



# Servionews

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JULY 2009

## Royal Perth Hospital farewells Dr Phil



*Dr Montgomery and Alison Maclean.*



*RPH farewells Phil Montgomery.*

**Dr Philip Montgomery has retired from Royal Perth Hospital after 33 years of dedicated service to the WA health system.**

Dr Montgomery started his career in 1976 at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) as an intern and completed his residency and senior residency at Princess Margaret Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Dr Montgomery then spent 20 years working within the Disability Services Commission WA, including seven years as the Director of Medical and Specialist Services.

In 2000 Dr Montgomery returned to his beloved RPH taking up the role of Director Clinical Services before being promoted to Executive Director in 2004.

Most recently Dr Montgomery has been the Director of Planning for RPH, helping to shape the future direction of the hospital.

A/Executive Director RPH Alison Maclean, thanked Phil for his significant contribution over the years.

"He has played a pivotal role in ensuring the hospital continued to run smoothly during periods of great uncertainty, particularly around the creation of the historical precinct and the planning for the future hospital."

At the farewell Dr Kevin Warr announced that the Clinical Staff Association were giving Phil an Emeritus Consultant status.

"In recognition of the highest standards of clinical leadership at RPH, his



*Alison Maclean, Kevin Warr, Phil Montgomery, Nicole Feely & Anne Sequeira.*

dedication to RPH and the high esteem he is held in by all his consultant colleagues."

Dr Montgomery leaves behind many friends and all RPH staff wish him and his family well.

## Greetings From the A/Executive Director



*A/Prof. Paul Mark*

**looking at the hospital's future.**

**RPH recently farewelled Dr Philip Montgomery who served as Executive Director for several years and, more recently, as the Director of Planning,**

Dr Montgomery was a respected leader of this institution and a passionate believer that RPH delivers the highest possible level of patient care. I'm sure you'll join with me in wishing him the very best for the future.

As winter progresses, so does the flu season. As cases of the seasonal flu and swine flu continue to present at our doors I thank all staff for their contribution to the care of these patients.

As a further support to staff, we have established a flu clinic for staff and their families in the GP After hours Clinic. Details of all H1N1 management issues can be found by clicking the link on the front page of [Servio Online](#).

The Outstanding Service and Long Service awards are approaching and I encourage all staff to consider nominating worthy colleagues for the first award and ensure the appropriate people know about your

own years of service for the Long Service Award. This is a Hospital with many long-serving staff members and those years of service are truly appreciated. This is an opportunity to honour staff members who have give so many years of their lives to caring for our patients.

I also encourage all staff to find a few minutes to attend the coming Four Hour Rule Data Fair. If we are to improve the way we care for people, then every single one of us needs to know what is being discovered and to have our opinions heard.

**Clinical A/Prof Paul Mark  
Acting Executive Director, RPH**

# Nazzari family's generous gift

A local family lost their son to a unique MRSA infection last year but were determined something good would come from his death.

Helen Nazzari and her family raised money that went towards the purchase of a new \$10,000 state of the art machine that can detect 300 genes of MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, bacteria that is resistant to a number of antibiotics).

In June the WA Gram-positive Bacteria Typing and Research Unit based at Royal Perth Hospital held a morning tea to thank the family for their generous donation.

David Nazzari was 26 years old and was fit and healthy last year - even playing in his local football grand final - when he was hit by the super-bug. He was engaged to be married and had his whole life ahead of him.

The MRSA David acquired is known as 'USA300' - a particularly virulent strain of MRSA that is a major public health concern in the USA and many other countries.

The Gram-positive Bacteria Typing and Research Unit at RPH identified the clone responsible for David's death and alerted the WA Health Department to the entry of the MRSA clone USA300 into the WA community.

Health Department infection control specialists, nurse Allison Peterson and Dr Helen van Gessel, then followed up with the family to arrange screening and decolonisation where necessary.

At the time David and the family just thought he had a bad case of the flu but only a couple of weeks later the family were making the tragic decision to turn off life support, such is the virulent nature of this MRSA strain.



RPH Head of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, A/Prof Keryn Christiansen said that in conjunction with the WA Health Department they recently extended the State's MRSA "search and destroy" policy into the community in an effort to prevent USA300 from becoming a problem in the community.

She said the family had made a significant contribution towards MRSA research.

Helen Nazzari said her family wanted to do something to help research into MRSA so that other families wouldn't have to suffer the hurt of losing a loved one.

She reiterated "Your work does touch people."

## Fiona Wood most trusted five times in a row

For an impressive fifth year in a row Royal Perth Hospital surgeon and burns specialist Dr Fiona Wood has been voted Australia's most trusted.



*Fiona Wood is Australia's most trusted... again!*

Readers Digest Australia announced that Dr Wood topped the list ahead of a remarkable list

of people including acting superstars Hugh Jackman and Cate Blanchett and sporting heroes Glenn McGrath, Ian Thorpe and Stephanie Rice.

