

# Western Wellbeing

## Grange fundraising appeal reaches target

The \$2.2 million public fundraising appeal for the redevelopment of the Western District Health Service Grange Aged Residential Care Service reached its target just prior to the completion of the \$2.85 million building project.

WDHS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jim Fletcher said, "the appeal target, which was first launched in April 2009 reached its target with receipt of a cheque for \$25,000 from the Collier Foundation. This followed hot on the heels of a \$30,000 donation from the Hamilton and District Aged Care Trust."

"Throughout the fundraising campaign, we have been supported by many hundreds of donors within our community, business, Trust and Foundations."

"As a Health Service, we are extremely fortunate and privileged to have received such outstanding support to reach our \$2.2 million target. It is a great tribute to the generosity of our community and their commitment to providing first class modern facilities for our elderly citizens."

Mr Fletcher said, "The Hamilton and District Aged Care Trust have been outstanding raising in excess of \$450,000 for the appeal. We have also received major donation for our appeal from Dr Geoff Handbury, the Estates of Brian McCutcheon, Hugh and Llaney Moodie, Leo Foran, Susan White, Eileen McKellar, Trust and Foundations including Collier, Ian Rollo, ANZ Trustees, local benefactor, Bob Henderson, our Hospital Opportunity Shop, Grange Golf and Fun Run activities and the WDHS staff appeal just to name a few."

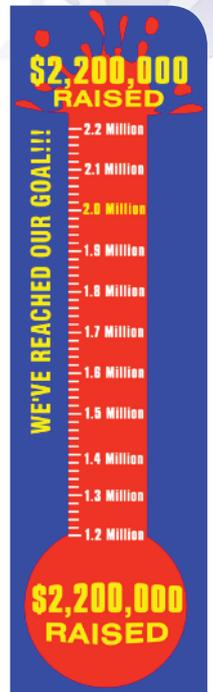
"The support from our local media outlets the Hamilton Spectator and ACE Radio has also assisted greatly in promoting the fundraising campaign."

"Contributions to the campaign have not only been in the form of financial support but also the many hours contributed by our volunteers, Development Council members and staff to fundraising activities. Everyone associated with the Health Service is indebted to those who have made a contribution in any way to the outstanding success of this appeal" he said.

"To achieve the target is a fantastic tribute and importantly, we have increased the number of places available and upgraded the accommodation and facilities for our elderly citizens for whom the Grange is home" Mr Fletcher said.

Mr Fletcher said, "The new seven bed wing and upgrade to another wing of 13 beds have been completed and occupied. The new kitchen and upgraded dining area have also been completed and commissioned. The conversion of the old kitchen for activities and external works to entrances have also been finalised."

"I am looking forward to an official opening later in the year to celebrate the completion of the Grange redevelopment and to be able to formally acknowledge our appreciation of everyone who contributed to the great achievement" he said.



## From the CEO

### Busy Growth period for Western District Health Service

The excitement is building as more of our \$35m capital redevelopment programs reach completion and more projects begin.



Our \$2.85m redevelopment of the Grange is now completed and occupied with the new seven bed wing, redevelopment of 13 bedrooms and the new kitchen fully operational. The redevelopment completes a 12 year capital redevelopment program for the Grange, which was made possible by the outstanding support of our community, Trust and Foundations. The final stage required a \$2.2m fundraising effort, which I am pleased to say we achieved. The Grange now offers 1st class modern accommodation to 50 of our elderly citizens thanks to the outstanding support of our Aged Care Trust and members of our community.

The other capital project recently completed was the \$700,000 1st stage upgrade of the Hamilton Medical Group building. Plans for stage 2 to complete the modernisation of the Medical Clinic are well advanced, utilising a \$500,000 grant provided by the Commonwealth Government. It is expected that stage 2 will commence in the next three months.

Our major project creating a new health precinct for Coleraine is taking shape with the new public amenities building handed over to the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Internal works are now well advanced on the Thomas Hodgetts Primary Care Centre incorporating the Coleraine Casterton Medical Clinic, a Dental Clinic, blood collection room, Maternal and Child Health Service and Community Health programs. This facility is likely to be completed and ready for occupation in August this year.

The other portions of the 1st stage of the Coleraine Health precinct, involving the main hospital and Aged Care building and the 1st stage of support services have progressed to the completion of framing, roofing and roughins with external brickworks and cladding also advancing.

