MEDIA RELEASE

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Oakey Hospital enters iconic Carnival of Flowers gardening competition

The gardening gloves have come out at Oakey Hospital this month in preparation for the annual Carnival of Flowers event.

For the first time, the country hospital and residential aged-care facility has entered Toowoomba’s iconic garden competition.

The facility’s large front gardens will contest the ‘Country Nursing Home Section’ of the competition. The competition entry marks another milestone in the garden’s growth.

“The gardens were developed with much community support in 2013, after the floods in 2011 which caused a lot of damage to the grounds,” Oakey Hospital Director of Nursing Matthew Boyd said.

“The past three years, the gardens have become such an important part of not only the hospital, but also the community. Hundreds of volunteer hours have been spent in the garden to create an awesome space that our residents, staff and visitors enjoy each and every day.”

The gardens feature more than just donated plants, with rich soil, garden edging, art work and garden furniture all coming from local organisations, businesses, schools or individuals over the years.

“The gardens are now a real talking point in the community, and the aged-care facility residents are proud to show them off to their families and visitors. We’ve even had formal and wedding photos taken in the grounds,” Mr Boyd said.

With countdown to judging day, Friends of McDonald volunteer George Lipman is ramping up his gardening efforts.

“In a couple of weeks, the garden should be looking its best with a few roses in flower, as well as the flowering peaches, fruit trees and annuals bringing lots of colour,” Mr Lipman said.

The gardens at Oakey Hospital will be open to visitors on Sunday 18 September from 10am to noon. The morning will also feature morning tea, sausage sizzle and entertainment.

Caption: Friends of McDonald volunteer George Lipman with Oakey Hospital’s Matthew Boyd and Lynda White prepare the gardens at the hospital for Carnival of Flowers judging.

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