She even managed to outshine popular royal Princess Mary of Denmark.

Dr Wood she is overwhelmed by the support of the community for the work done in the burn unit.

"I feel very fortunate to be a surgeon and to work with such great people all striving towards the same goal of minimising the impact of burn injury on people's lives."

According to the poll being Trustworthy is measured by care plus courage plus consistency. One thing is for sure, Fiona is consistently Australia's most trustworthy.

## Dementia champions

Recently the Dementia in Residential Care Training (DIRECT) formally recognised successful participants in the education intervention as Dementia Champions. These participants take on the role of championing the dementia cause. They will facilitate their work places in implementing best practice in dementia care.

Royal Perth Hospital's Dr Chris Beer is the DIRECT Study Principal Investigator at the Western Australian Centre for Health and Ageing (WACHA) and said "This represents a significant milestone in the development of improving the quality in dementia care education."

The DIRECT Study dementia education program emphasises good communication skills and regular interaction when caring for people with dementia. This person-

centred education program aims to improve the person with dementia's care experience and hopefully enhances their quality of life. Eighteen residential care facilities within Perth's metropolitan area participated in the education program.

There are over 227,300 people with dementia with the number to be 731,000 by 2050. While the risk of dementia increases with age, dementia is not a natural part of ageing. About half the people with moderate to severe dementia live in residential care facilities.

The premise of Dementia in Residential Care: Education Intervention Trial (DIRECT) study is that those who deliver the care to people with dementia are dementia experts. The DIRECT education program was developed with the residential care staff member in mind.

## Four Hour Rule Update

From the Four Hour Rule team

A Data Fair will be on August 26 between 10am and 1pm at the Old Victoria Square café.

This is an opportunity for all staff to look at the problems we have found in the way we care for our patients here at RPH, some of the measures around the size of the problems, and their root causes.

The next step will be to ask the staff for their ideas for solutions - we need to know your thoughts on how to improve the way we care for our patients as well as for the staff.

This will be done through a Four-Hour Rule Data Fair.

This process needs the input and comments from staff from all areas and levels and so all staff are asked to make an effort to find about 15 minutes to attend.

Supervisors and managers should ensure that time is arranged so their staff can take turns away from their duties.

Any comments or feedback can be directed to [katebrockman@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:katebrockman@health.wa.gov.au).

# RPH celebrates Indigenous culture

Royal Perth Hospital staff enjoyed a week of NAIDOC celebrations in July.

NAIDOC week is about honouring and sharing in Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and this year's theme is 'Honouring our elders, nurturing our youth.'

RPH's GP Liaison (Aboriginal Health) Dr Marianne Wood said that RPH had many Indigenous patients and staff and this was an important way of acknowledging them.

"NAIDOC Week is about celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the very positive contribution these people make to the community."

The hospital organised various activities throughout the week including the traditional flag raising ceremony and displays of Aboriginal art and music.

There was also an opportunity for tasting some traditional Aboriginal foods such as damper and kangaroo stew.

Many of the wards got into the NAIDOC spirit and took part in the inaugural ward decorating competition.



NAIDOC Morning tea.

Michael Morton presents the award to Julie Pearce and the Diabetes ward.

The Diabetes ward was the winner of the decorating competition with 9C and CCU in a tie for second place. Honourable mention was also given to wards 3K, 2K and 5H.

NAIDOC stands for the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee.

## Staff Development Nurse Study Day



Staff Development Nurses at the Study Day.

A Staff Development Nurse study day was held last month which gave Staff Development Nurses (SDNs) an opportunity to engage in some team building and leadership education, part of the qualities required as a SDN.

Director of Nursing Maha Rajagopal officially opened the day acknowledging the SDNs and their valuable contribution to the organisation.

Former RPH Director of Nursing Pat Tibbet presented the final session of the day on Leadership followed by an afternoon tea.

Maybe a special cake for Pat to cut will be done (just awaiting my mum to confirm but this should be OK)

The day was designed in collaboration by Divisional Staff Development Educators, in particular, Alison Lockhart, Donna Rogers and Kylie Fawcett.

Feedback from the day was very positive with SDNs commenting that the day was well thought out, very enjoyable and inspiring.

Another commented that it was a "Great course- very empowering, and made us feel like valued members of the staff."

RPH nurses also had a visit last month by Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Catherine Stoddart.

Cath was invited as part of the Registered Nurse Career Development Program and all nursing staff were invited to attend.

Afternoon tea was later held in the lobby for an informal meet and greet and to provide photo opportunities.

## Employees of the month



Johanna Holloway

### Shenton Park Campus

Enrolled Nurse Johanna Holloway is this month's winner of the Employee of the Month award at Shenton Park.

Johanna is a valued member of the Ward 11 staff and her efforts are very much appreciated by both her colleagues and her patients.

"She always goes out of her way to give patients what they need to make sure they are comfortable," one of her colleagues said. "Johanna applies the knowledge that she gains and is always mindful to ensure she keeps the patients informed of what is happening."

Johanna respects her colleagues and embraces learning from them on the ward. She performs all tasks thoroughly and efficiently and is always mindful of respecting patient's privacy.

"Patient's appreciate her sense of humour. She always manages to cheer people up."

Special thanks to our sponsors: Police and Nurses Credit Society for their \$100 prize, Bunnings Warehouse for their \$50 gift card, and HESTA Super Fund for their \$50 gift card.



Matthew Shand

### Wellington Street Campus

The winner of the Employee of the Month award at Wellington Street Campus is Clerical Services Manager for Imaging Division Matthew Shand.

One of Matthew's nominators has stated "in respect to the Servio Values, Matthew measures up to the highest standards."

Matthew has also been described as being "an asset to the division and "an ambassador for RPH."

Matthew is the division's Clerical Services Manager but he has also recently demonstrated his ability to multi-task by taking on a half-time secondment as the division's Quality Coordinator.

In his role as the Quality Coordinator, he successfully coordinated tasks that recently results in the Division achieving full corporate accreditation.

As the chair of regular meetings with staff, he ensures global matters are raised at these meetings in order to facilitate open and honest lines of communication amongst staff. Staff are consistently impressed with Matthew's calmness and clarity when dealing with complex issues.

# RPH nurses tell their stories



Lisa Burnette tells her story.

RPH Renal Research and Database Nurse Lisa Burnette has quite a story to tell and after nine years of writing she has decided to publish a book about her journey.

Lisa was just 24 and enjoying life, travelling with her friends when she was taken to Royal London Hospital suffering

from Meningococcal Septicaemia - a life threatening infection which resulted in the removal of both her legs.

Meningococcal Septicaemia is caused by bacteria entering the bloodstream and multiplying uncontrollably. The bacteria damages the walls of the blood vessels and causes bleeding into the skin, which results in a distinctive rash. Septicaemia can lead to death within hours, or permanent disabilities such as severe scarring due to skin grafts and amputation of the fingers, toes, arms or legs - due to lack of blood circulation in the extremities of the body.

"My symptoms overnight included high fever, malaise, diarrhoea and disorientation. By morning, I had a rash covering my arms, legs, and face. By the time I was taken to hospital the damage was done, and they were forced to remove my legs," Lisa said.

"After 4 months at the Royal London Hospital, I returned to Perth and spent another month at RPH Shenton Park Campus learning to live as an amputee.

With support from family, friends and the Amanda Young Foundation, Lisa reflects on her powerful journey in "Learning to Walk - Recovering from Meningococcal Septicaemia".

"Learning to Walk" can be purchased online at [www.lisaburnette.com.au](http://www.lisaburnette.com.au)

Also, stories from two RPH nurses have been included in "Nursing Stories: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Journey" by Registered Nurse Pedus Eewama.

Nursing stories is a compilation of actual life-transforming stories that range from subtly hilarious stories to confronting clinical experiences.

Some proceeds from the sale of the book in conjunction with Nursing and Midwifery Board WA will be used for nursing scholarships.

## In Brief

### Pandemic Influenza Education

Staff are encouraged to attend an update on infection control issues and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Some sessions have already been held. The next session will be held on August 4 2009 at the Bruce Hunt Lecture Theatre from 11.30pm - 2.30pm.

### RPH Staff Amenities Fund Committee

Invites all staff amenities members to come and celebrate the RPH Annual Ball. This years theme is "Staying Alive."

**Venue:** Burswood Casino - Astral Room (accommodation packages available).

**Date:** Saturday 22 August 2009

**Arrive:** 7.00pm for pre dinner drinks in the foyer

Between 7.00pm – 12.00am

SAF Member and partner \$70 per person, Non members \$145

Enjoy a three course dinner with bottled beer, bottled wines, sparkling wine & soft drinks.

**Live Band:** Tod Johnson with Peace & Love.

DJ Stuart will play all your requests from 12am until 1am.

Dress to impress - Dinner suit and cocktail attire (Strictly no denim)

Tables of 8 or 10 only - start getting your tables organised as they will go very quickly.

## Ed Scull honoured with Order of Australia Medal

Royal Perth Hospital's Head of the Medical Engineering and Physics department was this year honoured with an Order of Australia Medal.

Edward Scull received the OAM for service to biomedical engineering and associated professional associations.

Ed has been working at RPH for 40 years and says the department has seen many advances since he started in 1969.

"It is flattering to receive this honour but I feel this is a reflection of the work done by the whole team."

"I am fortunate to work in an environment that is professional and a leader in its field."

This year marks the Biomedical Medical Engineering and Physics department's 50th year.



"Over the years we have been able to build a service that is unique in Australia."

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