Whilst it is early days, it is possible that all of stage 1 of the Coleraine Health precinct could be completed by December 2012, a few months ahead of schedule. Stage 2 of the project will then commence in early 2013 with a final completion date in the first half of 2014.

Our final project, the \$4.3m upgrade of our Hamilton Base Hospital facilities for rehabilitation and assessment and management of elderly people with functional decline has begun with the 1st stage requiring the replacement of the main electrical switchboard and sub mains. The second stage involving the upgrade of twelve bedrooms and ensuites, the provision of a new assisted daily living skills kitchen, a new gymnasium, a new gait training and allied health area commences on 21 May 2012 and is due for completion in March/April 2013.

When completed, the new facilities for rehabilitation and care of elderly people with functional decline will ensure we have first class facilities to support staff in enhancing the quality of life for people involved in our inpatient rehabilitation program.

To ensure we continue to plan ahead for the continued upgrade of facilities over the next 10 – 15 years, our revised Master Plan for the Hamilton and Peshurst sites will be completed by June 2012.

#### National Centre Continues to Excel

One of our flagship programs, the National Centre for Farmer Health continues to excel, being contracted by Queensland Rural Medical Education to deliver the Agricultural and Medicine unit to 15 medical students in Queensland during February 2012. The unit was also delivered in Hamilton for the third consecutive year with 18 students from health and agricultural industry groups across Australia undertaking it during 2012.

The Centre was also a hit at the Hamilton weaner sales and Hamilton Beef Expo with farmers and other workers within the industry participating in health and safety clinics.

On the International scene, the National Centre for Farmer Health's reputation as a world leader in education, research and the delivery of health, wellbeing and safety programs to Victorian and Australian farming communities continues to grow with Director Associate Professor Sue Brumby presenting at world conferences in New Zealand, Canada and Mexico in recent times.

Our own next International and National Conference, "Sowing the Seeds" will be held in Hamilton from 17 to 19 September 2012. Anyone wishing to sponsor or attend this conference which is jam packed with International, National and local speakers should contact Ms. Felicity Little at the National Centre offices located on the Hamilton campus of Western District Health Service (WDHS).

#### We rate well with patients and accreditation bodies

I am pleased to report that over the past number of months we have achieved re-accreditation for our Coleraine Aged Care facilities for the next three years, annual food safety certification for all our catering facilities across WDHS and we headed our peer group for patient satisfaction. The other important factor related to the patient satisfaction survey is the feedback received which identifies areas where we can continue to strive for improvement.

#### Fundraising heading towards another \$m dollar year

Our 2011/12 fundraising effort is on target to exceed \$1m, which is another fantastic effort and we are certainly privileged to have such fantastic support from our community and Foundations. In recent times we have received substantial financial support from the Hamilton and District Aged Care Trust for the Grange, Mr. Sandy O'Brien for Peshurst, Dr. Geoff Handbury for our Youth program, the Collier Foundation for the Grange and the purchase of three new defibrillators for Hamilton Base Hospital, the Hamilton Base Hospital Opportunity Shop, Hamilton and North Hamilton Auxiliaries for equipment.

#### Outstanding Speakers for Handbury Lecture and Annual Meeting

We are privileged to have secured two outstanding speakers for two of our feature events for the year. Firstly, the Handbury Lecture was delivered by Professor Richard Cotton on 8 May 2012 and our Guest Speaker for the 2012 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 13 November 2012 will be Sue Pieters-Hawke – daughter of Bob and Hazel Hawke and author of 'Hazel, My Mother's Story'.

#### Welcome additions to our Senior Medical Staff ranks

We welcome two new Senior Medical Staff to the Hamilton Medical Group and Hamilton Base Hospital. Dr. Trevor Branken has commenced as a Specialist General Physician and Dr. Anita Lindell as a General Practitioner and proceduralist for Obstetric Services.

We also welcome a visiting oncology service from the Andrew Love Centre Geelong, which will assist us in not only boosting cancer services provided by WDHS but also in reducing some of the travel burden for our cancer patients.

#### Awards

Congratulations go to our Primary and Preventative Health team and National Centre for Farmer Health who received Public Healthcare awards and our volunteer team from the Birches who took out the Minister's award for a regional provider.

