. She will continue to work with hospitals as they develop contracts/agreements with universities and TAFEs, and continually review their internal education needs.

It is good to see that the Government is committed to increasing the involvement of the private sector in teaching and is trying to formalize the procedures and provide adequate funding. I look forward to reporting more on Ramsay Health Care's involvement in this area in future editions of this newsletter.

Ramsay Health Care has recently launched the National Library Service and this is now available online via the Ramsay intranet and internet. There is an article in this edition of The Ramsay Way on the National Library Service. We have also appointed a National Librarian who was previously working as a librarian in Affinity Healthcare. There has been a great deal of interest from staff about this and I am sure that this will be a well utilized service. The commitment from Ramsay to this Service is over \$300k annually and we will seek feedback from users over the coming year as to how it is being received and what new services users would like to see. If you have any comments to make about this, please let us know.

Ramsay Health Care has recently announced major financial commitments to schizophrenia research and the Giant Steps School for Autistic Children. Articles on both of these organisations and what the money will go towards are written up in this edition of The Ramsay Way newsletter. We are pleased to be able to make these commitments to worthy causes.

**Pat Grier**  
Managing Director

# Ramsay Library Launched

Ramsay Health Care launched a National Library Service in August which is now available for staff to access via the intranet or internet ([www.ramsayhealth.com.au](http://www.ramsayhealth.com.au))\*.

Ramsay has employed Jenny Cutting as the National Librarian and Jenny is available on email at: **[library@ramsayhealth.com.au](mailto:library@ramsayhealth.com.au)**

Jenny said the availability of the Ramsay Library would have a vital role in supporting the information needs of medical, nursing and support staff across the organisation, in terms of patient care, clinical decision-making and evidence-based clinical practice, teaching and research.

In addition, she said there were many employees from both the clinical and non-clinical staff of Ramsay Health Care, who were making use of the library service for their research and information requirements.

"There have been many requests since the launch of the library service. We had over 75 people registered for document requests in the first month," Jenny said.

The National Library Service offers access to resources including the major clinical databases Medline and Cinahl; Health Business Elite and Standards Australia for the latest on Australian Standards.

Also available is access to a selection of online books focusing on clinical issues and access to over 3500 journals. Many of the articles from the journals are available in full text.

In September, the Ramsay Library made two new exciting resources accessible to Ramsay staff - *BMJ Clinical Evidence* and *DynaMed*. These resources provide evidence-based information for quality patient care and can be trialled now until the end of 2006.

Jenny said Clinical Evidence aims to help health professionals make informed decisions about which treatments to use. Dynamed is updated daily and also provides links to current guidelines and patient information.

In addition, an informative publication, *Health Alert*, has just been added to the Library (intranet) site (see quick links). This weekly publication is very worthwhile to keep an eye on as it contains an excellent summary of critical judgments, legislation, press releases and news items. Back issues are also available.

In the near future, the National Library Service will offer a subscription based service in the form of a library bulletin which will contain both clinical and non-clinical articles from a wide range of resources.

Thanks to the Hospital-based librarians from Greenslopes, Hollywood, Joondalup and Mildura who have been extensively involved in the establishment of the National Library Service and who provide valuable support and advice to this Service.

The libraries at Greenslopes, Hollywood, Joondalup and Mildura will continue to operate and provide services to staff at their individual hospitals. Staff at these hospitals should continue to access their library services via their respective hospital intranets.

Special thanks to Lindy Nelson at Joondalup Health Campus who is coordinating the purchase of national subscriptions for the National Library Service.

*\*The internet link, Ramsay Library, is at the bottom of the home page next to Ramsay Access. However, for security reasons, the internet site does not contain logins and passwords.*



**Above:** Newly appointed National Librarian, Jenny Cutting.

## Recognition for Baringa staff & doctors

The Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Tony Abbott and the Federal Member for Cowper, Luke Hartsuyker, honoured five health professionals of Baringa Private Hospital recently.

Dr Jeremy Power, Dr Michael Ridley, Gay Bowen, Helen Jones & Carol Brewster were presented with certificates of appreciation for their lengthy service to the people of Coffs Harbour by the Ministers at a special function held in their honour.

Dr Michael Ridley and Dr Jeremy Power have practiced in Coffs Harbour since 1968.

Registered Nurse Gay Bowen started at Baringa in 1979, Enrolled Nurse Helen Jones has been part of Baringa since the day the hospital opened and Enrolled Nurse Carol Brewster also started at Baringa in 1979 as a full time employee.

Baringa CEO Greg Jenke said the three nurses and two doctors had cared for a generation of local families in Coffs Harbour.

"Doctors Power and Ridley have contributed nearly 40 years of health services to the local families of Coffs Harbour," Greg said.

Minister Abbott also acknowledged the success of the RPA funding grant which Baringa received for a 5 bed Palliative Care Suite.



**Back row L-R:** The Nationals Federal Member for Cowper, Luke Hartsuyker, Dr Jeremy Power, Federal Minister for Health & Ageing Tony Abbott & Dr Michael Ridley. **Front L-R:** Baringa nurses, Gay Bowen, Helen Jones & Carol Brewster



# Caring for the Community

## Ramsay Partners with NISAD on Schizophrenia Research Project



**Above:** Rebecca Wilson is a Clinical Assessment Officer whose main role is to assess & recruit volunteers with schizophrenia to join the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank (ASRB). Ramsay Health Care has donated \$50,000 towards establishing the ASRB.

Ramsay Health Care has contributed \$50,000 towards research into schizophrenia in 2006 through a partnership with NISAD (Neuroscience Institute of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders). NISAD was established in 1996 with a vision of discovering the means to prevent and cure schizophrenia. The Organisation initiates, supports and conducts world-class research into schizophrenia to advance understanding of its clinical components, mechanisms, causes, treatment and prevention.

The funds contributed by Ramsay will go towards the development of a large national research database – The Australian Schizophrenia Research Database (ASRB) – for identifying the genetic factors that cause schizophrenia.

The database of the ASRB will contain patients and controls, all systematically assessed clinically, with brain scans acquired and blood taken for genetic analysis. All the data will be cross-referenced and linked by a specially developed software grid. The specific aims of the ASRB are:

1. To develop a Research Bank with comprehensive, cross-referenced data (including clinical and cognitive characterisation, blood banking involving DNA extraction and structural MRI brain scans) from a large sample of volunteers with schizophrenia (N=1,500) and healthy volunteers (N=1,500) of comparable age and gender profile.
2. To provide Australian and international researchers with access to this facility, to support schizophrenia research across the clinical, cognitive, genetic, brain imaging and linked domains. This will enable research questions that require large sample sizes to be addressed by Australian researchers, particularly those who would not normally have ready access to clinical populations.

NISAD Executive Director Deborah Wilcox said the ASRB facility would be a unique enabling resource, available to investigators throughout Australia and internationally, that will provide support to facilitate schizophrenia research across a wide variety of disciplines.

