A Four Year Vision

These five pledges are the pillars of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Strategic Plan 2014-2017 launched on May 5. Together, the WBHHS staff and the community forged it. Be proud, it represents a new era in regional health. More Page 3.

1. Delivering sustainable, patient-centred, quality health services by:
   - Consistently providing safe, high quality patient-focused care
   - Improving health outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities
   - Improving access to our health services

2. Engaging with our communities and partners by:
   - Open and transparent communication channels
   - Increasing patient choice
   - Partnering with local health providers to improve the diversity of services and continuity of care
   - Encouraging greater focus on health promotion and early intervention to address the growing burden of chronic disease

3. Developing and empowering our workforce by:
   - Becoming a centre of excellence for learning to ensure our staff are both capable and competent to meet service needs
   - Creating a workplace culture that supports positive and respectful behaviours, high performance, accountability and customer service
   - Developing and implementing new workforce models to improve patient access and quality of care

4. Encouraging innovation and excellence by:
   - Creating an environment supportive of innovation and research through partnerships
   - Maximising education, training and research opportunities to enable innovation and improvement in the delivery of health services
   - Utilising technologies that improve the effectiveness and quality of our health services
   - Ensuring all services are evidence based and embrace innovative approaches to service delivery

5. Delivering value for money by:
   - Managing resources effectively to ensure ongoing sustainability of services
   - Developing strong financial management capability
   - Actively pursuing efficiency opportunities to enable reinvestment in health services for the Wide Bay community

Improving health, together
WIDE Bay Hospital and Health Service hosted the official opening of the Biggenden Multi-Purpose Health Service facility on March 28, 2014.

The $12.5m facility is one of the newest hospitals in regional Queensland providing seven acute beds, 11 aged care beds, two emergency beds and community health services to the Biggenden area.

The opening comes 94 years after a private bequest in 1920 of 840 pounds from Mrs RG Nichol, and further community subscriptions, covered the 3950 pound total cost of building the very first Biggenden Hospital.

Biggenden Hospital officially opens its doors

IT has been a busy period consolidating the results of consultation and feedback from our staff and community in the lead up to the launch of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Strategic Plan 2014-2017 on May 5.

I encourage you all to read your copy. It reveals our direction and how it will impact our service delivery.

Doctors’ contracts have dominated statewide news recently. Our HHS has moved smoothly towards the contracting of doctors without the protests and controversy seen elsewhere.

The contracts put together by CE Adrian Pennington, Glenda Bowater, Dr Craig Margetts and the team are fair and reasonable. Open communication built trust between management and the doctors. Doctors should be applauded.

One controversial issue we did have to deal with in recent months was false accusations in the Fraser Coast Chronicle about the closure of the Hervey Bay Hospital Intensive Care Unit. The report was untrue and was disturbing for the staff and community.

I was privileged to represent the WBHH Board at the opening the new dental clinic by the Health Minister Lawrence Springborg at Maryborough Hospital on March 7. It is an impressive, modern facility.

The planning and direction given by Malcolm Donaldson and the Oral Health team should be recognised.

I would also like to acknowledge the construction team, the support staff, administration and engineering departments for their role in expanding this vital service to the residents of Maryborough and the Fraser Coast.

After the official opening of the dental clinic the Health Minister, Board members, staff and I attended the Community Health Forum hosted by the Member for Maryborough Anne Maddern at the Maryborough Senior Citizens Centre.

There was an excellent attendance of about 150 people.

Overall, the forum went well. People appreciated honest answers that allayed fears about the Maryborough Hospital.
THE Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Strategic Plan 2014-2017 is the most ambitious and thorough document of its kind ever produced under the current Queensland Health structure.

It is not a document written to satisfy bureaucrats in Brisbane or one that will be parked and forgotten. Community members who make up the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Board set its strategic direction. Clinicians, health executives and public opinion leaders gave this vision a framework. Real targets were embedded in the plan and timelines in which to achieve them established.

The people of the Wide Bay were shown this document and asked what more they wanted from their public health service. More than 1000 ideas were put forward and Board members and senior health executives read each one.

The best ideas were incorporated into the plan. This is proof that the health service works hand in hand and responds to the people it serves.

