MARYBOROUGH Hospital will celebrate its 130th anniversary on Saturday, May 20, with a ceremony and community fun day – and current and former staff will be right at the centre of commemorations.

Chief Executive Adrian Pennington said while WBHHS encouraged the community to attend the free event, the Executive and Board wanted to make sure that employees’ efforts were recognised first and foremost.

“Our employees make our service what it is, so we’re not just celebrating the hospital turning 130 – we’re celebrating 130 years of quality care and great teams of people,” he said.

Current staff members who have been at Maryborough Hospital for 30 years or more have been invited to attend on the day and be presented with a long-service certificate to thank and acknowledge their hard work and longevity.

The hospital’s longest-serving staff member, Barbara Sutcliffe – who will mark 45 years of service in July – will help cut the anniversary cake. There will also be souvenir badges for current and former staff handed out on the day, as well as the opportunity to sign a guest book and share memories. The guest book will then be given to Wide Bay Hospitals Museum as a memento from the celebration day.

And there will be anniversary merchandise available for purchase, featuring a specially designed anniversary logo, whose proceeds will support the Maryborough Hospital Auxiliary and the museum.

The Maryborough Hospital 130th Anniversary Fun Day will run from 10am–2pm on Saturday, May 20 and will include history tours, vintage car displays, games and entertainment for children, vintage bric-a-brac stalls, and plenty of cheap food and drink options.

The commemoration ceremony will start at 11am.

Bring your families and join us for a great day out!
Scholarships and awards for top nurses

THE Bundaberg Health Services Foundation presented $14,500 to eight Bundaberg Hospital nurses as part of its annual Winnie May Scholarship event.

Alongside the Winnie May Scholarships, the Melanie Robinson Midwifery Award and the inaugural Yvonne Male Palliative Care Award were also presented.

The winners of the Yvonne Male Award were Wendy Kildey from PARAS and Sue Smith from DEM, who will each receive $1000 towards their respective post-graduate and graduate palliative care studies.

The Yvonne Male Award was an initiative of Kylie Male, one of Bundaberg Hospital’s after-hours night managers, whose mother, Yvonne, passed away on January 14 last year at the age of 83.

It is sponsored by the Male family, FC Brown Funerals and the Foundation.

The Male family wanted to support a nurse who worked in this area, not only to increase their knowledge and ability, but also to learn how to be a patient advocate.

Winnie May Scholarships were presented to Cherie Arnold, Kellie Itzstein and Katherine Powis.

Ms Arnold will use her $2500 to complete a Graduate Diploma in Renal Nursing and continue on to complete her Masters, while Ms Itzstein will receive $2500 to undertake a Graduate Certificate in Emergency and Katherine Powis received $2500 for her Graduate Certificate in Cancer Care.

For the extra funding provided by the Foundation, Kerrie Conard, from Theatre, received $1500 for a Graduate Diploma of Recovery and Anaesthetics and Emma Shears from DEM received $1500 towards her Postgraduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing.

Susan Betts will receive $2000 from the Melanie Robinson Midwifery Award to assist in her Graduate Certificate in Specialised Nursing.

Foundation manager Maria Burnet said patients would be the ultimate scholarship “winners” when the studies were completed and implemented to further improve patient care provided at Bundaberg Hospital.

Special thanks to the guest speaker, Director of Nursing David Beard.

Staff put clients first with storm prison sleepover

THE Wave recently reported on the comprehensive preparations made by WBHHS staff as ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie made its way down the coast, and the many ways in which staff made sacrifices to put their patients first.

Among those examples were staff from Maryborough Offender Health, who went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the correctional centre was not deprived of health services during the torrential rainfall event.

The threat of road closures prompted staff to sleep over at the prison so they would be there for work the next morning.

Nurse Unit Manager Gayle Hocking

Maryborough Offender Health staff prepare to bed down at the prison.

and CNC Donna Helmstedt manned the fort for night shift.

It was a great team effort by all concerned.
A WBHHS mental health nurse took his professional skills on holidays recently by joining an eight-day motorbike tour to promote men’s health.