“With the support of clinicians, mental health services, consumers and advocacy groups we will work to build a large cohort that will provide sufficient statistical power to allow Australian researchers to address a range of important questions in relation to schizophrenia using the new technologies available to neuroscience,” Ms Wilcox said.

“It is also expected that the development of such a facility will encourage more researchers to undertake schizophrenia research as ready access to large samples has always hampered research in this field.”

She said that within 5 years the ASRB had the potential to be a major national database of enormous value to all Australian and international scientists for solving the genetic basis of schizophrenia, and would be the largest database of its kind in the world.

“It will be available in perpetuity as an invaluable resource for scientific discovery.”

Ms Wilcox said the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank was a major milestone for schizophrenia research and a very apt initiative for Ramsay to become aligned.

Ramsay Health Care has been committed to mental health for over 40 years since opening its first psychiatric facility in Sydney in 1964. Ramsay is now the largest provider of inpatient psychiatric services in the country.

Ramsay Health Care Chief Operating Officer, Chris Rex, has joined the Board of NISAD.

## Ramsay supports “Giant Steps” for Children with Autism

Ramsay Health Care has supported Giant Steps Sydney, a school for children with autism, for many years.

The children at Giant Steps have all been diagnosed with autism. These children experience overwhelming anxiety, frustration and confusion when faced with the demands of everyday life. These frustrations give rise to repetitive behaviours such as rocking, finger licking, self-isolating behaviours and aggression towards others or themselves.

Giant Steps Sydney opened with 12 children in July 1995. At present the majority of the 55 children attending the program are integrated into mainstream schools on a regular part-time basis with or without the assistance of an educator. Giant Steps Sydney currently caters for children aged 2 to 18 years. There are over 50 children currently on the waiting list.

Giant Steps has had remarkable success teaching children with autism to speak and communicate more effectively, integrating them into mainstream schools, helping them develop functional life skills and providing them the opportunity to reach their potential. The additional support offered at Giant Steps Sydney caters specifically to the needs of children with autism thereby enabling children to achieve milestones previously thought unattainable.

The money donated by Ramsay Health Care in 2006 will go towards the Literacy and ICT Project. This project will assist teaching literacy skills to students with autism by using interactive whiteboard technology and the associated applications to improve speaking and listening, reading and writing skills.

The school is currently working towards the project through the purchase and installation of interwrite boards, installation of wireless networks so that students/teachers can access internet resources, the employment of a literacy consultant and the development of a database called BookMatch which maps all the key words in reading series to known words for each child.

Research demonstrates quite clearly that one of the criteria for successful post-school options for students with disabilities (any type) is to have a functional reading age. The emphasis of the Giant Steps program needs to be on developing literacy skills to improve the life outcomes for students so that they may be able to access a wider choice of employment and post school opportunities.



**Above & Right:** Children of Giant Steps Sydney, participate in a range of activities. Giant Steps has had remarkable success teaching children with autism to communicate more effectively.



**Autism is a lifelong developmental disability** and there is no cure for autism though changes in ability and behaviour occur over time and some individuals show remarkable improvement throughout their lives if intensive support and intervention is provided as early as possible. Children with autism have difficulty communicating. This means they use little facial expression and are often unable to speak. Children who have autism are also non responsive to people, show little if any emotion and pay little attention to the needs or feelings of others.

Many children who have been diagnosed with autism also have intellectual disabilities. They have difficulties communicating and some children never learn to speak. They have been described as living in a world of their own; however each child with autism is unique in their impairments and abilities.







### Rural Private Access Program, Round 3

Funding grants for the Rural Private Access Program, Round 3, were announced in August. Ramsay Health Care was successful in obtaining \$1.265 million which will go towards various projects to increase and support the range of private health services in our rural and regional hospitals. Congratulations to those hospitals which were successful in receiving grants.

### Ramsay Health Care commended for commitment to equal opportunity

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) has commended Ramsay Health Care for its commitment to equal opportunity for women in the workplace. In particular, the EOWA commended Ramsay for its high level of workplace analysis and the actions taken in the areas of the provision of on-site childcare facilities; establishment of a Reward and Recognition Working Party; education and training and the recruitment campaign targeting Generation X and Y for areas experiencing staff shortages.

### Fetal monitoring E-Learning rollout

A national rollout of the Electronic Fetal Monitoring E-learning competency program for Ramsay midwives and medical staff commenced in late August in Ramsay's NSW facilities. The intent of the program is to up-skill midwives and medical staff in the reading and interpretation of Cardio Toco Graph/Fetal Heart Rhythms and Rates that guide decisions in the plan of care.

The program can be accessed online and staff can work through the program at their own pace at any time. The rollout will continue to other States in the near future.

### Falls Program

The Falls Working Party has been revising the Old Ramsay National Falls Program and aligning it with the 2004/2005 Public/Private National Falls initiative outcomes. The revised program has been trialled at John Flynn Private Hospital in Queensland and was presented to the Risk Advisory Committee in September 2006. At the same time, the RiskMan Incident management module is being modified to cater for the new model in an effort to minimise any reporting duplication, increase benchmarking ability and improve compliance in completing falls risk assessments and proactive management of the risk across the Group. A rollout of the new Falls Program is scheduled for December 2006.

# Business Development Update: \$128.5million Redevelopment announced for Hollywood

**Below:** Elevation images of Hollywood Private Hospital's proposed Redevelopment.



**H**ollywood Private Hospital in Nedlands will embark on a major \$128.5 million redevelopment of its facilities that will see it emerge as one of Western Australia's most modern private hospital facilities.

The development will increase the hospital's capacity to accommodate 500 beds in addition to a number of new medical facilities, a second specialist centre to accommodate the growing number of specialists interested in consulting at Hollywood and a multi-storey car parking building.

The redevelopment will be staged over a number of years and on completion, Hollywood Private Hospital will offer Western Australian patients the only purpose built private rehabilitation facility in the state.

Hollywood Private Hospital Executive Director Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall welcomed news of the redevelopment project which was announced by Ramsay Health Care in August.

**A** number of other capital developments have been approved recently by the Ramsay Health Care Board.

North West Private Hospital in Brisbane, Queensland has received funding towards the first stage of expansion which includes a new consulting suite complex and a new hospital carpark. The redevelopment of operating theatres, day surgery, delivery suites and further beds is part of a major project for North West Private Hospital which will follow the first stage.

St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital will also receive an injection of capital dollars with the approval to create 10 extra beds at a cost of \$1.16m. The development will start immediately following approval of the Development Application by Ipswich City Council.

The announcement follows a recent multimillion dollar refurbishment of all the wards in the hospital.

The new 10 beds to be developed will be a combination of private and shared rooms with ensuites.

New Farm Clinic in Brisbane has been approved to expand its day clinic plus an expansion of the hospital by an additional 16 beds. This work will commence following Development Application Approval.

The Avenue Private Hospital in Melbourne, has also received approval to proceed with the development of a catheter laboratory and coronary care unit.