#### New Branding

You will note that Western District Health Service has adopted a new icon and logo, which is highlighted in this edition of the Western Wellbeing and will be rolled out over the next couple of years.

#### 150 Years and Still Going Strong

Hamilton Base Hospital will reach a major milestone in November this year, reaching its 150th year of existence. The WDHS Development Council is busily developing a program of events to take place over the 24th and 25th of November 2012 to celebrate the occasion. This milestone will kick off with the annual Hospital Golf day on Friday 23 November.

Further details will be published in our local media in the coming months.

# For the love of their community

## Community, volunteering and unmatched generosity were the topics of discussion as part of the Australian Government National Volunteer Awards in December 2011.

The Wannon award ceremony, held on International Volunteer's Day, was presided over in Warrnambool by Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan.

Several people from around the south west, including Hamilton, Coleraine and Hawkesdale, were honoured for their work as volunteers. The Birches Volunteer Team received the Group Volunteer Award.

Mr Tehan said the ceremony was a chance to recognise volunteers who made such a large contribution to the community.

"These awards are not given out lightly, and choosing the winners was one of the toughest jobs I have had to do since being elected Parliament," he said.

"Country communities really are sustained by their local volunteers, and while there are so many volunteers who do wonderful work in our communities, we are fortunate to be able to recognise those who have made exceptional contributions to our community today."

The WDHS Birches volunteer visiting program has become very successful in supporting both residents and staff of The Birches, and was also awarded the 2011 Minister for Health Volunteer Award for Volunteer services in a regional health service in recognition of its contribution and positive outcomes.

WDHS Volunteer Coordinator, Ms Jeanette Ryan, who accepted the Wannon Electoral Volunteer Group Award from Mr Tehan, said "The Birches Specialist Extended Care Service volunteers are dedicated volunteers who provide quality companionship to residents with special behavioural problems associated with dementia from Alzheimer's, Huntington's disease and other cognitive conditions. These volunteers enrich the lives of the people they visit each week and seeing their responses is heart-warming."

## Award for Community Service

WDHS Carer Support Group Coordinator, Jennifer Neaves has received the Alan J Holding Community Service Award for her work in the south-west.



Above: Lions Club District Manager, David Lowing presents the Alan J Holding award to Jennifer Neaves

The Lions Club award was presented to Mrs Neaves by Lions Club district governor, David Lowing on his visit to the Hamilton group's monthly meeting.

For a number of years, Jenny has been involved with charitable institutions, sport and emergency services. She has been a Hamilton State Emergency Services member since 1995 and is currently the group's deputy controller and secretary.

As part of her role, Jenny talks to clubs about the SES and its responsibilities. Jenny is trained in all aspects of SES work including road rescue, incident management, storm activity, flood boat and radio and computer communications and in the past 12 months she has attended most incidents.

She worked during the Swan Hill floods in 2010 and was responsible for 17 flood crew and in 2011 she received the SES 15 year service medal and the SES national medal.

Jenny has also had five years of active service with the CFA in its community education and support area. This involves teaching support and instructions to brigades and other community groups.



Above: Mr Tehan with WDHS volunteers and employees who accepted the Group Volunteers Award for the Birches Special Extended Care Service, (second from left) WDHS divisional therapist, Julianne Gould, Jane Van Herpen, Kaylene Sandford, Pauline McCay and volunteer coordinator, Jeanette Ryan with Peter's Project founder, Vicki Jellie.

## Public Health Care Awards

Western District Health Service received good results at the Public Health Service Awards when it was announced as runner-up for the Primary Healthcare Service of the Year Award. WDHS, together with Deakin University, was also named highly commended for the 'Minister for Health's Award for developing a capable and engaged workforce for the National Centre for Farmer Health program.



Above: Standing with the awards are WDHS board member, Mark Stratmann, Deakin University's Brendan Crotty, Sustainable Farm Families program manager, Cate Mercer-Grant, WDHS Chief Executive Officer, Jim Fletcher, Primary and Preventative Health director, Rosie Rowe, NCFH lecturer, Scott McCoombe, Primary Care Service manager, Fran Patterson and acting Diabetes educator, Megan McLeish.

## Leadership Appointments

WDHS Deputy Director of Nursing, Bronwyn Roberts has been appointed to a three year term on the Clinical Leadership Group on Care of Older People in Hospital.

