



BRHS Newsletter

PO Box 474, Bairnsdale 3875

www.brhs.com.au

NEWS

- New DON appointed
- BRHS wins national award
- Toonlook Waters Auction
- Oaks Day Luncheon
- Koori 'Cook Up'

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELSIE
BRHS celebrates its oldest resident, Elsie Tynan 102 years.

Community Supports BRHS

WORKWAYS DONATE \$50,000

Bairnsdale employment services organisation, WORKWAYS donated \$50,000 to the Pelican Appeal towards construction of the new oncology and dialysis facility at BRHS. The Pelicans have driven an outstanding campaign to raise the funds for the \$1.7 million facility that will cater to East Gippsland cancer and renal patients and their families, many of whom are currently travelling long distances for treatment. The Metung Bloodhounds have recently committed \$20,000 for the Oncology and Dialysis facility furnishings. The Rotary Club of Bairnsdale donated \$10,000 for the purchase of a chair and the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale



Pelican Chairman, Peter Murphy accepts donation from Joe Tantaros, Workways Chairman and John Hartley, CEO WORKWAYS.

Sunrise recently presented the \$16,000 raised by the 2008 Feast On East Festival Committee.

NEWS

KIOSK Volunteers Launch Recipe Book

Some 80 volunteers are registered with the Kiosk Volunteer Auxiliary. They run the kiosk seven days a week at set hours. Kiosk volunteers run an annual Christmas raffle and have launched a recipe book to raise funds for BRHS. The recipe book is fun and affordable and brings together 'best loved' recipes of volunteers and BRHS staff. It will be available for \$10 from the kiosk and other outlets. Contact Karly Cameron on Ph 5150 3414.



Kiosk Auxiliary Volunteers

Bowerbird Fundraisers

New President of the Bowerbirds, Merrill Goodwin, leads a tradition of ongoing fundraising for equipment purchases for BRHS. Annual upcoming Bowerbird Fundraisers include:

Oaks Day Luncheon

Thursday 6th November 2008 at St Mary's Parish Centre 11.00 am.
Contact: Melva Pittard phone 5152 3791
Maree Piera phone 5152 2910

Annual Golf Day

Sunday 30th November 2008, South Pines Golf Club, Lindenow.
Contact: Maree Piera phone 5152 2910



June Jackson Fashion Fun Oaks Day Luncheon

How the Community uses BRHS Services

Feedback from the community during the 2008 Brand Management survey indicated that there was still some degree of concern over the retention of specialist consultants to BRHS and there was interest and concern over emergency services. These tables provide an overview of access to specialist consultants during 2007- 2008 and the number of patients attending Emergency services with a break-down of admissions to hospital from Emergency over the past 2 years.



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2007/2008

VISITING CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS TO BRHS	PATIENT CONSULTS
AUDIOLOGY	1165
CARDIOLOGY	955
EAR NOSE & THROAT	1332
GASTROENTEROLOGY	467
GENERAL SURGEON	399
GYNAECOLOGY	1174
ONCOLOGY	1720
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	2495
ORTHOPAEDICS	669
ORTHOTIST	0
PAEDIATRIC SURGEON	86
PAEDIATRICIAN	719
PHYSICIAN	974
RENAL	646
RHEUMATOLOGY	1082
UROLOGY	404
VASCULAR SURGEON	342
TOTAL PATIENT CONSULTS	7396



Nurses Upgrade Skills

Nurses maintain best practice by undertaking post-graduate courses at various universities eg. Monash, Deakin and Latrobe, in either Melbourne or Churchill. Thirteen nurses were enrolled in 2008 to develop clinical skills and theory in various disciplines, e.g. Emergency, Acute Medical-Surgical, Midwifery, Peri-operative, Paediatrics, Renal Nursing and Oncology. Recruiting is currently taking place to attract post graduate students for 2009. Contact: Liz Barlow Ph. 5150 3557

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

TOTAL ATTENDANCES	07 - 08	16,063
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	06 - 07	14,976

NEWS Continued

Award for BRHS

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service was recognised at the recent Australasian Reporting Awards for excellence in its Annual Report publication. BRHS was awarded a Bronze Medal for good, concise reporting and adherence to the strict reporting criteria. Philippa deVoi, BRHS Board President accepted the Bronze Award at a ceremony in Sydney.

iPods for Aged In Care

Year nine students of Nagle College participated in an innovative pilot project during term 2 with elderly residents of Maddocks Gardens to introduce the use of ipods as a means of entertainment, learning and leisure. Students researched and selected the most suitable technology to assist residents to search and download podcasts with a view to developing an audio-visual library for the residents.