Ramsay Health Care is in the process of buying land adjacent to a number of other hospitals in order to provide future expansion including the purchase of land adjacent to St George Private Hospital.

## Keeping it in the Family at North Shore

**L**ittle Darcy Henry was born on 3 June 2006 to proud parents Karen & Michael Henry. But what makes this special is that Darcy is Karen & Michael's fifth child, with all children being born at North Shore Private Hospital during the 8 years that the hospital has been open. North Shore Private management and staff are proud to have been able to share these happy experiences with the Henry family.



**Right:** Pictured is the happy family (L-R) – Michael (father) nursing Charlie (18 months), Hugh (6 yrs) Tom (2½ yrs) nursing Darcy (newborn), Karen (mother) & Georgie (7 yrs).

## Caboolture breast cancer nurse receives bursary

**O**ncology Nurse Manager at Caboolture Private Hospital Vicky Tanzer was recently awarded a bursary for a Breast Cancer Nurses Course run by the Queensland Cancer Fund.

The course covered a wide variety of topics relating to breast cancer and the holistic care of those diagnosed with breast cancer.

Vicky said she was able to meet a great group of fellow registered nurses who came from a cross-section of the profession.

"Personally, the individual stories of those brave women who came to talk to us about their journeys were the highlight of the week long course and certainly gave me inspiration to continue providing quality patient care."

It was enlightening to see the resources available at the Queensland Cancer Fund, including written and visual materials and the provision of psychosocial and physical support where needed.





# Peninsula Private establishes Centre for Cardiac Wellness

The 'Centre for Cardiac Wellness', established at Peninsula Private Hospital in Victoria embraces the concept of health promotion, cardiac risk factor modification and cardiac rehabilitation following an acute cardiac event such as a heart attack.

A sixteen bed Coronary Care Unit is also an integral part of the 'Centre for Cardiac Wellness' operating at the Hospital.

CEO Pat Quinn said a robust education program actively supports staff development and the hospital provides sponsorship for professional development and advanced training in related disciplines.

"All employees throughout the cardiac service are required to undertake annual competencies including cardiac pacing, balloon pumping, Basic & Advanced cardiac life support and removal of femoral arterial sheaths."

On a typical day, 6-8 patients would be admitted to the cardiac unit through the angiography suite following cardiac intervention and coronary stenting; rotablator technology (drilling of calcified coronary arteries) is also a feature of the lab.

Temporary (transvenous) and permanent 'heart pacing' features strongly in the portfolio of clinical procedures.

Heart Pacemakers are now a relatively common phenomenon amongst our aging communities.

A further 4-5 private patients would be referred from the emergency department at local public hospitals and 3-4 additional patients would be referred from MICA paramedics and general practitioners.

"The unit is dynamic and aggressive in its management of patient's with acute coronary syndrome including primary angioplasty for acute myocardial infarction," said Pat.

The Unit has a decentralized philosophy in which professional accountability is sought from each employee, and every employee has a stake in how the unit operates.

"The very successful cardiac rehabilitation program started earlier in the year and has proven successful beyond expectations. Creative assessment packages are being explored to help individuals come to grips with complex cardiac risk factors.

"Visiting some of our clients with more chronic illness in their homes is another new initiative introduced this year. The domiciliary service allows individuals to be assessed and their progress monitored in their home environment. This feature of our service is also proving very beneficial for clients."

## Patient turns 101 at Mitcham

Mrs Linda Gore turned 101 years old in August whilst a patient at Mitcham Private Hospital. Linda grew up in Bendigo and Albert Park area and now lives locally in East Doncaster and has one son, Reg.

Mrs Gore's grandmother lived to 114 years and 8 months of age and is buried in Bendigo.

**Right:** Mitcham Private celebrates Mrs Linda Gore's 101th birthday with a cake.



# Lake Macquarie Expo demystifies medicine



As The Ramsay Way goes to print, Lake Macquarie Private Hospital are in the final stages of organizing a Demystifying Medicine Expo for the community, to be held on Saturday 16 September on the hospital campus.

This free family afternoon is expected to attract thousands from the local community and will feature the latest displays and information from a variety of specialist areas including cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery, plastic and cosmetic surgery, intensive care and coronary care,

vascular disease and surgery, emergency resuscitation, breast cancer diagnosis and surgery, melanoma, sleep disorders, orthopaedics, urology, general surgery and anaesthetics.

The Expo will also feature displays from radiology, pathology, the DVA and health funds. Stands and special presentations are planned by physiotherapists and nurses from Lake Macquarie Private.

CEO Roger Snell said the Hospital had promoted the event widely with a large banner on the outside of the hospital, 5000 fliers distributed, advertisements in regional and local newspapers and radio interviews.

"Staff are wearing badges and our doctors are very enthusiastic about the Expo," Roger said.

"We are planning a big cardiac display including a heart/lung machine and our cardiologists and cardiac surgeons will be taking part. Everyone is really looking forward to it."

# Integrated approach to Discharge Planning in Obstetrics at North West Private

Over the past 3 years the birth rates at North West Private Hospital have increased significantly with the Obstetric Unit now delivering 1500 babies annually. (The obstetric unit is a 22 bed ward with a Level 2 Special Care Nursery and 4 birthing suites.)

With this increase in birthing numbers it was identified that the hospital needed an integrated approach for bed management to prevent patient overflow, VMO and patient dissatisfaction whilst still providing an excellent level of service in post natal care.

Discussions with our Obstetricians and Paediatricians at Committee meetings welcomed the implementation of positive strategies. It was determined that we required a streamlined, systematic approach that begins at Preadmission and Antenatal classes whilst giving women and their partners a choice of post-natal care.

The integrated approach included the introduction of discharge planners and an early discharge program.

The Patient Discharge Planner is responsible for ensuring each patient is aware of their discharge date; assesses the patient's educational needs; identifies any concerns that may delay their discharge; and provides information about the Early Discharge Program. The Discharge Planner also contacts the mother within 72 hours of discharge to address any concerns. The discharge planner is allocated the care of these patients on the day of discharge which also allows for earlier completion of shifts and improved work hour management.

The Early Discharge Program offers women a choice to attend the Well Baby Clinic post discharge if they choose to leave hospital earlier than planned. If women choose this option, and meet the criteria for early discharge, they may attend the clinic free of charge.

Both these programs are discussed with the women and their partners during antenatal classes, in the antenatal booking process and in the early post natal period.

**The Obstetric Unit has achieved with this integrated process:**

- A reduction in the average length of stay (LOS) for both Caesarean Sections (5.1 to 4.1 days) and vaginal deliveries (4.1 to 3.2 days). Combined average LOS is 3.8 days.
- An increased patient satisfaction with a reported improved discharge planning satisfaction result of 89%.
- No readmissions of both Mother and Baby due to early discharge.
- 90% of ladies surveyed stated the discharge planner did prepare them for home.
- Excess days (days over the optimal length of stay) have decreased to 1.8% for Caesarean deliveries from 4% and from 7.2% for Vaginal deliveries to 3.2% in 2004.