The group will guide and inform policy and program development to improve the care of older people and those with complex needs, in hospital and alternative settings, integrating and aligning acute and subacute services with appropriate linkages to out of hospital services, optimising health outcomes, system sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness. This group will provide 'big picture' system thinking to guide work that supports a long term vision for care of older people in Victoria's health services.

The work of the group will reflect the actions outlined in the Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-2022.

Western District Health Service Assistant Director of Nursing-Clinical Operations, Judy Esson has been accepted into the study of a Professional Certificate in Health Systems Management, which is a joint venture between The University of Melbourne and The Department of Health.

# Primary & Preventative Health - 'Service First' Intake Model



Left: WDHS Director of Primary and Preventative Health, Rosie Rowe (right) with WDHS Community Advisory Committee member, Chris Phillips working on the ongoing development of the Service First Intake Model of care

**'Service First' Intake is part of a new Integrated Care Model established by the WDHS Primary & Preventative Health (P&PH) Division. The model is designed to improve the transition for consumers between acute, Shire Home and Community Care (HACC), GPs and primary care.**

Intake is about asking clients to identify any health concerns that are not yet being addressed – thereby encouraging early access to services and preventing ill-health or complications.

Workshops were held with consumers, carers and staff to develop the 'Service First' model. Consumers told us they want, "an Intake process that's easy, timely - doesn't delay access to service and is personalised - about meeting our needs not collecting data".

Unlike other models, 'Service First' allows a client to access the service, e.g. Physio, to address their initial concerns prior to identifying any additional needs. Clients complete a simple needs assessment form developed by consumers. The form is reviewed by an assessment/referral coordinator who then contacts only those clients who indicate they have additional concerns or request information.

Client feedback tells us that 100% of clients found the process assisted them significantly, 100% were happy with the experience and 86% said the outcomes wouldn't have been achieved without this process.

We've also seen other benefits; because of consumer involvement, consumers are engaged and enthusiastic and staff have a better understanding of the consumer perspective.

We appreciate and acknowledge the assistance given by our consumer focus group and staff in developing and implementing these changes.

For more information on 'Service First' Intake or consumer involvement, please contact the Project Coordinator on 5551 5480.

**Western District Health Service W D H S**  
**'Service First' Intake Model**  
 a client centered approach to identifying needs

**Goal**  
 To establish an Intake process designed by/for consumers that:  
 - Meets consumer needs  
 - Reduces duplication between acute discharge, primary care and Shire HACC services  
 - Is resource efficient

**What happens:**  
 - Clients complete a simple needs assessment *after* receiving the service they need. This means no waiting to go through Intake  
 - An assessment/referral coordinator then follows up with clients, *as needed*. Only clients with additional needs are contacted – an average of only 35%

**Consumers say we want an Intake process that is:**  
 - Easy  
 - Timely - doesn't delay access to service  
 - Personalised - is about meeting our needs, not collecting data

**Outcomes**  
 - Increased efficiency - only 35% of clients are contacted by Intake. Saving in EFT has enabled repositioning of Care Coordination Services  
 - Reduced duplication - tool shared across five systems  
 - Positive consumer experience  
 - 100% satisfied significantly (rating > 9/10)  
 - 100% happy with process/experience  
 - 86% outcomes wouldn't have been achieved without this process  
 - 1 client concern with tool in 8 months - reduced from 2 per week spreading to other areas  
 - Collaboration  
 - Operating as one system - shared tool and co-location of WDHS Discharge Planning staff & Shire HACC Assessment Officers  
 - Staff Culture Change  
 - Understanding the user perspective  
 - Increased referrals

**How**  
 - Identified consumer needs  
 - Recruitment for surveys/forums  
 - Consumers involved with staff in work groups  
 - Designed - new processes with consumers and staff together  
 - Trial  
 - Validated with consumers  
 - Implemented - across primary care, Shire HACC services and Discharge Planning  
 - Evaluation - phone survey conducted by a consumer representative

**For more information:**  
 Contact the Project Coordinator on email [thecc@wdhs.net](mailto:thecc@wdhs.net)

**Thanks to our:**  
 - Consumers  
 - Staff from primary care, Acute and Southern Grampians Shire

September 2011

# Coleraine redevelopment taking shape

## The redevelopment of the Coleraine and District Health Service is rapidly taking shape since its commencement in October last year.