Koori Community COOK UP

BRHS Koori Health Liaison Officers, Bonnie O'Shannassy and Rob Hudson, became 'chefs' for the day at a cooking class to promote nutrition for Koori diabetes sufferers.



Mavis learns to use ipod at Maddocks Gardens



Bonnie O'Shannassy cooking up a storm

Thirteen diabetes patients attended the session at Gippsland East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative that demonstrated practical and simple ideas for cooking meals with fresh produce including fish, vegetables and fruits. The session was organised in association with the East Gippsland Division of General Practice.

New Faces at BRHS



PHARMACY

Dr Pascale Dettwiller

Dr Pascale Dettwiller is the BRHS Director of Pharmacy. Pascale is a Doctor of Pharmacy, has a Master of Human Biology; Post Graduate Diplomas in Clinical Toxicology and Pharmacovigilance Surveying.

Pascale also has a Bachelor of Teaching and qualifications in Business Management and Nutrition; she is certified in Geriatric Pharmacy (US) and in Palliative Care (TAS.). Pascale has come from the North West Regional Hospital, Tasmania, where she was a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Tasmania. 'Quality and Safety' in Medication Management are two areas Pascale is keen to develop at BRHS, focusing on excellence in patient care and setting procedures for a multidisciplinary team approach. Pascale is French Australian, a keen sailor and came to Australia by sailing from America in a small 38' (12m) yacht. She has settled in Bairnsdale with her husband and joined the Mitchell River Rotary Club. In September Pascale was appointed to the Victorian Pharmacy Board.



NURSING

Vicki Farthing

Vicki Farthing is the newly appointed Director of Nursing Services. Vicki is a Registered Nurse Division 1 with over 29 years' experience in healthcare. Qualifications completed since obtaining her General Nursing Certificate include Stomal Therapy Bachelor of Nursing, Grad Dip

Health Informatics and Master of Health Management. Vicki has been employed at BRHS since December 2004 where she took on the role of Operations Manager Nursing. Prior to this Vicki was at West Gippsland Healthcare Group Warragul for 19 years where her most recent roles included Associate Director of Nursing – Human Resources and Associate Director of Nursing – Project Management. The last role before coming to BRHS of Project Management enabled Vicki to undertake numerous quality improvement projects including medication safety, falls management, dementia care and policy and procedure development as well as coordinating a \$6.5M hospital redevelopment. Vicki and her husband have moved to the Bairnsdale area and are fortunate that their three Melbourne based daughters find East Gippsland a great place to visit.



MEDICINE

Dr Jane Greacen

Dr Jane Greacen was appointed Director of Medical Services in March 2008. This is a part-time position and Jane also does sessional GP work at the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative. Jane was previously the CEO of the Rural Workforce

Agency Victoria for 10 years, and prior to that, Senior Lecturer with Monash University. She has worked with the Department of Human Services, the Public Transport Corporation, the Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council and in occupational health and general practice. Jane qualified as a general practitioner and an occupational physician. She has a Fellowship of the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. She also has a Masters of Public Health. She is involved with supporting a local group of Aboriginal Elders to establish a program to support the children of their local community through school and into university. She owns a remnant of warm temperate rainforest and works with the local community-based Conservation Management Network that aims to regenerate rainforest in the region. Jane lives in Lakes Entrance with her partner, Dr David Campbell.

NO SMOKING ZONE BY 2009

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service will become a totally smoke free environment from January 1st 2009. No smoking will be permitted in the buildings or within the boundaries of any BRHS campus by staff, patients, visitors, residents, volunteers or contractors.

"It is a matter of common sense," according to CEO Wayne Sullivan, "We need to act on ensuring a healthy environment, not just for patients, but for anyone entering or working within our facilities."

The tightening up on a 'smoke free' policy at BRHS is consistent with the move to make hospitals totally smoke free, a trend both in Australia and overseas. Signs will clearly denote BRHS as a 'smoke free' zone to all its outer boundaries including visitor and staff car parks.

Anyone found smoking within BRHS boundaries will be asked to extinguish their cigarettes (or pipes) or alternatively to leave the premises.

To enquire about the BRHS Smoke Free Policy or if you would like assistance to quit smoking you are invited to contact Community Health on ph. 5152 0222.

Buildings in Progress

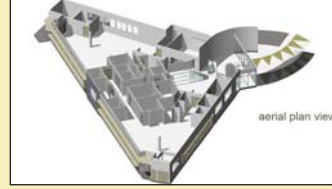
Plans for the new oncology and dialysis wing are progressing. CEO, Wayne Sullivan has reassured the community that BRHS is committed to this infrastructure project. There are however, issues relating to the unexpected high costs for construction. Tenders are currently under consideration and the BRHS Board of Management is exploring financial options.

Toonalook Waters Home Auction

Mick Campbell of the Practical Men of the Village has driven an outstanding campaign to raise funds for the construction of a beautiful home at Toonalook Waters Estate Paynesville on land donated by developer Mina Armstrong. The luxurious home overlooks Jones' Bay and is

being constructed with the materials and labour donated by over 50 local building and related companies in East Gippsland. Proceeds from the auction scheduled for early 2009 will go to the Pelican Appeal for the construction of the new oncology and dialysis facility.

Contact: Mick Campbell Ph. 5152 3626



New oncology and dialysis wing



Toonalook Waters Home for auction

Message from the CEO



Since my arrival at BRHS in November 2007 I have been working closely with the Board of Management to fine-tune the delivery of BRHS

services, introduce quality improvement and innovation systems and to establish priorities for the sustainability and growth of BRHS medical and health services. We are keen to listen and to implement changes where necessary. We have noted the feedback from the staff, associated health providers, community groups and individuals. A number of initiatives are being put in place to address the feedback, including the establishment of a Community Advisory Committee to strengthen our communications in the region. Additionally, the results of the strategic planning process are currently being synthesised by an external consultant to formulate direction over the next 3-5 years. The

Board of Management will consider a draft plan in late October. We have implemented a number of new systems for continuous improvement to patient care and, with the help of the community, have undertaken innovative programs and acquired new technologies to improve the quality of life for those in residential aged-care. BRHS appreciates the ongoing support from the community through fundraising auxiliaries, community service organisations and volunteers. This support helps us to acquire equipment and facilities which would normally be beyond our financial capacity to provide. BRHS is currently reviewing finance options to commence construction of the oncology and dialysis facility in 2009. Additionally we are in discussion with the Department of Human Services reviewing our master plan. The new oncology and dialysis centre will provide upgraded and expanded facilities for East Gippsland cancer and renal patients and their families and will offset the need for many

patients who have to travel long distances for treatment. Last financial year the revenue received as a result of community members using their private health insurance enhanced our ability to finance the construction of the oncology and dialysis development. We have new members that have joined the BRHS Board of Management and there have been fresh executive and management appointments to Nursing and Community Services, Allied and Community Health Services, Medical Services, Emergency Services and Quality Management. As a team, we have a commitment to listen to the community and to build partnerships with other health agencies and community groups as we work together to improve our services. I urge all members of the community to provide us with feedback on our services and to maintain the tradition of regional support for BRHS.

Wayne Sullivan CEO

Charity Begins at Home

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service strongly values the support it receives from donors. If you would like to join our donor program, please complete the form below and send to BRHS Donor Program, PO Box 474, Bairnsdale VIC 3875. Alternatively, you may wish to email your contact details to email@brhs.com.au

IDENTIFICATION: First Name _____ Surname _____
Company Name _____
ADDRESS: _____ Suburb/Town _____ Postcode _____
CONTACT DETAILS: Hm. Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____ Mob. _____
Email _____ Fax _____