This program has been supported by the Obstetricians and Paediatricians.



**Above L-R:** North West Discharge Planners Nancy Bidgood & Kayle Glasson.



# Uniform donations



**N**ambour Selangor and Caloundra Private Hospitals have donated their old uniforms to the local Domestic Violence Women's Refuge. The uniforms will be used for clothing, work opportunity and court appearances for the clients of the refuge.

Leanne Billman and a number of other staff spent weekends removing Mayne/ Affinity Logos from old uniforms so that they were suitable to handover to the Refuge.

The Refuge was extremely grateful for the donation and sent a thank you to the hospital for this.

Staff at both hospitals were glad that we were able to help local women/ for a good cause with the returned uniforms. This has also instigated staff to begin cleaning out their own wardrobes and handing over clothing/shoes, children's clothes and toys and home furnishings for these women to be able to start again in life.

**Above:** Leanne Billman (pictured right) hands over uniforms to Delyne Wight (left) a volunteer worker with the Nambour Domestic Violence Women's Refuge.

# Greenslopes Medicos lend a hand to locals in Kokoda

**T**wo of Greenslopes Private Hospital's Emergency Physicians recently set off on the adventure of a lifetime. Drs Sean Rothwell and Mark Baldwin travelled to Papua New Guinea for 10 days to make the challenging trek along the Kokoda Trail.

Their Kokoda journey retraced the footsteps of the Diggers who fought in the Kokoda campaign and they visited the locations of each significant battle site.

Mark and Sean underwent serious training for six months leading up to the trip to ensure they were physically ready for the challenge. Apart from the physical challenge and historical significance Kokoda represents, Mark and Sean agree the local people really make the trip worthwhile.

The people who live along the Kokoda Trail are Koiari and Orokaiva - sons and grandsons of the famous 'fuzzy-wuzzy angels'. The guides and porters on the trip also come from these villages.

Sean and Mark travelled with Adventure Kokoda which is run by Charlie Lynn who has trekked Kokoda 43 times. Charlie has studied the campaign in great detail, is aware of the location of each significant battle site and knows the details of all the major battles. He has written a unique guide book and diary which is presented to each trekker at the briefing on the first night.

"Charlie has developed a special relationship with the clan leaders and villagers along the track through his work in supporting their schools and health



**Above:** Dr Mark Baldwin (left) & Dr Sean Rothwell (right) with a fuzzy wuzzy angel on the Kokoda Track.  
**Below:** Dr Mark Baldwin examines a patient in local hospital during ward rounds.

centres," Sean said.

"It was just such a unique experience to spend time getting involved with the local community - they are just great people".

Sean and Mark helped out at the local hospital in Kokoda where they conducted ward rounds.

"The hospital's facilities and staff are limited, for example they don't have a doctor. We were very well received and it was great to be able to provide some basic medical treatment," Mark said.

"As well as the visit to the hospital, we also treated some of the local children in the villages including a young boy with a laceration to the face from a machete and another with a tropical ulcer. It was

good to be able to feel like you were giving the people something back and hopefully making a difference."

The doctors also came equipped with a number of first aid kits provided by Ramsay Health Care which they presented to schools in villages along the way including Efogi and Naduri Villages.



# Animal Therapy for Glengarry patients

**D**ogs are not normally welcome around hospitals, but Finn and his kind are the exception. The friendly four year old Irish terrier is a member of Animal Companions, a visiting dog therapy program which visits special schools for children with disabilities and learning difficulties, aged care facilities, palliative care units and hospitals.

The dogs wag their tails and waggle their snouts to brighten up audiences of all ages.

Finn's owner Pamela Rudling, of Mindarie, is a volunteer with Animal Companions, a private organisation with branches in most Australian States.

Pamela has been with Animal Companions for seven months, and she and Finn are regular visitors to Glengarry Private Hospital.

Glengarry Hospital's Clinical Nurse Manager - General Wards - Sally Harris said enjoying animals as companions and its therapeutic benefits were well known.

"Studies have shown physical contact with a pet may reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure and ease pain," she said.

"The greatest benefit in the hospital setting is the potential to uplift and distract patients from their daily discomforts, or simply to brighten their day."



**Above:** Sally Harris with patients from Glengarry pet Finn who is part of the visiting dog therapy program.

She said many people had pets at home and were saddened by the separation from long stays in hospitals.

Animals Companions have published a directory of organisations in which dogs assist dependent people. The Australian Directory of Human Animal Interaction Programs is available at [www.anthrozoology.com.au](http://www.anthrozoology.com.au)

# Glengarry promotes child safety message

**G**lengarry Hospital in Duncraig is partnering the Royal Life Saving Society in its Baby and Child Drowning Prevention program "Keep Watch."

The program aims to reduce the number of child drownings, currently averaging one a week, in Australia. Children drown quickly and quietly in such areas as home swimming pools, nappy buckets, laundry troughs, baths, toilets and fish ponds. For every drowning death that occurs there are, on average, three near drownings some of which may end up with a child suffering permanent brain damage.

The parent education unit of Glengarry Hospital have taken the initiative to become proactive in reducing child drowning deaths within the hospitals catchment area by having Royal Life Saving present a number of Heartbeat Clubs on the last Thursday of every month in the hospital's seminar room.

As well as providing instruction in the correct method of performing Resuscitation on babies and toddlers, the 3-hour workshops provide carers of children in the home with important drowning prevention techniques, and First Aid information on Croup, Choking and Burns.



# Newborn hearing screens at Cairns Private

**Below:** Marge Foley, Manager of the Women's Unit at Cairns Private, prepares baby Bridget Ballinger for her first hearing test.



**B**aby Bridget Ballinger is just a few days old as her Mother and Marge Foley, Manager of the Women's Unit, prepare her for her first hearing test. She is one of 160 babies screened since the service began in March this year.

All babies born at Cairns Private Hospital have their hearing tested before going home.

Bridget's parents are eager to see if a congenital hearing disorder has been passed down.

"It is good to know as early as possible if there is an issue with her hearing. It is great to be able to have it done while we're in hospital – to have it done before we go home," Bridget's mum, Michelle said.

"Having a family history of hearing impairment, even though the condition isn't severe, I appreciate the importance of finding out as soon as possible how well she hears at the moment. In our case the condition can be corrected through surgery.

The sooner we know the sooner we can get the correct advice and support," she said.

Totally unaware of her audience, Bridget wakes momentarily to protest being moved but is comforted easily by Marge.

Just as she slips back into that enviable irrepressible newborn slumber Marge gently places the couplers – tiny headphones – over Bridget's ears. Tiny gel pads placed on her forehead, shoulder and back of her neck will monitor her response to sounds as she sleeps. She looks ever so peaceful.

Marge says it is a gentle procedure. Thousands of soft clicks are delivered to the newborn's ears through the disposable ear couplers.

These sounds evoke a series of brain waves from the auditory brainstem. The response is then compared with the normal hearing of a newborn infant," Marge explains as she prepares for the screening.