The redevelopment will see all of Coleraine's health facilities brought together, offering modern amenities and increased services for all district residents.

The project exceeds \$26.5 million and will be completed in 2014 with the complex spanning two blocks across McLeod Street.

The project received \$25.2 million from the State Government with Western District Health Service and community to meet the balance. A community-based fundraising program in conjunction with the Coleraine Community Bank will raise \$200,000 towards the project.

Coleraine and District Health Service Manager and Director of Nursing, Tim Pitt-Lancaster said that when finished, the new facility will house all of Coleraine's health services, including the Wannan and Mackie Hostels and the current hospital, under one roof.

This will include low-level aged care, acute hospital inpatient, high level aged care, radiology, a primary care centre, a new medical clinic with four consulting rooms, a blood collection room, a dental clinic and surgery, an office for the child and maternal health nurse and community health consulting rooms.

As well as new and improved facilities the redevelopment will provide advantages for aged care residents including widened doorways, bigger bathrooms and air conditioning in every room. Mackie and Wannan Hostel residents will share a dining room, which will help with socialisation and all rooms will face a garden or courtyard. The whole structure will be level so elderly residents will not have to struggle with stairs or ramps.

"You've got a brand new building that is going to service a community for the next 50 years and onwards", Mr Pitt-Lancaster said.

"The new building will meet all legislative requirements for aged care (and) you have a better equipped building designed to deal with an ageing community as a whole. It is just a huge bonus, a huge benefit to the community. I think we are extremely lucky to have received the funding. In terms of dollar value it is probably the biggest project outside Iluka for the region."

Mr Pitt-Lancaster said the project had been discussed and planned for the last five years and there had been a lot of consultation with aged care residents and the community to get to this point.

He said it was important that the low-level and high-level aged care residents were consulted about the construction because the facility would serve as their home.



## Coleraine & District Health Service REDEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISER



**\$135,528**  
RAISED SO FAR

Coleraine & District  
Community Bank® Branch  
Bendigo Bank



Donations to the community based fundraising campaign can be made directly through the Coleraine Community Bank or by post to Western District Health Service Community Liaison Department, PO Box 283, Hamilton, 3300. To date, \$135,528.27 has been raised by the Coleraine and District community.



WDHS Youth Development Officer, Briana Picken and Director of Primary and Preventative Health, Rosie Rowe accept the cheque of \$9,730, for the Light, Camera, Action youth project, from Optus' Kate Lindsey

## Young people share their dreams and fears on film

Young people have been able to share their dreams and fears on film thanks to the Lights, Camera, Action project.

Western District Health Service (WDHS) received a grant of nearly \$10,000 from the Optus regional community grants program to run the project, which encourages youth self expression.

WDHS Director of Primary and Preventative Health, Rosie Rowe said the project would give young people aged 12 – 25 a chance to share their story and participate in a film festival in March.

“Communicating their story, sharing other peoples’ stories and having others value and respond to their work provides an opportunity to build self esteem and identity,” she said.

“This is all part of building mental health and wellbeing. While young people will learn from this project, it also offers the whole community a chance to learn from our young people.”

The project included a series of workshops designed to develop skills in communication, multi-media, event coordination and publicity.

“Young people were able to choose to take part in all or some aspects of the project, allowing some to focus on event management of the festival while others may choose to focus on making their own film,” said Ms Rowe.

The program is designed to help with mental health and wellbeing among the local youth.

“Young people have particular needs that require our focus, including the need to promote health behaviours, manage risk taking and establish positive relationships early in life. For our local young people, living in a rural community offers great advantages. Rural life however can also pose challenges with greater risk of mental health issues than urban Victorians.”

“Rural living can limit young people’s access to a diversity of experiences (but WDHS) aims to assist with increasing opportunities to access a variety of activities, providing the chance to gain new skills, knowledge and social networks.”

WDHS Youth Development Officer, Briana Picken said, “Working with young people and visiting artists is always a source of learning and change for our organisation. It will continue to build our strong connection with young people - this connection ensures that our future initiatives continue to create positive relationships and to connect with their needs, their aspirations and their passions. This is the core of creating strong mental health.”