Tony Connell, a Clinical Nurse Consultant working in Older Persons Mental Health on the Fraser Coast, joined a group of motorcycle-riding mental health professionals called Psychs on Bikes for the tour through parts of rural and remote Queensland.

The ride started from and ended at New Farm Clinic in Brisbane and covered 2500km through areas including Toowoomba, Goondiwindi, St George, Roma, Carnarvon Gorge, Emerald and Biloela.

Activities included free men’s health checks, a presentation to Springsure State School staff and students, dinner with the Men’s Shed in Emerald, meetings with the Mayors of Goondiwindi, Emerald and Biloela, and a half-day conference put on by tour organisers.

Tony said this was his second tour with Psychs on Bikes, which he enjoyed for the opportunity it gave him to ride his bike while promoting men’s mental health.

“It was interesting meeting new blokes at different health checks and seeing how different their lives are from ours,” he said.

“Getting fellas in rural areas to talk about what’s going in their lives is a good thing.

“There are some mental health services and clinics in some of the areas we went to, but there’s very little consistent stuff and we were well received.

“You park 10 motorbikes outside a place and blokes come up and want to start talking – firstly about their motorbike, and then about other things.

“So you get them talking, you do the health checks and, once you’ve taken their blood pressure, it becomes easier to talk to them about other things.”

If you are interested in Psychs on Bikes, check out https://www.psychsonbikes.com/ or contact Tony on 4122 8777.

Gayndah Hospital has won the award for Best Trade Float at the annual Gayndah Orange Festival.

Led by Director of Nursing Sue Coward and Medical Superintendent Dr Tariq Aziz, this year’s Gayndah Hospital float was themed “Old, Gold and Bold”. Gayndah Hospital enters a float at each Orange Festival and has a proud record of award recognition throughout the years.

The award for the Best Trade Float caps off a very successful festival for Gayndah Hospital, with its Orange Festival Queen entrant, Rebecca Raftery, being awarded runner-up at the Gala Ball.

Well done to all staff who got behind the famous community event.
Maryborough leads off Relay for Life events

THE Maryborough Relay Life has proven to be a great success, with more than $35,000 raised for the fight against cancer.

Lisa’s Legacy, a team consisting of Maryborough Hospital emergency department staff, was one of 31 teams that took part in the Relay.

With 280 participants, there was a lot of traffic on the track, but only a brief light shower in the wee hours of the morning interrupted an otherwise perfect overnight Relay.

In total, Lisa’s Legacy contributed more than $3000 towards the $35,000 total raised by the event, but there are still funds coming in from last-minute fundraising.

Maryborough is the first of three Relay for Life events in the region, with Bundaberg to follow on August 12-13 and Hervey Bay on October 28-29.

We’re encouraging work units and staff members to form teams in either event.

Potential team captains can register their team online at https://www.relayforlife.org.au/. Just make sure you include “WBHHS” at the start of your team name.

If you are forming a team, please let the Cancer Care Service know via email at WBHHS-Cancer-Care-Service@health.qld.gov.au.

Respect shown for our midwives

WIDE Bay Hospital and Health Service celebrated International Day of the Midwife on May 5, paying tribute to the midwives who work at the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay family units.

The significant contribution that midwives have made to countless local babies was acknowledged at morning and afternoon teas.

Lynette Forrest, from our Hervey Bay team, was also featured in a front-page story in the Fraser Coast Chronicle talking about the profession of midwifery.

From the first antenatal appointment through to birth and post-natal care, midwives play a vital role in supporting mums and children.

International Day of the Midwife serves as a reminder of how midwifery is evolving to meet the needs of modern families.

WBHHS congratulates all our midwives on a job well done.

In our next edition we will have photos and information on International Nurses Day across WBHHS.
Meet our awesome physio five

BUNDABERG Hospital’s physiotherapy team has five fresh new faces this year – including two from CQUniversity’s first graduating cohort.