Hard copies of the plan have been sent to all WBHHS staff. You can get a copy online at www.health.qld.gov.au/widebay or at your local hospital.

**Strat Plan Snippets**

**DURING** the community consultation phase of the planning process, a public meeting was held in every town and city in the Wide Bay that has a health facility.

**THE Wide Bay Hospital Snippets**

THE Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service region has the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over in Australia. A surprising 21% of its population is over 65.

83% of the Wide Bay’s population sits in the two most disadvantaged categories of Australia’s population as recorded by the 2011 Australian Census.
THE launch of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 begins the most important phase in the history of this health service. This Strategic Plan is a blueprint that has taken 12 months to develop. It has been tested from every angle and is rock solid. It can be relied upon to guide our efforts to improve health.

There has been significant change since I took on the role of Chief Executive 18 months ago. Tough decisions had to be taken to prepare us for the future. Our finances had to become strong. Our systems of governance had to be improved and, as a health service, we had to become more efficient. These challenges were met and we are now equipped to undertake a new strategic direction.

As our health service begins a new era, personal responsibility and responsibility for each other will be vital. Each staff member has to take pride in what we represent and what we aspire to achieve as an organisation.

Each staff member has to be sure that their work practices are best practice. Strive to be the employee that all other employees want to work with and be vigilant in keeping each other and the people we serve safe.

There are more than 3000 WBHHS employees. If each staff member knows what is in our Strategic Plan and communicates that to just five people, every adult in the Wide Bay will know and understand health better. Exciting times are ahead for all of us. The Strategic Plan is aspirational but achievable.

One chief operating officer for HHS

I now take on the role of WBHHS Chief Operating Officer (acting). It is a great opportunity for us to work together as a health service. We have the dedication, skills, talents and capability to deliver safe and quality services to our communities.

I plan to ensure there are forums for open and transparent communication and key stakeholder consultation to ensure staff are kept informed of what is happening and to discuss our strategic direction for our future service delivery.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution Stephen Bell made to the Fraser Coast during his 12 months as WBHHS (South) COO (acting).

Stephen and I worked closely together and I valued his contribution and support during this period. Stephen returns to his substantive role as Director Allied Health and Community Services (South).

In the North we will be welcoming Barbara Kuehnast on May 12th as the permanent Deputy Director Medical Services. Barbara has previously worked at the Prince Charles Hospital and has extensive medical administration experience. She will be a great asset to our team.

GENERAL UPDATE

Currently we have a number of key project initiatives underway:

- Christine Illett is working as the Clinical Redesign project officer for the HHS.
- Norma Stanley is working as the project officer for surgery capacity / demand. A Project Officer position is currently advertised to assist with clinical handover (Temp FT for eight weeks).
- Patient Flow Manager (PFM) will be implemented to create a HHS wide approach to managing patient flow, to enable a HHS bed census, to enhance multi-disciplinary decision making for patient care and to predict bed variances.
- Patient journey boards (configurable by patient treatment area and discipline) provide patient status at a glance, expected patients (elective, ED/other ward transfers), expected transfers/discharges, bed management views and referrals

In addition, there is a lot of time and energy going into ACHS organisational-wide survey preparation, noting we all need to do our bit and actively participate at all levels to ensure we are fully prepared and that a quality improvement culture is embedded across the HHS.

There will be further communication from the clinical governance unit on how you can prepare your work place for the ACHS survey.

This may include completing PADs, undertaking clinical / non –clinical audits, ensuring mandatory training is up to date and updating protocols and Work Unit Instructions among other methods.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY SERVICES

The service agreement has been set up for Oceania Radiation Oncologists to service Bundaberg and rural facilities’ public patients. The referral processes have been established and the partnership in working well. It is good to see patients are able to access radiation services locally. This is a trial arrangement until the end June 2014.

I am also pleased to inform everyone that the Cancer Care and Oral Health building is currently out for tender and due to commence construction shortly.

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Refitted Hervey Bay kids ward opens

FRASER Coast people power has revitalised the kids ward at Hervey Bay Hospital and provided a brighter future for acutely unwell children.