Optus General Manager, Tim Carmichael said WDHS had been the lead agency for youth participation and engagement activities in the Southern Grampians Shire for more than 14 years.

“They were and standout entry in this year’s program. This organisation makes a significant contribution to its community and we want to help groups like this continue to make a difference,” he said.

## WDHS nursing students graduate

Three years of education and training at Victorian universities has come to an end for a group of 2011 Nursing Graduates at Western District Health Service.

In a first for WDHS, this year's graduates on completion of the graduate program, will receive a Certificate of Completion of the Graduate Nurse Program, and Flinders University, South Australia will credit transfer 4.5 units towards their Graduate Certificates and Diplomas of Nursing course for completion of the WDHS Graduate Nurse program.

Because WDHS offers this program, it has been able to draw students to enrol from RMIT Hamilton, Aquinas College Ballarat, Deakin Warrnambool and the University of Ballarat, both Ballarat and Horsham campuses have completed a Bachelor of Nursing and are now embarking on a 12 month Graduate Nurse Program for Registered Division One Nurses at Western District Health Service.

Throughout the year they have rotated between the three WDHS campuses at Coleraine, Peshurst and Hamilton gaining valuable nursing exposure to the responsibilities and demands of a nursing career.

The Graduates will continue with study sessions and complete a variety of assessment projects, undertaking 80 hours of theory and spending the rest of their time in the hospital wards.

WDHS Nurse Educator, Chris McGenniken said, "we welcome this diverse group of students into this important year in their journey with Western District Health Service. The Graduate Nursing Program is a valuable component of the health service's functions as a teaching hospital. We attend university Open Days in Hamilton, Warrnambool, Bendigo, Ballarat and Melbourne to encourage as much interest as possible in our programs." She said.

Western District Health Service Chief Executive Officer, Jim Fletcher said "the health service is committed to providing new graduates with a comprehensive range of experiences and supports to enable new graduates to develop their skills and knowledge, essential to their long term contribution to the provision of high quality healthcare."

"The graduate program is an important and essential component of our nursing recruitment strategy and I expect that as has been the case in the past, most will seek ongoing employment with WDHS and become valued members of our clinical team" he said.



2012 Registered Nurse Graduate Program participants

L-R Back Row: Stacey Wardlaw, Elizabeth Guthridge, Mary Ann Hobbs, Brittany Raymond, Courtney Blain, Tammie Lyons, Morna Semmens

L-R Front Row: Hannah Watson, Turo McCarthy, Julie Carter, Amy Holmes, Sven Pohlsen, Deborah Clay, Ashleigh Kemp

## WDHS HAMILTON GOLF DAY

### AMBROSE STABLEFORD COMPETITION

To be held at Hamilton Golf Course on  
**Friday 23rd november 2012**

Shot Gun Start 10:00am

**Hole Sponsorship (includes team entry) - \$500**  
**Team Entry - \$250**

Entries are being received now and starting holes will be allocated on receipt of your nomination and sponsorship.

For enquiries and entry form contact:  
Jeanette Ryan  
5551 8284  
Jeanette.ryan@wdhs.net



# Our Community Support

## Hamilton & District Aged Care Trust is major campaign supporter

The Hamilton and District Aged Care Trust (HADCT) again showed its amazing support for the Grange Redevelopment Project last month by donating a further \$30,000 to the campaign.

HDACT members regularly hold their meetings at the Grange Aged Care Facility, where they have been keeping a keen eye on the progress of the redevelopment.

In a recent initiative to raise funds for the redevelopment, Warren Joel, the renowned auctioneer and valuer from Melbourne, offered valuations on antiques and jewellery at the home of Mrs Robin Paton. An overwhelming number of patrons brought their treasures along for Mr Joel to value for a small \$10 donation. The day was a resounding success, with \$1,000 being raised.

The HDACT has been a key and tireless motivator in supporting the Grange Redevelopment Project. Members hold regular fundraising activities including garden tours, bridge days, movie showings and jewellery displays.



Above: Hamilton and District Aged Care Trust Members with Grange Unit Manager Pam Vince at their meeting in the new Home 4 sitting room at the redeveloped facility.

Western District Health Service Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jim Fletcher said "The health service is extremely fortunate and privileged to have such a supportive group as the Aged Care Trust which is dedicated and committed to ensuring our elderly citizens are provided with high quality facilities when care in a residential setting is needed."

