IT WAS a big milestone for the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service as the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay Cancer Care Centres were officially opened last week.

The centres, which received a total of $17.6 million in funding from the Federal Government, were opened by Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt, who was representing federal Minister for Health Sussan Ley.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Board Chair Dominic Devine said the centre openings heralded a new era for the treatment of cancer patients locally and reduced the burden of travelling to Brisbane.

“It enables the WBHHS to treat not only a greater number of cancer patients, but also allows the WBHHS to treat patients with more complex cancers locally,” he said.

That growth in patients is evidenced by projections the WBHHS Cancer Care Service will treat about 1450 new patients this year, compared to 216 in 2010.

Cancer Care Services Operations Director Ray Johnson, Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt and patient Sally Mackay at the opening of the Hervey Bay Cancer Care Centre.

Excitement as cancer care centres are officially opened

Awards to mark International Nurses Day

TWO important awareness days are coming up in the nursing calendar, and this year the WBHHS is honouring them with special peer-nominated recognition awards.

Executive Director of Nursing Fiona Sewell said with the International Day of the Midwife on May 5 and International Nurses Day on May 12, it was a good time to recognise nurses who deserved special praise for the way they carried out their roles.

“I really encourage our nursing team to nominate their colleagues so we can recognise them for demonstrating excellence in mentoring and providing their fellow colleagues with inspiration and motivation,” Ms Sewell said.

Nomination forms have already been sent out to nursing teams, but you can also find them at the back of this edition of the Wave.

What’s Inside

- Grab a jab to fight flu
- Funding boost for hospitals
- Donation to palliative care
- Fond farewells
- 60 seconds with Carmel Crotty
- Education update
Chief Executive Adrian Pennington said the WBHHS’s aim was to exceed national standards and to be a leader in cancer care for regional patients by providing 28-day pathways from first referral to the start of treatment for every patient.

“These two facilities establish the Wide Bay as a significant regional cancer care hub,” he said.

Cancer Care Services Operations Director Ray Johnson said the future was bright for the service, which would soon be able to offer combined chemotherapy and radiation therapy to patients, and also hoped to run clinical trials in time.

“Having treatment here doesn’t mean it’s second rate, just because we’re regional,” he said. “We’ve got first-class clinicians and fantastic allied health support services, so we believe we provide as good a service as what the tertiary hospitals can offer.”
News from across the WBHHS

Make time for your free flu jab

FLU season is in full swing and WBHHS staff are being reminded to book in to get their free vaccinations to protect both themselves and those around them from the virus.

Executive Director of Human Resource Services Peter Heinz said the WBHHS was heavily impacted by days lost to sickness last year – peaking in August at 88 FTE off work – and he encouraged employees to take up the free jab.

“This is an important service we offer each year, and it’s vital as many of our staff as possible take advantage of the opportunity to protect themselves against flu, as well as patients and colleagues,” he said.

“Last year about 30% of staff had the flu jab, but we’d love to see higher rates this year.”

Wide Bay Public Health Unit Director Dr Margaret Young said figures already were indicating that confirmed flu cases this year were about double those at the same time last year, so it was even more important to take the preventive measure.

“Studies have shown that vaccination of healthcare workers reduces hospital-acquired influenza in patients,” Dr Young said. “Protect yourself, reduce the spread of flu in WBHHS facilities, and together let’s help protect our patients.”

Booking an appointment is easy – just call the Specialist Outpatients’ Department of your facility and they’ll slot you in: Bundaberg – 4303 8233 or 4303 8222; Hervey Bay/Maryborough – 4325 6470.

$5.2 million funding enables essential work across WBHHS

ALMOST $5.2 million worth of work will take place across the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service thanks to Queensland Health’s latest round of Priority Capital Program funding.

The funding enables the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service to undertake essential capital work to upgrade infrastructure at its hospitals.

Maryborough Hospital will receive upgrades to its electrical systems, air conditioners and water-based fire-safety systems under the funding, while several other hospitals will receive upgrades to their kitchens.

About $4.7 million will be provided to Maryborough Hospital to enable the essential upgrades across the facility.

A further $500,000 of the funding will be used to upgrade facilities at Gayndah, Childers and Hervey Bay Hospitals to ensure they meet modern food-safety standards.

Work in the hospital kitchens will include repairing moisture damaged cold-rooms and associated equipment.
MARYBOROUGH Hospital and its patients have benefited from a generous donation from the Asbestos Disease Support Society.

The $15,000 donation of a new hi/low bed for the Palliative Care Unit and a new humidifier was the first given by the ADSS to a regional hospital.

“The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service thanks the ADSS for their generous support of Maryborough Hospital through this donation of important equipment,” WBHHS Chief Executive Adrian Pennington said.

“To be the first hospital in a regional location to receive such a donation is a wonderful vote of confidence in the care we are providing to patients.

“The bed and the humidifier will make a difference to our patients, improving their comfort and lessening the burden of their stay with us.”

The new hi/low bed provides a more comfortable experience to patients and also provides better assistance to hospital staff as they help patients when they enter or exit the bed. The humidifier helps patients with breathing difficulties.

“The Asbestos Disease Support Society was very pleased to be able to donate the VersaCare bed and humidifier,” ADSS Chief Executive Amanda Richards said. “The ethos of the society is for our members to remain at home as long as possible and as independent as long as possible.

“We believe the provision of this equipment to the hospital assists our members to maintain their independence whilst in care.”

Society shows support with donation

Signing up for April No Falls

BUNDABERG Hospital staff are promoting the BE SAFE message to patients and the community as part of April No Falls Month.

BE SAFE – Buzzer, Environment, Shoes, Ask for assistance, Fluids and Educate – is aimed at promoting better falls prevention practices in the hospital.

“For older people, falls are neither an accident nor an inevitable or unavoidable part of life,” WBHHS nurse educator John Gamlin said. “Most falls can be predicted and prevented because, as healthcare workers, we know what causes falls and can usually identify the sequence of events leading up to a fall.

“The challenge to healthcare workers is to work with our patients and their carers to identify what these factors are and provide strategies to manage them.

“One of our strategies is promoting the BE SAFE message to educate our staff and patients about what steps they can take to minimise the occurrence of falls.”
Fond farewells

BUNDABERG Hospital has farewelled Cheryl McCollum after 21 years of service.

Cheryl had served as part of the operations team as a caterer and the respect she was held in by her fellow staff was evident by the strong turnout at her farewell.

Past and present staff came along to the dining room to celebrate Cheryl’s career, with Manager of Operational and Support Services Mark McKeen giving a speech and presenting an award on behalf of Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Adrian Pennington.

Mr McKeen noted Cheryl’s dedication to her career compared to the increasing rarity of people committing to a single career path.

Cheryl’s work ethic and high standard of service to Bundaberg Hospital patients was especially noted.

The Wide Bay Wave wishes Cheryl the best in her retirement.

BEAUTIFUL flowers from her husband were the most treasured gift when Clinical Nurse Frances Que left Hervey Bay paediatrics ward after 17 years.

Frances (pictured left) started in the ward on the day the hospital opened and said she carried many memories from her 49 years in nursing, including a stint at Maryborough before Hervey Bay Hospital opened.

One of her highlights came recently, when she was given a parting gift from a cystic fibrosis patient she had nursed for 17 years.

Frances said while she had no immediate plans, she would be busy with family and community involvement in the days ahead.

Judy signs off after 16 years

BUNDABERG Hospital has farewelled Senior Medical Education Officer Judy O’Connor, who played a vital role in the development and growth of the intern doctor programs for the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service.

Judy oversaw the implementation of taking University of Queensland rural clinical school students into Bundaberg Hospital in 2003, the creation of our own cohort of interns in late 2012 and the growth of intern programs.

“It has been an amazing journey with many really fantastic moments along the way.

“It is fantastic now to see the WBHHS with its own cohort of interns and watching our junior doctors grow as they remain here in the Wide Bay.

“We are now starting to see our former medical students return to our hospitals as fully-fledged consultants.”

Judy first started in the Intensive Care Unit in 1999 and then spent time as a nurse educator in 2000 before moving into medical education in 2002.

‘Cheryl’s work ethic and high standard of service to Bundaberg Hospital patients was especially noted’

Mr McKeen noted Cheryl’s dedication to her career compared to the increasing rarity of people committing to a single career path.

Cheryl’s work ethic and high standard of service to Bundaberg Hospital patients was especially noted by her past and present colleagues during the farewell celebration.

The Wide Bay Wave wishes Cheryl the best in her retirement.

Strong turnout for Cheryl’s goodbye

BEAUTIFUL flowers from her husband were the most treasured gift when Clinical Nurse Frances Que left Hervey Bay paediatrics ward after 17 years.

Frances (pictured left) started in the ward on the day the hospital opened and said she carried many memories from her 49 years in nursing, including a stint at Maryborough before Hervey Bay Hospital opened.

One of her highlights came recently, when she was given a parting gift from a cystic fibrosis patient she had nursed for 17 years.

Frances said while she had no immediate plans, she would be busy with family and community involvement in the days ahead.

Flowers a top finale for Frances

BEAUTIFUL flowers from her husband were the most treasured gift when Clinical Nurse Frances Que left Hervey Bay paediatrics ward after 17 years.

Frances (pictured left) started in the ward on the day the hospital opened and said she carried many memories from her 49 years in nursing, including a stint at Maryborough before Hervey Bay Hospital opened.

One of her highlights came recently, when she was given a parting gift from a cystic fibrosis patient she had nursed for 17 years.

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Carmel’s life with royalty and spies

60 seconds with...
Carmel Crotty

Your role?
Nurse Unit Manager, Ward 2, Maryborough Hospital.

How long have you been with WBHHS?
41 years.

How would you describe what you do?
My role involves clinical, administrative and HR elements – I prefer the clinical side.

What’s the best thing about your job?
Working with a great team – I couldn’t do my job without them.

When you’re not at work, you can be found...
On my farm – hand feeding 13 head of cattle (all named after the Royal family) and all of the wildlife (kookaburras, magpies, butcher birds, cattle egrets, possums) who come for breakfast and dinner.

Studying for a Grad Cert in Chronic Conditions Prevention and Management.

Tell us something people may not know about you.
I sailed to England when I was 18 – via the Panama Canal – the journey taking four weeks.

I worked in London for 18 months as a secretary to the chairman of a public relations company. It was through this work that I met Lord Mountbatten at the Palace of Whitehall, typed two books for publishers – the first ‘I, Norma Levy’, the autobiography of a prostitute who brought down the Government’s Lord Lambton, and the second, the memoirs of the man in charge of the Bulgarian underground movement at the time, which subsequently led to me being followed by the KGB.

I was paid as an extra in the Australia House barbecue scene in the movie Barry Mackenzie Holds His Own. I attended an Elton John concert (for the princely sum of one pound) where Rod Stewart was the supporting artist. I returned to Australia to embark on a nursing career.

In 2013, I attended Obama’s inauguration in Washington as an Australian representative on an International Scholar Laureate Program.

What can’t you do without?
Afternoon naps.

What music are you listening to at the moment?
Whatever is on the radio (ABC) on my drive to and from work.

What’s your guilty pleasure?
Daily chocolate intake – but I no longer have to feel ‘guilty’ as, thankfully, the health benefits for the brain are now being realised.
Hand Hygiene Australia has recently updated its site with a new look. This site is available through the Wide Bay Education QHEPS site, or at https://hha.southrock.com/. To access the modules, register by clicking on ‘Register Here’ under New Users. Remember, MTR15 Hand Hygiene is a mandatory annual requirement for all staff.

**Switched on to neoResus**

BIRTH can be a wonderful and very personal event for all of the people involved.

It is also a very precarious time through which, in most births, the birth takes place with a smooth transition from intrauterine life to extrauterine life.

However, there is a small proportion of newborns who will require assistance with the transition, and resuscitation is required.

The neoResus program focuses on this low-frequency, high-intervention population giving midwives, nurses and doctors the opportunity to re-visit and practice neonatal resuscitation measures.

The WBHHS offers training for neonatal resuscitation with both first response and the more advanced resuscitation.

Resuscitation of newborns requires a different emphasis (when compared to the resuscitation of adults), with the focus being more on ventilation and respiratory support.

Recently, on the Fraser Coast, interested doctors from the Department of Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care and Anaesthetics were invited to attend a workshop.

There has been a great response from the Department of Emergency Medicine in particular. In a recent course the participants on the day were involved in lectures, skill stations and scenarios.

Access the Training Calendar on QHEPS home page for details and registration forms.

**ED educator on team**

David Haynes has recently joined the education team as the Nurse Educator for the Emergency Department, Hervey Bay. David is an experienced Emergency Nurse who is passionate about ensuring ED patients are provided with the best care possible. The ETRS team would like to welcome David to the role.

**Graduate nurse group**

The next Graduate Nurse focus group meeting will be held on May 2 from 1.15-2.15pm for Bundaberg and Rural staff; and April 29, from 2.30-3.30pm for Fraser Coast staff. Please contact your Clinical Coach / Nurse Educator for further information.

**Hand hygiene update**

Hand Hygiene Australia has recently updated its site with a new look. This site is available through the Wide Bay Education QHEPS site, or at https://hha.southrock.com/. To access the modules, register by clicking on ‘Register Here’ under New Users. Remember, MTR15 Hand Hygiene is a mandatory annual requirement for all staff.

**Contact us**

Phone: 4150 2280  
Fax: 4150 2289  
Email:  
BBH-ERC-Admin@health.qld.gov.au  
To access the Training Calendar, Registration Forms or Training Information go to the QHEPS Home page http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/scwbhshd/html/educ/etr_homepage.htm
The theme for this year’s International Nurses Day is ‘Nurses: A force for change: Improving health systems’ resilience’. In recognition of how nurses within the WBHHS improve health systems’ resilience, the WBHHS will be awarding certificates to a number of nurses who demonstrate the achievement of the ‘Preceptor Award’ and the ‘Inspirational and Influential Nurses Award’.

I encourage all team members to nominate nurses that you feel demonstrate these qualities. Nominations close Friday April 29. Please send your completed nomination forms to Kaylene Cummings, email: WBHHS-EDNMS@health.qld.gov.au. Thank you for assisting us to recognise our valuable nursing team members.

**Improving health systems’ resilience - Inspirational and Influential Nurses Award**

The Inspirational and Influential award is presented to nurses who inspire and influence others by demonstrating achievement of ongoing professional development, sharing their knowledge, working to their full scope of practice, providing care based on evidence and participating in research.

Nominee’s name: __________________________________________

Nominee’s position: ________________________________________

How does this nurse inspire and influence others?

For example:
- What professional development has this nurse undertaken?
- How do they share the learnings from their professional development?
- How do they demonstrate working to their full scope of practice?
- How do they demonstrate providing evidence-based care and participating in research?
- How have they inspired you/others to improve health care?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Nominator’s name: _______________________________ Position: __________________________________________________________________

Signature: _________________________ Date: ___________________________________________________________________
The theme for this year’s International Nurses Day is ‘Nurses: A force for change: Improving health systems’ resilience’. In recognition of how nurses within the WBHHS improve health systems’ resilience, the WBHHS will be awarding certificates to a number of nurses who demonstrate the achievement of the ‘Preceptor Award’ and the ‘Inspirational and Influential Nurses Award’. I encourage all team members to nominate nurses that you feel demonstrate these qualities. Nominations close Friday April 29. Please send your completed nomination forms to Kaylene Cummings, email: WBHHS-EDNMS@health.qld.gov.au. Thank you for assisting us to recognise our valuable nursing team members.

**Improving health systems’ resilience - Preceptor Award**

The Preceptor Award is awarded to nursing staff who provide a high level of positive role modelling and support in the clinical environment to their team members. They willingly share their knowledge, encourage others to learn and to think critically.

Nominee’s name: ____________________________________________________________

Nominee’s position: _________________________________________________________

How does this person provide positive role modelling?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How does this person support you or others in the clinical environment?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Nominator’s name: ________________________ Position: ________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________
The theme for this year’s International Day of the Midwife is ‘Women and Newborns: The Heart of Midwifery’. In recognition of midwives within the WBHHS, the WBHHS will be awarding certificates to two midwives who demonstrate the Heart of Midwifery. I encourage all team members to nominate midwives that you feel demonstrate these qualities. Nominations close Friday April 29. Please send your completed nomination forms to Kaylene Cummings, email: WBHHS-EDNMS@health.qld.gov.au. Thank you for assisting us to recognize our valuable midwifery team members.

The Heart of Midwifery - Inspirational and Influential Midwives Award

The Inspirational and Influential award is presented to midwives who inspire and influence others by positive role modelling, sharing their knowledge, working to their full scope of practice, providing care based on evidence and participating in research.

Nominee's name: 

Nominee's position: 

How does this midwife inspire and influence others?

For example:
• How do they provide positive role modelling to their peers?
• How do they share the learnings from their professional development?
• How do they demonstrate working to their full scope of practice?
• How do they demonstrate providing evidence-based care and participating in research?
• How have they inspired you/others to improve midwifery care?

Nominator's name:  
Position: 

Signature:  
Date: 

Improving health, together