A grass roots campaign raised $68,000 to re-fit the paediatrics ward, expand the outdoor playing area and add educational tools to assist sick kids recover quicker.

The new-look kids ward was officially opened on April 29.

“Research has shown that a bright happy environment and the capacity to express feelings through play is important in a child’s recovery from illness and can reduce how long they are hospitalised,” Hervey Bay Hospital nurse unit manager paediatrics Di Johnson said.

“With this in mind, the paediatric unit at Hervey Bay encouraged the community to support an endeavour to create a fun, bright space for the children by re-fitting our current unit.”

In 2013, with the support of Sea FM radio station, the Hervey Bay community raised $68,000 towards the refurbishment of the paediatric unit.

Upgrade to CDU begins

A $900,000 upgrade to the Clinical Decision Unit at Hervey Bay Hospital will improve emergency services and reduce the likelihood of ambulance ramping.

Due to open in October, the expanded CDU will double the number of short-stay beds available to patients who present at Hervey Bay Hospital Emergency Department.

It is the second phase (pictured) of a building project that began with the development and opening of a five-bed/one chair Clinical Decision Unit at the hospital in September 2013.

“Paramedics will be able to transfer responsibility for patients to ED staff in a more timely fashion which will reduce the incidence of ambulance ramping,” Wide Bay Hospital and Health Chair Dominic Devine said.

The Hervey Bay Hospital ED has two resuscitation beds, 10 acute beds, four short-stay beds and six sub-acute fast track beds, in addition to the existing CDU beds.

Emergency Department nurse unit manager Troy Fisher said having 10 beds and two chairs in the CDU from October would improve emergency care.

“This increased capacity will free up acute beds for patients and reduce patient-off-stretcher time,” Mr Fisher said.

“Between April 2013 and March 2014 we have had a monthly average of 3125 people present to the ED which is an intense level of activity.

“Since the CDU opened in September 2013, an average of 251 patients a month were referred to it for monitoring and examination after presenting to ED.

“Doubling our CDU capacity will be extremely beneficial.”

Avengers from the Hervey Bay RSL helped celebrate the opening of the revamped kids ward at Hervey Bay Hospital.
Chair salutes OHS audit team and staff

WIDE Bay Hospital and Health Board Chair Dominic Devine has pointed to improvements in occupational health and safety and the opening of a new health facility as signs of a positive change in the health service.

“I am passionate about OHS and I know the Board supports a safe work environment for the staff,” Mr Devine said.

“Executive Director (acting) Human Resources Peter Heinz has driven the OHS audit process and we should all acknowledge the tremendous effort of Shane Adams, Phil Duncan and their team.

“Since I started as chairman, Bundaberg Hospital has received outstanding results reaching and surpassing performance targets while maintaining a first class and caring service.”

Mr Devine said Bundaberg Hospital’s great clinical, nursing, Allied Health, administration and support services staff made the results possible.

Mr Devine also saluted the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service staff who organised the opening of the Biggenden Multipurpose Health Service on March 28.

“Staff at all our rural facilities do a fantastic job and I would like to thank them for their commitment to providing quality health care in their communities of Childers, Mundubbera, Mt Perry, Gin Gin, Monto, Eidsvold, Gayndah and Biggenden,” Mr Devine said.

“I also wish to acknowledge CE Adrian Pennington for his dedication and professionalism.

“His leadership has helped turn the WBHHS around and make it one of the best performing regional health services in Queensland.”

High-flying Bundy nurse

ONCE the youngest glider pilot in the world ever to make a solo flight, Fiona Sewell understands taking off.

Her career is doing the same thing with Fiona being seconded into the role of WBHHS Executive District Director of Nursing (acting).

The promotion is linked to a move by Debbie Carroll to accept the role of WBHHS Chief Operating Officer (acting), leaving behind the EDON role for Fiona to fill.

Fiona is a career nurse who began her career at Maryborough Hospital in 1988.

In 1991, she left the Heritage City and worked in Townsville for three years dabbling in orthopaedics and “nurse diving” in the hyperbaric chamber.

Fiona moved to Bundaberg Base Hospital in 1994 and has worked in the ICU, the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Community Hospital Interface Program (CHIP).

She also spent a year in theatre and often found herself in an acting nursing director role during this period.

The secondment to her new role is a challenge, but from a young age she has not shied away from these.

Fiona’s father was the founder and first president of the now defunct Maryborough Gliding Club.

“Dad wrote to the peak gliding body in Germany at the time and they confirmed that I was the youngest to have gone solo.

“I started flying when I was nine years old. When Dad started a club in Maryborough, the instructors I knew came to Maryborough and I continued to learn off them.

“The instructors were good family friends and I had a lot of faith in them – that is whey I learned to fly so easily. I was ready to fly solo from the age of 12 but I couldn’t go solo until I was 16.

“So, on my 16th birthday I flew and at that point I was the youngest solo glider pilot in the world.

“Dad wrote to the peak gliding body in Germany at the time and they confirmed that I was the youngest to have gone solo.

“I was so light they had to make extra ballast so that I could fly. Big bits of lead locked away under the seat.

“I loved doing aerobatics, loops and spins were my favourites. It is so much easier in a glider as you don’t have to worry about engine.

“It’s all about wind speed and height. Do a loop then nose dive into a spin and pull out of it when you want to.”

One year later she gave flying away, a decision the health service is grateful for.
THE Pirates of Coral Cove musical which premiered in Bundaberg in April proved a swashbuckling triumph for Bundaberg Hospital staff who starred in and produced the show.

It has also raised $7968 for Bundaberg Hospital from its three performances at the Bundaberg Playhouse Theatre.

Director of The Pirates of Coral Cove, Martin Kidd, said the musical not only bouyed culture at the hospital but improved service capability as well.

Mr Kidd’s wife, Andrea wrote the script. The pair were also behind last year’s production Heroes - a similiar success.

The Production Committee has advised that revenue from the Pirates of Coral Cove will be presented to the Bundaberg Health Services Foundation to buy:

- A PC based Spirometry system for use by the respiratory nurse practitioner valued at $1618.
- A Welchallyn Obs machine and portable scales for MCDU, value approx $4400.
- A coag check machine valued at $950.
- A duress alarm for ICU staff to use in family meetings valued at $1000. Meals on Wheels will receive $1271.90 from raffle sales.

Ahoy there, me hearties: The cast and supporting crew of The Pirates of Coral Cove which featured at the Bundaberg Playouse Theatre on April 9, 10, and 11.

Golden girls of the auxiliary enjoy 51st AGM

THE Hervey Bay Hospital Auxiliary is not a money making powerhouse but the long-lived volunteer support organisation believes its real value lies in helping patients cope better with their illnesses.

In March, the auxiliary held its 51st annual general meeting at the Hervey Bay Hospital.

Auxiliary president Ms Colleen McDonald said the main role of the group was to take the trolley among the patients each day.

“The girls take the trolley around and we sell a few bits and pieces off it to the patients and staff,” Ms McDonald said.

“The money does help the hospital in small ways but it is not the profit we make that counts.

If anybody is interested in assisting the auxiliary they can contact Ms McDonald on 4193 4365.
RURAL health is important to the government and important to me as the Member for Callide.

There are nine multi-purpose health service facilities in Callide that provide core services and jobs for residents. Our government has provided either new hospitals or upgrades to existing facilities, but often the challenge is accessing them.

Our government has introduced the $30.9 million Telehealth service to help bridge the distances. Telehealth allows our nurses and doctors in rural hospitals to access specialist advice at the push of a button and be able to discuss a patient’s ailment with the aid of live video.

I’ve been advised telehealth is being used for planned in and out patients as well as emergencies and a system has just been introduced for allied health services also.

Our government’s flagship Royalties for the Regions program Round 3 will fund approximately 12 kilometres of new bitumen road to create 16kms of unbroken bitumen from the Burnett River to Roslyn Station.

Residents in Monto, Mulgildie and Eidsvold can travel this connecting road to medical specialists in Bundaberg in greater comfort. I would like to thank the Monto & District Ratepayers Association, local councillors and the community for their continuous efforts to campaign for this road to be upgraded.

QUEENSLAND Health’s over 32,000 public nurses and midwives have received their final instalment of an almost 10% pay increase since the Newman LNP government was elected to office just over two years ago.

Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said on April 27 that the pay packet boost was in sharp contrast to the trauma experienced by nurses and midwives under the previous government thanks to Labor’s infamous billion-dollar payroll debacle.

Mr Springborg said the recent instalment of the LNP’s pay increase meant the average nurse or midwife would receive $242 per fortnight more in their pay packet than just two years ago under Labor.

He said the Newman Government’s pay increase had also been acknowledged by the Labor Party aligned Queensland Nurses Union which conceded in its annual report to members “keeps Queensland Health nurses and midwives amongst the highest paid in the country”.

From April, the average Queensland Health Nurse, on a Grade 5.5 level, will receive an annual salary of $73,757 compared with $67,439 two years ago.

“This isn’t just about an LNP Government rewarding and valuing our frontline staff, it’s also about investing in them and the entire profession,” Mr Springborg said.
The joy of the winter jab

AS the temperature starts to drop, the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service infection control team have been busy at work giving flu vaccinations to staff.

The first staff vaccination clinic at Bundaberg Hospital was held on April 19 with 327 staff members attending.

Subsequent flu clinics built that total to 824 vaccinations in Bundaberg and the rural facilities.

Latest figures available in Hervey Bay and Maryborough record 613 flu vaccination have been administered to date. This is about 330 below the total in 2013.

If staff still want a vaccination they can call 41228295 and book in for the next clinic on May 14 in Maryborough.

Flu vaccinations continue to be available in May through the staff vaccination clinics.

ANZAC badge push

THE ANZAC Memorial Park in Hervey Bay is a joint initiative of the Fraser Coast Regional Council, the Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch, and the Hervey Bay RSL and Services Memorial Club.

The Centennial Fundraising Committee is offering $10 badges that are miniatures of the giant new statue (pictured) that will be erected in the park in time for the 2015 centenary of the ANZAC landing in Gallipoli.

The new Memorial Park will play host to the increasing number of people attending remembrance ceremonies in Hervey Bay.

Phone 4197 7477 for details.

Rotary president says thanks

ROTARY clubs across Wide Bay support public health services but for one long-time Rotarian, the experience became highly personal after a severe blood infection. Maryborough Sunrise Rotary Club ex-president Graham Outhwaite – pictured here presenting a plaque of appreciation to Medical nurse unit manager Ann Woolcock - woke shaking with a soaring temperature and was rushed to Hervey Bay Hospital Emergency Department.

“\text{I spent 12 hours there before being transferred to a ward. The level of care in both was just wonderful,}” Graham said.
NIGHT LIFE project educates youth about risks of alcohol

THE transition from high school to adulthood often involves first visits to local licensed venues.

The Bundaberg Hospital team, alongside the Queensland Police Service and the Bundaberg Bargara Liquor Accord, is helping local high school students make good decisions through the Project NIGHT LIFE program.

As part of the program, students travel from their school to the Sugarland Tavern (licensed venue), the Bundaberg Hospital and the Bundaberg Police Station.

They gain an understanding of alcohol-related harm and behavioural expectations, laws, regulations, consequences, personal and road safety strategies.

"It’s all about recognising that things can and do happen and how with a little knowledge things can be avoided," facilitator Traci Thornton said.

The first NIGHT LIFE was held on the 11th November, 2013, with the most recent held on March 17th, 2014.


Liquor Accord backs WBHHS staff

A 24-YEAR-OLD Bundaberg man became the first in Queensland to be banned from all licensed venues in his community after an alleged violent and drunken attack on Bundaberg Hospital staff which resulted in the lock-down of the emergency department.

In a bold decision made by members of the Bundaberg Bargara Liquor Accord, Queensland Health and Bundaberg Police, the man was banned from all 14 Bundaberg pubs and clubs following the incident in March, 2013.

The campaign does this through the use of the interactive ‘Health & Fitness Age’ calculator.

People are able to perform an honest assessment of their weight, nutrition and physical activity habits through using the calculator.

It then provides them with a ‘Health & Fitness’ age, which they compare with their actual age, showing them how healthy or unhealthy they really are.

