Celebrating a force for change this International Nurses Day

Dedicated nursing staff of the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service will celebrate International Nurses Day on Thursday 12 May with a range of events in Gympie, Nambour, Caloundra and Maleny.

International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated around the world every 12 May, the birth date of Florence Nightingale who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

The theme of this year’s IND is “Nurses: A Force for Change: Improving health systems’ resilience.”

Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Graham Wilkinson said the day was a great opportunity to acknowledge the skill and passion of our nurses who go above and beyond the call of duty.

“Nurses and midwives are the single largest group of health professionals and our health system relies on their professionalism and innovation. The contribution they make every day is invaluable,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“Our nurses and midwives understand the challenges of delivering resilient healthcare. The decisions they make many times a day in everyday practice make a huge difference to the patient and contribute directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire system,” he said.

One nurse who will be celebrating the challenges and rewards of a nursing career spanning 14 years is emergency department nurse unit manager at Nambour General Hospital, Cindy Roker.

Ms Roker originally wanted to be an international flight attendant but wasn’t yet the required 21 years of age so decided to fill in the years with a nursing degree.

“Once I began my nursing degree, I absolutely loved it and enjoyed every part of caring for people of all ages and backgrounds,” Ms Roker said.

Ms Roker chose emergency medicine in 2006 after several years working at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Brisbane and along the Australian coast to Tasmania.

“I love nursing so much because every day is a change and a challenge; I learnt so many new skills starting as a a level one registered nurse through to a nurse unit manager today. I have made many great friends and colleagues who will always remain an important part of my life.

“Emergency nursing is demanding both physically and mentally.
“I work with the most amazing team of nurses, doctors, administration and occupational staff at Nambour General Hospital. When I walk into the emergency department they always have a smile on their faces no matter how busy they are.

“I also know first hand the trauma and anguish patients and their loved ones can experience, and every day I make patient care my priority.

“Most of us feel that health care isn’t just a job but comes from the heart, and what I see in this department and what I will be celebrating this International Nurses Day is a team of dedicated nursing staff who really care,” she said.

Photo opportunities for International Nurses Day activities on Thursday 12 May 2015

Auditorium, Nambour General Hospital
2.30pm – 4pm Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Celebration and Oration. Dr Eleanor Horton, University of Sunshine Coast Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, will provide this year’s Oration. Supported by Wishlist.

Basil’s Tearoom, Caloundra Hospital
9:30am – 10:30am Thank you morning tea with cake supplied by Queensland Nursing Union. Nurses will be wearing and displaying uniforms which represent the era they commenced their careers.

Central garden, Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital
2.30pm – 4pm Nurses will enjoy a BBQ lunch and watch the International Nurses Day Oration via video link.

Acute Services Unit, Gympie Hospital
2.30pm – 4pm Nurses will celebrate with a cake and afternoon tea. Staff will reminisce about days gone by and watch the International Nurses Day Oration via video link.

ENDS

Media contact: Kirsty Olsen | 5470 6616 | 0408 713 747

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