"The HDACT has been supporting the health service for over 15 years and it is now largely due to their efforts that we can offer such outstanding facilities to our community."

## Op Shop Volunteers New Technology Gift

The hardworking team of volunteers at the Hamilton Base Hospital Opportunity Shop visited the hospital last month to learn more about the use of rigid telescopes, purchased following their recent \$16,000 donation to the health service.

The Opportunity Shop donated the funds for the purchase of an Orthopaedic Telescope and an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Telescope, a welcome upgrade to existing Theatre equipment.

ENT telescopes are used to examine nose and sinus cavities and are much less invasive for patients than previous procedure methods. They provide direct vision of nose and sinus cavities via a camera which shows the image on a screen. The new telescope is high definition, providing greater image acuity, using digital technology installed in the operating room last year.

The updated Orthopaedic telescope allows direct vision into small joints, such as the knee, wrist or shoulder. The new high definition scope is less invasive for the patient and allows for removal or repair of knee cartilages, tightening of ligaments and general examination of the joints and bone surfaces for diagnostic purposes. Several other instruments purchased with the new Ortho scope also allow for irrigation, improving vision inside the joint.

WDHS Theatre Manager, Jane Sanders gave the volunteers a demonstration on how the precision telescopes, valued at over \$5,000 each, are used and stored and gave them an opportunity to see the impressive magnification of the tiny scopes first hand.

The Opportunity Shop has also recently donated a further \$5,500 towards the purchase of a new dialysis chair for the WDHS dialysis unit.

WDHS is indebted to the volunteers for their hard work and outstanding contribution to the health service and community over many decades, raising funds to ensure our Health Service is equipped with the latest technology to improve patient outcomes through less invasive surgery.



Above: Pictured Left to Right with WDHS Theatre Manager Jane Sanders are Opportunity Shop Volunteers Ruth Arnold, Rosemary Sandford, Essie Hickleton, Margaret Cameron, Carol McClusky, Pat Harris, Helen Walker, Muriel Bailey, Margaret Perkins, Olive Walker (hidden Diane Price)

## Penshurst & District Health Service receives major donation



Above: Penshurst's Leo O'Brien, with WDHS CEO, Jim Fletcher, will see his generosity make significant enhancements to Penshurst & District Health Service facilities

Penshurst & District Health Service received a very generous donation of \$417,649.79 from Mr Leo (Sandy) O'Brien in December last year. The money will be used for the upgrade and redevelopment of the Penshurst Hospital.

WDHS Chief Executive Officer, Jim Fletcher said "I and the rest of the Health Service and the Penshurst community are overwhelmed by the generosity of Mr O'Brien."

Mr O'Brien, a long time resident of Penshurst, is the eldest of nine children raised on the family dairy farm. Whilst attending Penshurst Primary School he would help milk 40 cows by hand in the morning before walking the three kilometres to school each day. Leaving school at the age of 13, Mr O'Brien continued to work on the farm as well as becoming a builder in the Penshurst area.

Eighty two year old Mr O'Brien said "It gives me great pleasure to be able to donate this money to Penshurst & District Health Service. I decided to make this donation while I am still here to see it being spent on such a good cause. It is great to be able to help my local community by providing jobs for tradespeople and improving one of our very important assets, our local hospital."

Mr Fletcher said "We are extremely grateful to Mr O'Brien for his enormous generosity, which will significantly enhance the future delivery of health services to the Penshurst community."

## Equipment fit for a President

For many years the Penshurst and District Health Service has enjoyed the wonderful support and tireless efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary in raising funds for the purchase of equipment.

Recently, with a generous donation of \$3,800 raised by the Penshurst and District Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, a new Electro-cardiograph machine (ECG) was purchased. The ECG machine is a vital component in the identification of life threatening conditions.

Mrs Margaret Eales, President of the Auxiliary, was herself recently a beneficiary of the use of an ECG, said "Having such wonderful equipment available to both nurses and doctors at Penshurst is helping them make

the correct clinical decisions. We are delighted that the hard work the ladies all do to raise funds for the hospital can be of such a huge benefit to so many patients."

Penshurst campus Manager / Don, Mr. Alastair Doull said "the Penshurst ladies auxiliary members do an amazing job and has supported the PDHS over many years with the purchase of equipment to enhance the range and quality of healthcare delivered to the Penshurst community."