The technical name for the screen used is "Automated Auditory Brainstem Response" (AABR). It is a harmless and accurate measure of the auditory system from the external ear through to the auditory brainstem.

Cairns Private Hospital is one of the first private hospitals in Queensland to implement this Queensland Health initiative. Nurses and midwives in the Maternity Unit have received extensive theoretical and practical training to conduct the screening.

Marge said everyone is enthusiastic about the programme and the opportunity to provide all new babies with access to this service.

"An early diagnosis of hearing impairment is critical to an infant's speech and language development, so we're very happy to be able to provide this peace of mind to new parents," she said.

"Hearing impairment is an invisible disability that affects approximately 300 babies in Australia each year. Only about 25% of infants born with hearing impairment in Australia are diagnosed by the age of 12 months. The average age of detection has been between 2.5-3 years of age.

"Recent studies have shown that if a hearing loss is identified and intervention addressed prior to six months of age, the hearing-impaired child can develop speech and language skills in line with normal hearing peers.

"So the aim of this programme is to identify early all those infants who may have a hearing problem, or be at risk. These babies may require further audiological evaluation in order to rule out a significant hearing loss."

Marge said since the screening program commenced in March only one baby has been referred for further testing.

# Westmead offer services to Noumea

**W**estmead's CEO Carol Bryant and Cardiologist Dr Duncan Guy have recently returned from Noumea where they were able to provide information to cardiologists in Noumea about cardiac services at Westmead Private and how their services could benefit patients from this region.

Some services such as electrophysiological studies cannot be undertaken in Noumea and patients may have to travel to France to undergo the procedure. A trip to Australia would reduce travel time considerably for the patient and offer the level of care and service they require closer to home.

Carol said Westmead Private Hospital has had an association with CAFAT patients since June 2001.

"Specifically, the Hospital cares for patients who require neurosurgical intervention. So we are already equipped for Noumean patients and look forward to expanding the service to cardiology and cardiothoracic patients.

"There are many issues affecting the care of these patients, not the least being the language barrier. Most patients speak little or no English as French is their native language.

Westmead has implemented the following to improve the stay and services for our New Caledonian patients:

- Menus for all meals are now in French.
- We have purchased a variety of DVDs focusing on those that have been dubbed in French or have French sub-titles.
- Communication cards have been developed to assist with daily activities. All patients speak French so clear pictures and basic descriptions were important aspects.
- Neurological observation chart, which includes orientation questions in French with phonetic cues.
- Patients now have access to reading material in French and a box of simple games.
- A "Comment Card" has been translated and is now given to patients to gain feedback about their hospital experience.
- Staff have undertaken French lessons.
- We have an interpreter to assist with patients and their families

She said the hospital looked forward to welcoming our first cardiology patient in the near future.

"Involvement with the New Caledonia patients has added another dimension to the care we offer at Westmead Private."

## Bowel Cancer Awareness Week launch at North Shore

**N**orth Shore Private Hospital hosted the launch of The Bowel Cancer & Digestive Research Institute of Australia's It's Crunch Time campaign on 2 June 2006. The launch was attended by various newspaper and television media and was launched by the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Minister for Health and Ageing. The campaign preceded Bowel Cancer Awareness Week. Small red apple pins symbolised the campaign and were merchandised to raise funds for the charity.



**Below:** Minister for Health & Ageing Tony Abbott launches the Bowel Cancer It's Crunch Time campaign at North Shore Private.



# 5000th baby born at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital



The 5000th baby born at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital arrived in the world shortly before midnight in July.

Maternity staff at Nambour Selangor were counting down the births in anticipation of this great milestone for the Hospital achieved recently.

Kisho was born to Orien Duffy and Marc Caracciolo of Little Mountain, Caloundra, at 10.58pm weighing in at 3920gms. Kisho, which is Japanese in origin, means "One who knows his own mind".

Nambour Selangor has been leading the way in obstetric, maternity and neonatal care on the Sunshine Coast for the last decade.

CEO Jenny McDonald said staff at Nambour Selangor were proud of their achievements in the maternity unit over the last 10 years.

"Our Maternity Centre aspires to the philosophy of collaborative care where obstetricians, midwives and paediatricians work together to care for families."

"Our Maternity Centre is fundamentally different from other maternity units, supporting parents' choice of birthing options including water birth, natural birth following one or more previous caesarean births and natural twin birth."

"We provide access to a midwives clinic and a wide range of individualised antenatal programs throughout the pregnancy. We also offer early discharge options with home-based support."

**Left:** Marc Caracciolo & Orien Duffy the proud Parents of baby Kisho at Nambour Selangor.

## Beleura tops the Victoria Satellite Bone Banking Donations in June 2006



**Above:** The team responsible for the Beleura donations are Orthopaedic surgeons Peter Hamilton and Peter McCombe seen here with the preadmission coordinator Judy Vidler.

### Beleura tops the Victoria Satellite Bone Banking Donations in June 2006.

Beleura Private Hospital participates in the Victorian Satellite Bone Banking program established in 1989, which is a division of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

The program provides individuals who are undergoing a total hip replacement and who are otherwise healthy, the opportunity to donate the bone which is routinely removed at the time of surgery. Through this program the donated bone can be used to benefit another person who needs a bone graft.

The bone is sent to the Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria and once all the necessary testing and processing is completed, it can be used for another patient. The bone is used for a variety of medical problems, such as cancer or those requiring joint surgery.

While Beleura Private Hospital is regularly a top contributor (second only to the Epworth) for the month of June they were the top Victorian provider by far.

## St George Private Hospital leads the way with Healthy Lifestyle Program



Staff at St George Private Hospital are being encouraged to be active and adopt healthy living practises which lead to a healthy lifestyle.

St George Private Hospital, located in Kogarah in Sydney's south, is piloting its Health and Wellbeing Challenge Program for its staff which includes a 12 week exercise program.

The Health and Wellbeing Challenge, which is provided free to staff, includes 3 outdoor activity sessions a week of walking, jogging, stretching, strengthening and boxing. These activity sessions are complemented by a series of personalised "drop-in" sessions and talks. The program is being conducted by of qualified exercise physiologist.

The training program will be particularly helpful for those preparing for the City to Surf. For 28 of the 30 staff members participating in the fun run, this is a first time challenge and preparing mentally and physically is the key to their success and enjoyment of the event.

This includes Hospital CEO Tracey Burton, who said that she was a firm believer that leading by example is one of the best ways of encouraging others to participate.

"It's a great way to get motivated and get a head start on getting fit for summer. I'm so pleased that so many of our staff will get up and get their bodies moving and it's a fun opportunity for us to train together as well!" she said. Mrs Burton is also participating in the program and participating in her first City to Surf.

This pilot Health and Wellbeing Challenge program will be the first of a number of initiatives by St George Private Hospital to promote and encourage a healthy lifestyle. In September, the hospital will be running a number of free public events focused on Healthy Hearts to celebrate World Heart Day (September 24).