Kristy Botting and Kaitlyn Renz have been CQUniversity trailblazers, and – joined by fellow new starters Georgia Clifford (UQ), Amy Naumann (UQ) and senior physio Jessica Barratt – so far they’re loving the start to their careers.

For Kaitlyn, who grew up and was educated locally, scoring a job in Bundaberg meant she could pursue her dream career and remain close to her family.

“My grandfather was a quadriplegic, so I grew up around rehab and physio,” she said. “I never wanted to travel away. I wanted to stay at home because I’ve got a good support network here, so I’ve felt very lucky to be working here and it’s been a great experience so far.

“It’s a supportive team and there have been a wide variety of patients to treat,”

From left, physiotherapists Kristy Botting, Georgia Clifford, Amy Naumann, Kaitlyn Renz and senior physiotherapist Jessica Barratt have joined the Bundaberg Hospital allied health team this year.

Bundaberg Hospital Director of Physiotherapy Jason Simpson said this year saw the highest number of physio job applications, not just to WBHHS but across Queensland.

“We used to have to fight to get the talent, but now it comes to us,” Jason said.

“A physio’s greatest skill acquisition is in their first two, then their first five years. Bundaberg is a great grounding experience in general physiotherapy, and we really like to develop people.

“Staff get the chance to work in areas across the hospital, including specialist outpatients, PARAS and the wards.”

Jason said it was a big benefit that young health professionals who had grown up in the region and who wanted to study and work locally were now knocking on the door.

“We know that before they would have gone to Brisbane and other places,” he said.

“It also means we’ve got a better chance of retaining our highly trained staff.”

Fond farewell for doctor

WIDE Bay Hospital and Health Service bid a fond farewell to its Deputy District Director of Medical Services, Dr Barbara Kuehnast, on April 28.

Colleagues paid tribute to Dr Kuehnast and her contribution to the HHS at a recent morning tea.

Dr Kuehnast had been with WBHHS for three years and played a key role in the administration of medical services, recruitment of doctors, clinical standards and education of medical graduates.

The Wave and WBHHS wish Dr Kuehnast well on her future endeavours.
Alicia Jenkin enjoys the variety of patients she gets to see in Mundubbera.

Alicia cares for others - and she’s handy with mandies!

Your role?
Registered Nurse and some days part-time clinical nurse, in Mundubbera.

How long have you been with WBHHS?
Three years.

How do you describe what you do?
I work in a rural facility providing care for aged residents, and acute and emergency patients.

What’s best about your job?
The variety of patients. We see everything from car accidents to palliative care patients.

When you’re not at work, you are ...
Working on my recently purchased mandarin farm. Everyone should buy Tully Citrus!

Tell us something people may not know about you.
I have a minor addiction to online shopping.

What can’t you do without?
Coffee in the morning.

What music are you listening to at the moment?
The Jungle Giants.

What’s your guilty pleasure?
Rocky Road ice cream.

Barbie to help kids
BUNDABERG Hospital’s Child Advocacy Team will host a barbecue on May 25 to raise funds for Child Protection Week.

The barbecue, which will be run in conjunction with the Bundaberg Health Services Foundation, will run from 11am-2pm.

All proceeds will go towards promotion and awareness activities for Child Protection Week, which is from September 3-9.

As well as burgers and drinks, raffle tickets will be available to buy on the day.

Joke of the day
A MAN asks his surgeon: “Doctor, will I be able to play the violin after the operation?”

The surgeon replied: “Yes, of course.”

The man said: “Oh, terrific. I could never do it before.”

What’s On
May 12: International Nurses Day
May 12: Give Me Five for Kids trivia night, raising money for Bundaberg Hospital children’s ward. From 6.30pm at Bundaberg Services Club. Tables of six, tickets $10 per person. For details or to book, call 4155 4333.

May 14–20: Food Allergy Week.
May 20: Maryborough Hospital 130th Anniversary Fun Day, 10am–2pm, Maryborough Hospital grounds.

May 21: National Palliative Care Week.
May 26: Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea.