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 Tuesday 12 May with a range of events.

The theme of this year’s International Nurses Day is ‘Nurses: A Force for Change. Care Effective, Cost Effective.’

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 efficient 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 long nursing career is emergency department nurse Colin Bowen.

As a six foot three, 110 kilogram male he often gets asked why he became a nurse.

“I feel very lucky to be a nurse; I get to look after people and I get paid for it,” Colin said.

“Nursing in itself might be a field of science but without compassion, empathy and a good variety of life skills, a career as a nurse can turn into just a job.”

Colin began his training as an 18 year old medic in the Royal Australian Navy where he served for 10 and a half years full time with another four years in the Army Reserves. He also nursed in Darwin and at the Kandahar Airbase in Afghanistan.

“Today’s nurses are naturally resourceful, experts at time management and can see where best to use the available resources for the best outcome.

“Nurses are the first to put up their hand and say, ‘I’ll see if I can help,’ and it’s that spirit and resourcefulness that I’m celebrating with my team today,” he said.

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every 12 May, the birth date of Florence Nightingale who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.
Photo opportunities on Tuesday 12 May 2015

Nambour General Hospital
Time: 2pm – 4pm
Location: Auditorium, Nambour General Hospital.
Activity: Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Celebration and Oration. Shelley Nowlan, Executive Director Nursing Services will provide this year’s Oration. Followed by cutting of the cake. Supported by Wishlist.

Caloundra Hospital
Time: 9am morning tea; 2.30pm supper.
Location: Main foyer of hospital (morning tea); hospital dining room (supper).
Activity: 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. A naval nursing officer will be present in dress uniform. Also an evening supper.

Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital
Time: 12.30pm
Location: Central garden, Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital.
Activity: Nurses will enjoy a BBQ lunch and watch the International Nurses Day forum.

Gympie Hospital
Time: 10am
Location: Palliative Care gardens, Gympie Hospital.
Activity: Nurses will celebrate with a cake and morning tea.

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Media contact: Name | phone number

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