## Southern Highlands achieves ISO standards

Earlier this year, Southern Highlands Private Hospital successfully achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification, replacing the ACHS accreditation.

Southern Highlands Private was the first Ramsay Health Care site to pursue the alternative accreditation process and the hospital and staff acknowledge that the change has been a major paradigm shift, but a very positive one.

CEO Jenny Harper said everyone has embraced the alternative certification with a positive and energetic attitude and are very proud of the quality achievements and high satisfaction rates amongst patients, staff and VMOs.

"We are looking forward to the ongoing annual audits with ISO, which requires minimal preparation, so long as your ISO processes are well established and maintained," Jenny said.



## Glenferrie starts supervised clinical attachments

Glenferrie has started running supervised clinical attachments for GPs to undertake education at the facility through a supervised program.

A supervised clinical attachment requires the GP to undertake education through a supervised program within the educator's clinical setting and requires 10 hours of contact with a health professional or organisation.

The aim is for the GP to update specific areas of knowledge and skills by working along side the chosen health professional in the chosen area of attachment.

In addition to the opportunity for GPs to undertake a supervised clinical attachment Glenferrie has held three successful continuing professional development sessions for GPs over the last three months.

## 1300 years of Nursing Expertise



**Above:** Kareena Staff recognised for their years of service to the Hospital pictured here with Indra Wijetunga DCS (far left - standing) & Sue Panuccio CEO (far right - standing)

Over 80 staff of the Kareena Private Hospital celebrated over 1300 years of combined service to the hospital at two celebrations in September.

The cocktail events held at the hospital's new Rehabilitation Gymnasium were great successes and recognised the contributions of all of the special invited guests. Maxine Collier, who has been employed by the hospital for over 36 years explains her reason for her long association with Kareena, 'Kareena is a unique friendly hospital. I have grown with the hospital as its grown - I got engaged here, I got married here, had 3 babies who are now aged between 25 and 30 years.'

Loretta Neill and Kathleen Dellow who have each been with Kareena for the longest clocking up over 29 years each, were part of Kareena's history and would remember the early days when the hospital was only two ward and the owner of the land 'Fred Matson' painted the landscapes decorating the walls and did the gardening hence the Matson Courtyard is still a great place to relax. Fred's wife did all the mending of the gowns and the hospital owner Dr Harry and Pat Segal and their children who were both doctors also helped with the hospital administration.

## North West Private Hospital's first DVA patient

North West Private Hospital was happy to be awarded a Tier 1 Department of Veterans' Affairs contract which commenced 1 July 2006. This agreement allows all DVA Gold Card Veteran patients to be admitted to our Hospital for most medical or surgical conditions without prior approval from DVA.



**Above L-R:** Ellen Whittaker (Acting DCS) Tenille Hibberd (RN), Mrs Mavis Hughes (DVA Patient)

# Warringal celebrates 30th Anniversary



More than 160 guests attended Warringal Private Hospital's 30th anniversary ball in early September.

The hospital has come a long way since the early days as a small community-based hospital.

Guests included many of the hospital's visiting surgeons and physicians, general practitioners and senior hospital staff. Also present on the evening was the Hospital's newly appointed CEO Dane Huxley.

Acknowledgment was made of Sheila Soltan. Sheila is Warringal's Environmental Services Manager, and Warringal's longest-serving staff member with over 26 years' service.

The evening was enhanced by a DVD, giving a light-hearted History of Warringal with a Star Wars Theme, evidence once again of the multiple creative talents and sense of humour of Warringal's doctors and staff, who enthusiastically participated in the filming.



**Above:** (back left) Mr Dane Huxley (our new CEO) & wife Katie; (back right) Bronte Kumm (State Operations Mgr) & Glenna Parker (DOCS/ Acting CEO); (front right) Mr Pat Grier; (front centre) Mr Neil Bergman (Chair of Warringal's MAC); (front right) Mr Ash Acharya (Mr Bergman's Orthopaedic Fellow)

**Top:** Guests enjoying dinner.

# Kareena leads the way in Cath Lab technology



**Above:** The new solid state imaging C-arm system.

Kareena Private Hospital has recently installed the latest cardiovascular imaging and interventional system which provides Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) from Toshiba.

The primary use of the catheter laboratory up until now has been to treat and diagnose narrowed coronary arteries that supply the heart muscle.

With the inclusion of DSA, Kareena Private Hospital is now able to provide diagnosis and treatment to other blood vessels outside the heart, such as narrowing of the arteries in the legs, neck and kidneys.

Cardiologist Dr Mark Sader was the first to use the new Toshiba system at Kareena.

## Nurse Practitioner role introduced at Joondalup

Joondalup Health Campus has become the first WA Hospital to have designated Nurse Practitioners in the emergency department. The Minister for Health came to launch the program in early September. Under this model Nurse Practitioners will be able to prescribe schedule 1+4 medications; order routine diagnostic imaging tests and order routine pathology tests and refer to other health/ medical specialists.



**Above:** Pictured at the launch (L-R) are Bronwyn Nicholson Nurse Practitioner - holding X-ray, Neale Fong WA Director General of Health - holding x-ray, Hon Jim McGinty Minister for Health, Paula Davis Nurse Practitioner & patient, Troy.



## Thanks to our loyal staff!

A total of 87 staff were recently acknowledged for their many years of service to Pindara Private Hospital.

The staff, representing nursing, housekeeping, catering and administration, were recognised for 10, 20 and 30 years of service to the hospital.

Lisa Thorne CEO and Jan Lloyd Director of Clinical Services, presented awards to the staff.



Above: Pictured with service watches are (from left) Johan Shiels, Peter Stone, Steve Jacobson, Kay Dunstone, Rachelle McGregor & Elena Cook. Photo courtesy Gold Coast Sun.

## Emma wins Bronze at World Championships

Emma Eagles, 19 year old nursing student at Southern Highlands Private Hospital, has returned from Croatia with a Bronze medal and Australia's only medal at the International Sport Shooting Federation's World Shooting Championships.

Ramsay Health Care sponsored Emma to Croatia where she won bronze in the under 21 Olympic trap event beating an American opponent to the medal in a dramatic shoot off for third place.

Emma said she was very happy with her achievement and she particularly wanted to do well for the hospital and Ramsay Health Care.

It was an amazing experience that I couldn't have done without Ramsay," Emma said.

Well done Emma!

Photo: Courtesy the Camden Advertiser



## Pam Celebrates 30 Years at Nambour



Above: Pictured here is Jenny McDonald, Chief Executive Officer (right) with some of the Catering Team at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital. From L-R Pam Fraser, Rhonda Perren, Marilyn Marks, Jean Bohl, Di Davie, Cheryl Corbett and Sue Meddleton.

Staff at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital celebrated 30 years of service by Pam Fraser, Catering Team Leader recently.

Pam commenced at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital on 29 June 1976 when the hospital staff totalled 24.

