



Servionews

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Inspiring Artwork for Breast Clinic

Patients in the Royal Perth Hospital Breast Clinic have something beautiful and inspiring to look at thanks to a beautiful new painting.

'Strong Women', by local Aboriginal Artist Valerie Ah Chee, is a celebration of women who have faced and survived breast cancer.

"The five women in the painting show that breast cancer does not care about age, size, race, class, religion or circumstance," said Valerie.

"The circles signify the support women receive through family, friends and the medical staff who are with them every step of their journey. The women have their arms raised in triumph and are giving hope to others who are just starting their own journey."

RPH Head of Diagnostic & Interventional Radiology, Prof Liz Wylie said this artwork is a reminder that breast cancer does not discriminate and any woman at any time in her life needs to be breast aware.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for RPH to engage with a local artist and produce something beautiful and inspiring for the women who visit our assessment centre," said Prof Wylie.



RPH Head of Diagnostic & Interventional Radiology, Prof Liz Wylie with artist Valerie Ah Chee.

I'm Fantastic Flu Free

Help keep the flu out of the hospital this winter with the free flu vaccination.

The 2010 Flu Vaccination Campaign commences from 29th March - 30th April on the Bridge, Royal Perth Wellington Street Campus.

Shenton Park Campus Campaign commences on the 30th March.

Stay tuned for times and dates at both Campuses.

Be Flu Free this Winter!



Life Thru' a Blender.

Returning home after a 40km cycle with a group of friends on her usual Thursday morning ride, RPH's Dr Jenny McCloskey was metres from home, when she was suddenly smashed to the ground by a car

Dr McCloskey remembers thinking the driver had enough time to stop her car after she was struck but to her horror, the driver failed to brake and ran straight over the top of her, finally coming to a stop with bike and rider trapped completely under the car.

Wedge face down between the car and road, Dr McCloskey knew she was seriously injured - the taste of blood forcing a quick self-assessment to determine whether it was coming from an internal or external injury.

Amazed nobody had actually tried to speak to her, she continually waved her arm to show anybody who looked under the car that she was conscious and able to communicate. After what seemed like hours but was more like 20 minutes, road workers and a passing motorist used a car jack to lift the vehicle off her seriously injured body, while everyone waited for the ambulance to arrive.

Rushed to RPH as a code 1 with a blood pressure of 70/40 she quickly transferred to the State Major Trauma Unit, Dr McCloskey remembers thinking it was all a bit of a fuss because she had no idea how badly injured she was. With both clavicles broken, 15 broken ribs, a grade 5 pelvic injury, dislocated hip,

a cracked sacrum, bilateral sciatic nerve damage, per-cardial contusion, bilateral apical pneumothoraces, multiple skin lacerations, but amazingly no spinal or brain injuries, the extent of the damage was incredible.

Under the co-ordination of Surgical Head Dr Sudhakar Rao and Nursing Director Carmel McCormack, surgeons queued up to repair their seriously injured colleague.

Dr McCloskey remembers distinctly being told quite honestly and straightforwardly by a doctor that she could recover from her injuries, but that it would take a while.

"That was the start of the most amazingly powerful positive recovery process from all my visitors including the staff at Royal Perth and Shenton Park," Dr McCloskey said.

"I'm still overwhelmed by the support and level of care from staff and colleagues and friends and patients."

"The extraordinary compassion shown by people I don't even know is very, very powerful and has helped me heal so much more quickly," she said.

Dr McCloskey has nothing but the most heart-felt thanks for everybody at RPH and SPC for her incredible care. She has been back on a bike but is very wary of roads and will one day find the courage to look at her own admission x-rays which she hasn't been able to do just yet (her



surgeon said they were amongst the worst he had seen).

Her recovery is progressing exceptionally well (there is some delayed fracture healing) and rehab continues around her work in the Sexual Health clinic.

Dr McCloskey cannot praise the nursing care she received highly enough, right through from the wonderful emergency department to the incredible Shenton Park staff.