The campaign’s four key messages are: add fruit and vegetables to your meals; have smaller portion sizes; cut back on sugary drinks and less sitting and more moving.

You can find out more by visiting the website - healthier.qld.gov.au

Healthier, Happier

CURRENTLY 65% of Queensland adults are overweight or obese, and about a third do not realise it.

A further 23% of Queenslanders are at risk of becoming overweight or obese in the future.

The Healthier, Happier campaign addresses obesity through personalising the issue for individual Queenslanders.
Quilters provide for acute beds

AFTER the 2013 flood, the Mundubbera Lemon Quilters received a generous donation of $1000 from the Golden Harvest Quilters from South Australia. The group decided to use the money to have quilts professionally quilted.

After hearing about a person who did not want to give his quilt up when moving into the aged care section of Mundubbera Hospital, the quilters decided to donate six quilts to the hospital.

This donation has enabled Mundubbera Hospital to provide one of the quilts for each of the acute beds.

Stiched up: Carolyn Lamb, Janet Nott, Debbie Green, Trish Johnson, EEN Denise Holdway, EEN Fiona Tuituri, Lyn Carylon were part of an initiative to donate quilts for the Mundubbera MPHSH.

Rural Briefs

TEMSU on its way

COMING soon to WBHHS rural facilities.

In February 2013, the Blueprint for Better Healthcare in Queensland announced the establishment of the rural Telehealth Service which included local access to 24 hour, 7 day emergency support.

A flow on from this was funding to establish the Telehealth Emergency Management Support Unit.

TEMSU will improve access to emergency specialist and rural generalist clinical advice and support for non-critical emergency presentations across rural and remote communities.

In late May, the TEMSU team will visit each rural facility to brief staff on best use of Telehealth.

This is with a view to having the service up and running by June.

Farewell Christopher Huth

FAREWELL to Christopher Huth, who was the supervisor of operational services at Childers Multi Purpose Health Service for the past three years.

Chris and his team achieved great results in food services benchmarking.

He was also an active participant in the implementation of revised nutritional standards.

Chris has taken up a position on Curtis Island. His skill and expertise will be missed by the team at Childers.

Palliative care training

MONTO Hospital and Ridgehaven nursing staff have attended a palliative care pain management workshop.

This training provided staff with the up-to-date information on how to provide a high level of care to patients.

Palliative care is a specialised area of nursing, and the workshop up-skilled Monto Hospital’s medical and nursing staff to provide this care.

Auxiliary does a great job

CHILDERS Hospital Auxiliary purchased a renal chair for the self-care of renal patients. Isis area patients will benefit greatly from this purchase.

The Auxiliary was also able to purchase a TV, DVD and a sound system for the residential care wing of the Childers Hospital.

All the auxiliaries at our local hospitals play an important role in fundraising to buy medical and no medical resources which is appreciated by patients.

Mundubbera Fire upgrade

THE fire system upgrade at Mundubbera Hospital to meet Queensland Health compliance requirements is currently underway. The contract is being undertaken by FK Gardner and will be completed by the end of May.
Media Moments

TV campaign launches Strat Plan in Wide Bay

INSIDE the Channel 7 citadel - bouquets to commercial production manager Selwyn O'Connell (pictured) who travelled what felt like the length and breadth of the Wide Bay shooting footage and packaging it for the run of community announcements announcing the launch of the new Strategic Plan.

The TV campaign on Channel 7 and WIN launched on May 5.

Young gun goes

YOUNG Channel 7 gun Miranda Cook is leaving to travel overseas. Miranda has the head of an old school journo sitting on young shoulders. Her innovative coverage of Wide Bay health issues will be missed.

New editor on the way

Rumour has it that the Fraser Coast Chronicle will have a new editor in place by May 19.

Acting editor Clementine Norton has given the look of the paper plenty of snap and crafted some thoughtful editorial while a recruitment process was finalised.

Great to have the Chronicle behind the refit of the Hervey Bay paediatric ward and the beginning of the expansion of the Clinical Decision Unit. The local press has a key role to play informing the community about public health - it's the biggest game in the town.

Letter to the Editor

Our local hospitals and their staff play a vital role in their communities, which means they are under constant assessment from members of the public. The great work our staff do as part of their jobs each and every day does get recognised, as seen by the following two letters that appeared in the Fraser Coast Chronicle on April 4th. Well done to the Hervey Bay Hospital team on receiving this praise for the care they provided.

Hervey Bay Hospital intensive care unit swung into action when my respiratory systems shut down.

They did not know if I had picked up an infectious bug on a recent overseas trip or a new kind of home-grown virus but they didn't let that stop them.

Full infection control protocols came into play and one of our recently appointed intensivists (physicians specifically skilled in the diagnosis and management of life-threatening conditions requiring sophisticated organ support and invasive monitoring) and the incredible clinical team gave me the best survival options possible.

I am so proud of my local hospital and its staff; from the wardsman who rushed me to ICU to the unfortunate nurse who tripped and broke her nose while trying to help me (alongside several other clinicians already working on me) in the tiny infection control room.

My husband tells me my treatment in ICU was orchestrated perfection. We have a centre of excellence at Hervey Bay Hospital. It offers our clinicians a chance to be involved in world best practice quality of care; we need to keep them and we need to be able to offer them opportunities for ongoing improvement. It offers locals like me much more - my life.

I doubt I had the time to be airlifted to Brisbane - and I am very glad that I wasn't. DEBORAH DAY Toogoom.

Fraser Coast Chronicle - April 4, 2014
COMMUNITY engagement is a new focus for the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service.

During the next four years, programs that bring the community into the hospitals and those that take the health service out into the community will be a focus.

Good corporate citizens such as Bunnings (sponsoring the April 17 Easter Bunny pictured) and the RSL movements bring joy and funds to the health service.

Members of the auxiliaries and hospital foundations work tirelessly. Aligned health advocacy groups such as the Red Cross provide volunteers. Service organisations such as Rotary and the Lions movements provide invaluable support and funds.

As part of the new Strategic Plan, the WBHHS is committed to embracing the community and getting better at communicating with the people of Wide Bay.

Dental win in Maryborough

ORAL health staff operating in Maryborough report that the six new dental chairs established in a refit of the old pathology building have merged seamlessly with existing services.

In March, Health Minister Lawrence Springborg toured Maryborough Hospital before officially opening the six new surgeries.

The six new dental chairs coming on line boosted the total number of dental chairs at the hospital to 15.

Public oral health care waiting lists have been slashed by 30% across the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service region.

Between February and December 2013 the total number of people on the waiting list fell from 12,252 to 8,575.

In the same reporting period, people waiting two years or more for dental treatment fell from 9,291 to 4,558.

Anniversary for the Mums and Bubs program

THE first anniversary of the ‘Mums and Bubs’ program has seen Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service midwives and child health nurses make 1300 family visits in the Bundaberg area.

The Postnatal In-Home Visiting program provides families with newborns with home visits from qualified and experienced Community Family Health midwives and/or child health nurses.

“In-home visits are part of the many services that the Community Family Health Child Health provides to parents as they face the joy and challenges of a new child,” nurse unit manager Michelle Maike said.
The greening of Bundy Hospital

ACROSS the Wide Bay and Hospital Service many facilities are benefitting from a comprehensive works program headed up by Infrastructure Management boss Peter Heath.

Bundaberg Hospital is getting treated to a lick of paint, among other improvements.

The facades flanking the public entrance to the Emergency Department have been tiled with an attractive dark stone. With more than 50,000 ED presentations a year, the new façade will attract plenty of admirers.

Many of the external awnings have been painted in a green shade that echoes one shade of of the WBHHS corporate colours.

Maryborough Hospital has also recently been given a fresh coat of paint in some sections.

Snake and spider bites increasing

LOCAL snake handlers reported plenty of reptilian activity in March due to heavy rain.

Presentations for snake and spider bites at the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay emergency departments were up.

Spider bites can go unrecorded as the patient does not see what has bitten them.

In the past 12 months, Bundaberg Hospital’s emergency department admitted 69 patients for spider and snake (both venomous and non-venomous) bites. This compares to 64 in the previous 12 months.

Hervey Bay Hospital emergency department had the biggest increase with 60 snake and spider bites presenting in 2013 compared to 43 in 2012.

Maryborough Hospital emergency department had 46 presentations in 2012 and 2013, with each year evenly split with 23 each.

OOO Club

ROD and Shirley Stubbs opened Our Day Spa in Hervey Bay in 2002.

Shirley was a registered nurse for 30 years and Rod still is, working in the Maryborough Rehabilitation Unit.

They have established the OOO Club, which operates under the control of Our Day Spa. It supports health and emergency services workers to manage stress and relax.

It has a dollar a day annual VIP membership program which provides five massages, five spa facials, 10 saunas and 5 spa jet treatments. Ph: 4194 9860

The breakfast club

TWO final year dietetic students from the University of the Sunshine Coast, Steph Thompson and Justine Henderson, are assessing the viability of a setting up a Breakfast Club in the Rehabilitation Unit at the Maryborough Base Hospital.

A Breakfast Club in a rehabilitation setting would provide patients the opportunity to practice these skills in a supported environment.

Breakfast Clubs are run in Mackay Hospital, Caloundra Hospital and Townsville Hospital.

The introduction of a Breakfast Club to MBH alongside the existing BBQ/picnic, the specialist gym facilities and the planned sensory garden could help rehabilitation.

A preliminary survey of the rehabilitation patients at Maryborough revealed 75% prepared their own breakfast at home.

Interestingly 75% of patients had their other main meals, lunch and dinner, supplied from an outside source such as a family member or Meals on Wheels.

Please contact Steph at Steph.Thompson@health.qld.gov.au
The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Board

THE new Wide Bay Hospital and Health Board was announced on 17 May 2013. The Chair was announced on 13 June. The members were appointed by the Minister of Health for 12 months, effective from 18 May 2013 to 17 May 2014. The Board meets monthly and has three sub-committees: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, and Safety and Quality Committee.

Members: Mr Dominic Devine – Chair, Mrs Barbara Hovard – Deputy Chair, Mr Gary Kirk, Mr Adrian Daniel, Ms Joy Jensen, Pastor Paul Dare, Mr Christopher Hyne and Mr Robert Evans.

Dominic Devine
Chair
During the last 20 years Dominic has served on numerous business, community and industry boards and has been a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors since 2006. Dominic has always been passionate about being involved in important community issues such as health, education and regional development.

Christopher Hyne
Board Member
Christopher is ‘semi-retired’ from an executive position with Hyne Timber. Christopher was born in Maryborough in 1945 and has lived in Ferney (15 km south of Maryborough) since 1980.

Barbara Hovard
Deputy Chair and Board Member
Barbara has local and state government experience in the Wide Bay region. She has served as Mayor and councillor on the Maryborough City Council and was previously employed as manager of organisational services at Maryborough Hospital.

Joy Jensen
Board Member
Joy has the unique distinction of having been the last mayor of the Perry Shire and the first mayor of the North Burnett Regional Council. Her background is in rural industry namely cattle and horses, and rural communities.

Robert Evans
Board Member
Having served on several boards including Brisbane North Aspley Rugby League, Chair of Queensland Masters Swimming, Wide Bay TAFE and Wide Bay Rugby League Robert has returned to his real interest, the medical field.

Gary Kirk
Board Member
Gary has almost 40 years experience in the public education system in Queensland as a school teacher and later as principal until his retirement in 2010. He has contributed to the community for nearly two decades, and for the past two years he has operated a small business in the tourism sector.

Paul Dare
Board Member
Paul spent six years working for Sikorsky Australia (Sikorsky is the manufacturer of the Blackhawk and Sea Hawk helicopters) as the ADF Customer Service Manager and Engineering Manager. In 2007, a change of direction was made and studies undertaken to allow Paul to become a pastor within Queensland Baptists. As a result of this Paul is now pastoring the Mundubbera Baptist Church.

Adrian Daniel
Board Member
Prior to being appointed to the Board in 2012, Adrian had extensive hospital board, council and business experience in the Wide Bay region. Adrian has served as a member and deputy chairman of the Audit Committee of the Fraser Coast Regional Council and has served on hospital boards and retirement village board for more than 15 years from the mid-1970s.
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