

MEDIA RELEASE

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Presentation acknowledges dedication of Wondai's volunteers

NEARLY 200 years of volunteer service to the Wondai Hospital and Forest View Residential Aged Care Facility was celebrated at a special presentation evening last night.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mike Horan presented nine Wondai Hospital Auxiliary members with certificates of appreciation for their dedication to the South Burnett hospital.

Collectively, the volunteers have provided 193 years of service.

"The auxiliary has supported the patients, staff and residents of Wondai Hospital and the aged-care facility for more than 40 years," Mr Horan said.

"Their dedicated fundraising efforts have resulted in great outcomes for the facility.

"Most recently the auxiliary has purchased television sets, a digital camera, a specialised palliative-care mattress and members are currently planning upgrades to the dining room."

On behalf of the entire Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board, Mr Horan thanked the volunteers for their service and presented them with a special certificate to mark their achievements.

"The Wondai Hospital Auxiliary is an important part of the hospital," Mr Horan said.

"Many of the volunteers themselves are former nurses or staff members of the hospital, and many have stories to tell.

"The auxiliary is connected to the hospital and members are dedicated to supporting the staff and their patients. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to the hospital."

The auxiliary was acknowledged during a community engagement function at the Wondai Hospital.

The function was also an opportunity to view a recent mural which was painted by the Proston Girl Guides and to hear about an upcoming project, being undertaken by the Wondai Lions Club, to install a water feature in the aged-care facility's sensory garden.

"The Girl Guides have brightened up an otherwise boring iron fence," Wondai Hospital Director of Nursing Steve McNamara said.

"The residents now get to look out on a bright, cheery rural landscape scene.

“We look forward to further transformations when the Lions Club installs a water feature in the coming weeks.

“It is great that we have so many community organisations and individuals who are willing and able to support the hospital and the care we provide to our patients and residents.”

Volunteers recognised

- Maria Beer six years
- Kellie Walker seven years
- Liz Watson 10 years
- Robyn Hartwig 15 years
- Eileen Beer 25 years
- Jean Clark 25 years
- Dot Clancy 25 years
- Margaret Beuck 40 years
- Marian Barnes 40 years

Background

The DDHH Board were in Wondai this week for their regular meeting which is held in a rural or regional area of the health service every second month.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS), which includes Wondai Hospital, covers approximately 90,000 square kilometres, around one-and-a-half times the size of Tasmania.

The DDHHS delivers care from 20 hospitals and six residential care facilities, and manages an annual budget of more than \$620 million.

Ends

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