Mothers and midwives and bubs, oh my!

In a reunion with a difference, local mums and their bubs are gathering with the person who was there for them before, during and after their pregnancy: their Midwifery Group Practice midwife!

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) has seen 237 babies born since the program started on 1 February this year.

One of those babies is Maroochydore’s Fern Willow Webb, born on 28 August 2016, who will be at the reunion with her mother, 30-year-old Ashlie Webb.

Mrs Webb said it was comforting to have such a helpful, caring support person with her throughout her pregnancy, childbirth and early days at home with her baby daughter.

“My husband and I moved here from England two years ago and we don’t have any family here, so without the amazing support of our midwife, we would have found it very difficult,” Mrs Webb said.

“It’s been so good to develop a close bond with my midwife, to have a connection through the lead up to the birth, and during home visits afterwards.

“Whenever I have questions, it’s never long before I see her again and can ask; the regular personal and phone contact has been invaluable.

Clinical Midwife Consultant, Midwifery Group Practice, Ann Evans said the Midwifery Group Practice was different to because each woman was allocated a midwife who followed her throughout her pregnancy.

Ms Evans said the midwife was also on call and attended the woman’s birth, and visited her and her baby at home after birth.

The Midwifery Group Practice has 18 midwives, providing care to 20 per cent of women seeking maternity care in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service region—about 550 women per year.

Kylie Goossens was the first mother to give birth through the MGP, and is looking forward to seeing her midwife again at the reunion. Mrs Goossens’ son Jae was born on 27 February 2016.

Mrs Goossens said she was grateful for the amazing level of support she received from her midwife.
“After my last pregnancy, I lost my last baby son Jaelen just four weeks after giving birth due to a heart condition, and I was emotional and worried this time round,” Mrs Goossens said.

“Establishing a close relationship with my midwife and having her with me before, during and after giving birth has been wonderful and so supportive.

“I feel like I trusted her completely. She was amazing and helped me feel strong, calm and empowered. She supported me through my breastfeeding journey. It was comforting to have her with me leading up to the labour, through childbirth and then for home visits,” she said.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY
WHAT: Mothers, midwives and babies are joining together for a reunion of those who have benefitted from the Midwifery Group Practice – and some women who are still on the journey. Ashlie Webb and Kylie Goossens will be available for interviews.
WHEN: 10am, Wednesday, 14 September 2016.
WHERE: Nelson Park, Katoa Street, Alexandra Headland.

ENDS

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