During the 30 years Pam has seen many changes from a 34 bed complex in 1976 to the current 71 bed hospital incorporating medical, surgical, intensive care, maternity, renal, two operating theatres and a day surgery unit and will soon see the multi million dollar re-developments due to commence in October.

Pam's positive attitude and warm personality are highly valued and are an excellent example to all. Congratulations Pam and thank you for your efforts and ever-present smile.

## Figtree Midwife completes family circle

Anne Mitchell, the Nurse Unit Manager of the delivery suite at Figtree Private Hospital, has achieved a connection with a local Wollongong family which demonstrates the significant reputation the maternity staff at Figtree have in the local community.

Back in 1976 Anne delivered a baby girl called Joanne and has recently delivered Joanne's daughter 30 years

later. It was Joanne's wish to come to Figtree and have Anne deliver her baby.

Figtree CEO Malcolm Passmore said that this is a good demonstration of the significant link that obstetrics played in the local community.



Right: Figtree midwife delivers second generation

## Joondalup appointment to WA Clinical Senate

Shane Combs, Deputy Director of Nursing at Joondalup health Campus has been appointed to the Clinical Senate in Western Australia, by the Director General Health, Dr Neale Fong.

Shane, who also holds an Adjunct Research Fellow, was nominated through the North Metropolitan Health Service.

The Clinical Senate is a well established organisation in West Australia that debates current important issues in health and makes recommendations to the State Health Executive Forum and to the Director General himself.

It has gained respect for the quality of its work, and it has significant influence on the health reform agenda in Western Australia.

Congratulations to Shane on his appointment. The AACAP objectives are consistent with those of the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) program.



## A fond farewell Clair

Staff at Tamara sadly farewelled long-serving staff member Nurse Clair Dellar, following 27 years of nursing at both Allambie Aged Care facility and Tamara Private Hospital.

Right R-L: NUM Sue Sweeney presenting a gift to Clair Dellar.



## Staff at Attadale achieve Certificate III in Health Support Services



Above L-R: Diane McKinnon (CEO), Fran Visaggio, Debbie Grigoroff & Pearl Watene (Hotel Services Team Leader)

Attadale Private Hospital is delighted to announce that two of their Hotel Services employees, Fran Visaggio and Debbie Grigoroff, have successfully completed Certificate III in Health Support Services.

Attadale Private Hospital was approached by Health Training Australia to participate in this program, which is designed to give Hotel Service staff the opportunity to develop, understand and put to use the required skills necessary to perform well in a hospital environment whilst keeping in line with the Health Department requirements & Ramsay's policies and procedures.

Fran has been a dedicated employee of Attadale Hospital for the past 13 years in the catering department. She is a valued staff member whose skills exceed her position requirements and was thrilled when this opportunity was presented to her.

Debbie has also been a dedicated employee of Attadale Hospital clocking up 16 years of service. She is a hardworking, valued member of the housekeeping team and is always willing to give new things a try, so when this opportunity arose she jumped at the chance.

Fran & Debbie have dedicated 15 months to this program and have done the hospital proud in completing this course.



## Tour of Duty in the Top End

**Michael Bosley** (Operations Assistant) from Berkeley Vale Private Hospital and **Dr Edward Barin**, an accredited Cardiologist from North Shore Private Hospital, completed an Army Reserve mission to provide medical support to Borroloola, an isolated aboriginal community in the Northern Territory in July.

Both are members of the Army reserves from the 8th Brigade. Doctor Barin is Captain in the unit and fulfils the role of Medical Officer, while Michael Bosley undertakes the role of Medical Assistant and the company Sergeant Major of 1 Health Coy. They spent two weeks in Borroloola as part of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP).

After flying to Darwin from Sydney, then travelling ten hours by road to Borroloola, the mission was to provide medical support to the local aboriginal community in the way of education, health assessment and screening.

More than 200 patients presented with various conditions ranging from cardiovascular problems, blood tests for cholesterol and hepatitis C, and general health examinations for obesity and skin conditions and Barra Lure removal.

Captain Barin was struck by the resilience of the people of the outback Aboriginal community of Borroloola.

"We were very well received by the community and part of it was gaining their trust so that we could provide them with health support," Captain Barin said.

"It was a great experience and I would do it again."

The AACAP objectives are consistent with those of the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) program.



**Above L-R:** Captain Edward Barin (cardiologist from North Shore Private) & Michael Bosley (operations assistant at Berkeley Vale Private)



**Above right:** Michael Bosley takes blood from aboriginal patient in Borroloola.

## Shepparton Private Hospital Nursing Staff Achievements

**Wendy Pogue**, Infection Control Coordinator at Shepparton Private Hospital, made the front page of July edition of the SteriCorp NEWS after visiting the company's Victorian Waste Treatment Facilities to get a first hand knowledge of handling clinical waste. On return from her visit Wendy created a poster to educate staff and encourage correct and safe handling of clinical waste.

SteriCorp were so impressed with Wendy's enthusiasm and commitment to best practice in clinical waste management they arranged for their representative to visit Shepparton to photograph Wendy with her poster.

**Vicki Londrigan**, Orthopaedic Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Operating Theatre at Shepparton Private, recently attended the Smith and Nephew 19th Annual Winter Meeting on "Concepts in Sports Injuries, Arthroplasty and Trauma" held in Fiji.

The objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information between surgeons from Australia and New Zealand.

Internationally renowned surgeons conducted sessions which included lectures, case presentations and workshops.

Shepparton DCS Margaret Watts said it was a special achievement and privilege for



**Top:** Wendy Pogue (right) pictured here with Shepparton CEO Chris Thompson & DCS Margaret Watts.



**Above:** Shepparton Private Orthopaedic Surgeon Mr. Richard Horton & CNS Orthopaedics, Vicki Londrigan.

Vicki to participate in this week long meeting and was a well deserved recognition of her 20 plus year commitment to orthopaedic surgery at Shepparton Private Hospital. The AACAP objectives are consistent with those of the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) program.

## KEY APPOINTMENTS

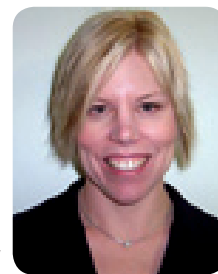
### New DoCS for Kareena Private

**Indra Wijetunga** has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services in Kareena Private Hospital and commenced in July. Indra previously worked at The Children's Hospital in Westmead where she held the position of Program - Chair of the Peri-Operative and Critical Care Services. She has extensive senior management experience in both private and public health services.



### New DoCS for Albury Wodonga & Murray Valley

**Jill Gleeson** has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services overseeing both Albury Wodonga and Murray Valley Private Hospitals. Jill started in June. She was previously the Director of Nursing at Lingard Private Hospital in Newcastle and prior to this was an oncology nurse.



### Ella focuses on education

One of Ramsay Health Care's objectives is to take a leading role in nurse training and medical education throughout Australia.

**Ella Lowe** has recently been appointed to manage this. Ella's role is to manage medical, nursing, and allied health education across the group. With the COAG reforms announced recently, and other initiatives, it is important that we identify opportunities to enhance education opportunities for our staff and our future workforce.

Initially, her key tasks are to complete a comprehensive options paper on education across the group. She is also working on written submissions to the COAG reforms. She will continue to work with hospitals as they develop contracts/agreements with universities and TAFEs, and review their internal education needs.

These activities aim to advance the interests of Ramsay hospitals, and our staff.



### New QLD Business Development Manager

**Dean Clough** has joined the Capital Developments Team as Queensland Business Development Manager. Dean brings a wealth of knowledge to this role given his experience in healthcare project development, marketing and business strategy for major infrastructure projects throughout Australia. This has been complimented by his extensive experience in the strategic and operational management of corporate and financial services within the health services industry. Dean was most recently employed as Director of Corporate Services at Wesley Hospital in Brisbane, and prior to this as the Executive Manager - Social Infrastructure Health - with Thiess. He has also worked in various management positions at St Vincents, Sydney, Moran Health Care and Hospitals of Australia. Underpinning his career, Dean has degree qualifications in health management, together with postgraduate qualifications in accounting and management.

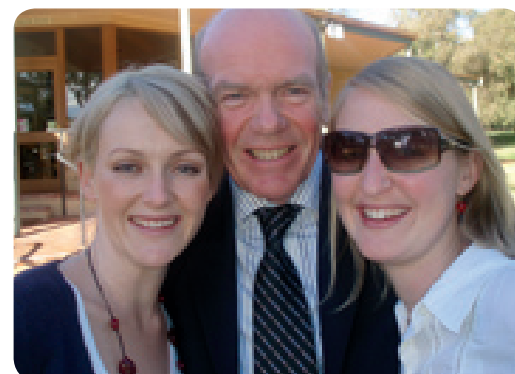


### New CEO for Warrigal Private

**Dane Huxley** has been appointed to the position of CEO of Warrigal Private Hospital in Melbourne.

Dane has done a great job as CEO of Mildura Base Hospital for many years where he made the hospital a great success and worked tirelessly on relations with staff, doctors, the community and local politicians.

More recently, Dane has been CEO of Albury Wodonga Private Hospital which is now recruiting for a new CEO.



**Above:** Departing from Mildura, Dane Huxley pictured (centre) here with Mildura staff Emma Pepyat - HMO Manager (left) & Kassie Hiskins - PA/CEO (right).



## New Executive Team at Greenslopes

A restructure of the Executive Team has been recently completed at Greenslopes Private Hospital. Jill Watts has been permanently appointed to the role of CEO and 3 new Executive positions have also been filled:

- Mairi McNeill, previously Director of Finance & Administration Services was appointed as Deputy CEO.
- Margaret Kenny, previously Assistant Director of Clinical Services was appointed as Director of Nursing.
- Robin Copeland, previously an Assistant Director and Business Manager was appointed to Director of Hospital Support Services.



**Left L-R:** Margaret Kenny, Jim Houston, Jill Watts, Mairi McNeill & Robin Copeland.

## New Mildura CEO

**Michael Krieg** has started as CEO of Mildura Base Hospital. Michael was recently CEO of Knox Private Hospital in Melbourne. Michael comes from a nursing background, predominantly in operating theatres. Over the past 10 years he has been in senior roles at a number of hospitals in Western Australia and Victoria, including time as CEO at Attadale, Glengarry and Knox Private Hospitals, and Director of Nursing at The Mount Private Hospital.



## New St Andrew's CEO

**Chris Murphy** has recently been appointed as Chief Executive Officer at St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital. Chris has held a number of senior hospital roles, including five and a half years as Director of Hospital/GM at Sunnybank Private Hospital and previously, a five year appointment at St Andrew's Ipswich as the Director of Clinical Services. Following a warm welcome back to St Andrew's, Chris is working closely with doctors and staff as an integral part of the Executive Team.

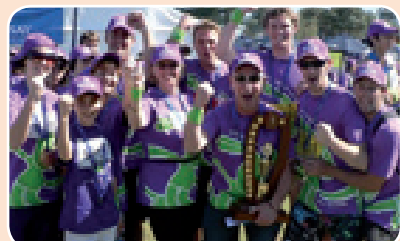


## FUN & GAMES IN RAMSAY

### Ramsay WA competes in Perth City to Surf

Congratulations to all competitors in Ramsay West Australian facilities who put in a formidable team of 1,023 runners in Perth's City to Surf held on Sunday, 27 August. Ramsay Health Care fielded the largest corporate team in this event for the second consecutive year.

The Ramsay team were not only the biggest team of the day – they were also the brightest. The purple and green t-shirts and caps, which featured the 'tortoise and the hare' stood out from the rest of the competitors and were definitely a big hit!



**Above left:** Some of the Ramsay WA team. **Above right:** Ramsay WA team headquarters after the race.

### John Flynn participates in Gold Coast Marathon

An eager team of 40 staff and doctors from John Flynn Private Hospital were among the 13,732 runners and walkers facing the starters gun for the 2006 Gold Coast Marathon recently.

The Gold Coast marathon has become one of the premium sporting events held in Australia attracting elite runners from around the world.

The marathon program consists of a number of events including the 42km marathon event, the 21 km half marathon, the 10km run or the 7.5km walk.

John Flynn's Cardiac Rehabilitation team lead by Nurse Unit Manager, Coral Kerney, has been participating in this marathon for the past 4 years. The 85 years young Bill Pacey, achieved his personal best in the 7.2kkm walk, along with wife Joy.

Special congratulations to ICU nurse Sandy Chigwidden for completing the 42km marathon, her first for many years, in 3hrs 59 minutes and to many others who achieved personal bests throughout the day.



### Ramsay puts in team effort in Sydney City2Surf

Over 250 Ramsay Health Care staff members from across several hospitals competed in the Sydney City2Surf in August. The 14 kilometre event was hot and hilly so staff were very glad to be able to receive massage and some great food after completion.

Congratulations to all the hospitals who put in teams particularly Strathfield, St George, Figtree, North Shore, Westmead, Mt Wilga and The Northside Group.

Head Office also put in a large contingent.

Congratulations to Michael Hirner, Group Financial Controller, who was the first Ramsay competitor across the line in a time of 60.35 minutes and was the 1215th competitor to finish out of the total field of over 63,000 competitors.



**Top left L-R:** Ruth Nissim, Paul Ramsay & Karen Small pictured here before they set off on the 14km City2Surf.

**Top right L-R:** Stan Hyasatt, Swinder Sandhu, Mick Campbell & Peter Jefferson from Ramsay Head Office.

**Above:** Strathfield Private Hospital entered the largest contingent in the Sydney City2Surf with over 80 competitors.

### Katerina tosses the coin at AFL

Katerina Andronis who has been working on the Affinity integration project with Group Information Services, was very lucky to win the right to "toss the coin" at the MCG for the Hawthorn v Carlton game in August.