The Executive recognises the wonderful care provided by all staff from RPH and SPC for one of our very own.

Employees of the Month

Wellington Street Campus

February Employee of the month at the RPH Wellington Street Campus is Graduate Registered Nurse and Peer Support Leader Marieke Vandenberg.

Marieke strives to improve the grad program as well as offer support to other grad nurses and the grad coordinators. She does this by running peer support meetings, representing all RPH's grad nurses at management meetings and is the editor of the globally distributed Grad Newsletter.

Marieke's many nominators have emphasised her great communication skills, her dedication and her patience. She is a hard worker who is constantly striving to attain a higher level of skill in her nursing and goes above and beyond with her patients.



"She is warm and confident offering patients a sense of security and understanding. Marieke is an asset to Royal Perth."

Shenton Park Campus

Efficient, approachable and dedicated are just some of the words used to describe the RPH Shenton Park Campus February employee of the month Denise Kennedy.

Denise, a Registered Nurse on Ward 10, has always demonstrated a high level of nursing care and is an effective coordinator in a challenging role.

She identifies opportunities and pilots initiatives to improve work conditions, patient care and outcomes. Team members under Denise's guidance say that she fosters trust, mutual support and flexibility in her area. Described as a quiet achiever Denise is humble and does not recognise what an asset she is to her ward.

"Denise is a great role model for younger staff and constantly encourages junior nurses to strive for high standards."

A special thanks goes to our valued sponsors Police and Nurses Credit Society, Hesta Super Fund and Bunnings Warehouse who provide prizes to winners each month.

Heart Pump Traveller

70 year-old Joe Rocca realised a lifelong dream when he travelled back to Italy last year.

What makes Joe's trip unusual is that for the last eight years, he's had an implanted heart pump which requires him to carry a battery pack with him 24 hours a day.

Although Joe was born in Australia, his heritage is from Balsorano in the mountainous L'Aquila region, east of Rome in the heart of Italy.

Since suffering heart attacks in the 1980's, Joe thought he may never live to see his family's home town; the pump implant could've been the final end of his dream.

But with support from RPH cardiology, Joe became the first person to travel internationally with the Ventricular

Assistance Device, although he carried 40 hours of extra battery backup and had to meet a whole raft of criteria from the airline he travelled on.

Joe said the support he had from the RPH team including Dr Gerry O'Driscoll, Helen Hayes and others was fantastic.

"I walked between 5 and 6 kilometres a day and loved the sight-seeing and would love to do it again," he said.

"But I could only have dreamed of doing this without the support of Royal Perth's wonderful team."

For now, Joe and wife Pam are happy with their animals on their farm in Wanneroo, but plans are already being made to take another trip to Europe soon.



Joe Rocca, first person to travel overseas with a heart pump, with wife Pam.

Australian First for RPH Shenton Park Campus

Washing wheelchairs by hand with a bucket and cloth is a thing of the past now that a new \$50,000 wheelchair and equipment washer has been installed at Royal Perth Hospital Shenton Park Campus - the first of its kind in Australia.

The washer amazingly cleans and disinfects a wheelchair in 5 minutes and provides much improved infection control than the old manual method of cleaning.

Robert Bingham, Rehab Engineer at RPH Shenton Park Campus said it used to take up to 20 minutes to wash a wheelchair and all its attachments to the same level of cleanliness as the automatic washer.

"We used to hand and pressure wash approximately 40 wheelchairs a week which was very time consuming. This was also an infection control risk as contagious pathogens became airborne during the cleaning process," said Robert.

"We used to have a staff member washing wheelchairs full-time and



Rehab Engineering Department's Tanya Leet with the Australian first wheelchair washer.

now thanks to the new machine, we have been able to free that person up to do other important work."

Not only does the new washer provide better results in terms of cleanliness and infection control but it also consumes less water.

The RPH Rehab Engineering Clinic builds and repairs wheelchairs for people with disabilities across WA, not just for RPH and Shenton Park.

A Friend says Thanks to RPH

The Public Relations Department had a visit from Evelyn Walker, a Royal Perth Hospital Friend for over 21 years, wanting to say a special thank you.

Evelyn recently had a stay in RPH on Ward 5A/B for a few weeks.

"I want to thank all the staff that looked after me," said Evelyn.

"Everyone that came in contact with me, from the nurses, doctors to the catering staff that delivered my meals, was wonderful."

"I could not have asked for better care."

Evelyn has returned to work with her fellow volunteers in The Friends Magazine Room.

RPH Heritage Society for 2010



Back- Jeff Green, Jill O'Donnell, Ron Bodycoat, Fred Ordynski, Mick Ellis, Annamarie Gault. Front - Sue Reid, Max Kay, Margret Hubery, Lorna White

The RPH Heritage Society Committee for 2010 was elected last month.

Chairperson: Fred Ordynski

Vice-Chairperson: Ron Bodycoat

Secretary: Jeff Green

Treasurer: Annamarie Gault

The Heritage Society, which started in April 2009 with 50 members, has almost doubled in a year. If anyone would like

to become a member of the society please email fred.ordynski@health.wa.gov.au

Come alone and support the heritage society and enjoy a delicious breakfast at:

BREAKFAST ON BROADWAY

Featuring Justin and Katherine Friend

Enjoy a delicious Sunday Morning breakfast while listening to delightful songs from the best loved Broadway Shows

WHEN: 21st of March 09:00 -11.30

WHERE: Old Victoria Café, Corner of Murray St and Victoria Square

COST: \$40 per person

Followed by a tour of the RPH Heritage Precinct

Tickets available from Public Relations on 43943

Or fred.ordynski@health.wa.gov.au

40 years and still going



Medical Imaging Technologist Michael Grant celebrated 40 years at RPH.

40 years is a long time - but it's been a good time for Medical Imaging Technologist Michael Grant, who celebrated his 40 year anniversary at RPH last month.

Michael started as a cadet Radiographer back in 1970 after spending three years at Perth Technical College gaining his initial degree. He currently works in Radiology in the general area as a nominal senior and has seen RPH grow in many directions over many years.

"It's a great work environment and the staff are an amazing bunch of people to work with," Michael said.

He has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Royal Perth and looks forward to his continuing future with the hospital.

Staff Amenities

GOOD FRIDAY IS GREAT FAMILY FUN DAY AT ADVENTURE WORLD.

DATE: Friday April 2nd.

TIME: 10.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m

PRICE: SAF MEMBERS & FAMILY (MAX 5 AT THIS PRICE) \$ 20.00pp

NON MEMBERS & EXTRA TICKETS \$ 29.00pp

ENTRY PRICE INCLUDES:

ALL Adventure World's rides and attractions (including the NEW 'Free fall shot & drop tower')

Plus additional rides, amusements and attractions including:

Non-stop music with DJ,
Extra Carnival Rides (in addition to those provided by Adv. World)
Children's entertainment group
'The Lulus',
ZAP circus
Rock Climbing Wall
Bouncy castles
Pony rides,
Camel Rides,

Face Painters,
Balloon Artists,
Animal Nursery ,
Monster Balls,
Easter egg hunt with Prizes
Easter Bunny Character

Normal food outlets will operate as usual for those wishing to purchase alternative choices, or people are free to bring in picnic hampers of their own.

NOTE: This event is alcohol free. Being a public holiday Adventure Worlds liquor license does not apply on this day.

Adventure World staff may check eskies at the entrance, and request removal of any alcoholic beverages prior to admission.

These tickets are all non-refundable. In the unfortunate circumstance that Adventure World deems it necessary for the event not to commence, as a result of inclement weather or any other event outside of Adventure World's control, entry tickets will be valid for use during normal daytime trading hours from 3 April 2010 to 26 April 2010.

RPH.PublicRelations@health.wa.gov.au - email subscription.

SERVIONEWS is produced by Royal Perth Hospital Public Relations: Ishani Hewage (9224 3943)



Department of Health
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