"The purchase of the ECG machine is another great example of this and we are extremely appreciative of their support" he said.



Above: Mrs Margaret Eales President of the Penshurst Ladies Auxiliary with Dr Mohammed Abdullah and the new ECG Machine recently purchased for Penshurst & District Health Service.



Above: Coleraine District Health Service Auxiliary Members (pictured left to right: Bev Bunge, Jenny Robertson, Leigh Dean and Thelma Wombwell) inspect one of the recently donated shower chairs

## Coleraine District Health Service Auxiliary donation

Making the lives of residents and patients more comfortable is the aim of the Coleraine District Health Service Auxiliary, and all their fundraising efforts are directed to this objective.

The Auxiliary's recent donation of two new stainless steel padded shower chairs has helped make showering and moving patients easier for the nursing staff with these sturdy, yet comfortable chairs, allowing the occupant to sit in comfort and provide support for them when bathing or showering

A syringe pump was also donated to assist with pain management by enabling the continuous delivery of

a range of therapies to aid patient comfort.

The CDHS Manager/Director of Nursing, Mr Tim Pitt-Lancaster said "these generous donations support and add to the high quality of care provided to our residents and patients."

"The Auxiliary is made up of wonderful volunteers who give their time freely to raise funds for equipment and other items for our residents and patients. The WDHS Board of Directors, CDHS Management Committee, residents, patients and staff very much appreciate the dedication and support of the Auxiliary" he said.

## Western District Health Service leads the group

Western District Health Service has headed its group of 24 Health Services in the 2010/11 Victorian Patient Satisfaction November Annual Report.

Western District Health Service Chief Executive Officer, Jim Fletcher said “the overall care index level for all Western District Health Service campuses was rated at 83.2, which was a slight increase above our previous year’s rating of 80.9”.

The patient satisfaction monitor is conducted twice yearly by Ultrafeedback on behalf of the Health Department Victoria.

Mr. Fletcher said “that a sample of patients who had been cared for by Western District Health Service were contacted directly by Ultrafeed to report back on their care and treatment and overall experience from admission to post discharge”.

“The survey is voluntary and asks our patients to reflect on how they felt about their time spent in our hospital regarding admission, quality of care provided, communication with staff on their care and treatment, complaints management, quality of meals, cleanliness of facilities and discharge and follow up.”

Mr. Fletcher said “I congratulate the dedication and commitment of all clinical and non clinical staff on our improvement over the last 12 months which is very pleasing”.

Mr. Fletcher said “whilst the results were very pleasing, we will continue to work on further improvements to enhance patient satisfaction as the feedback we receive from the survey helps us to learn directly from patients on how we can continually improve service quality”

## “One O’clock, Two O’clock Three O’clock Knock”

Just a couple of hours could make all the difference... become a doorknocker



**YOUR HOSPITAL NEEDS YOU**

We urgently need volunteers for the Hospital Doorknock appeal between June 16th – 24th

So grab a friend, take a walk, knock on some doors and help make the appeal a success in 2012

Contact **Jeanette Ryan:**  
Volunteer Coordinator on **5551 8284**  
or email [jeanette.ryan@wdhs.net](mailto:jeanette.ryan@wdhs.net)

## Support available for carers

A combined support group meeting has been held at Hamilton Base Hospital for carers and clients.

The event’s aim was to provide information to carers about how best to look after someone and how to ensure they were looking after themselves.

South-west carers, cardiac, respiratory and cancer support group members, as well as the public, were invited to attend the free meeting held at the hospital’s education centre.

The session was heralded a success with around 45 people attending and positive feedback was received at the end of the session.

Guest speaker for the event was Carers Victoria, Community Development Worker and Educator, Carol Henderson, who spoke on ‘Health and Wellbeing, a fresh start to 2012’.

Ms Henderson is part of the Carers Victoria Education and Training Services team and travels around Victoria to talk to groups.

She said sessions like this are important because some carers are unsure of the services they are entitled to.

“Many people don’t think of themselves as carers, they think they are mothers or sisters,” she said. “They could be missing out on services that are available to carers.”

Western District Health Service (WDHS) support group co-ordinator, Jennifer Neaves said the aim of the meeting was to promote awareness, education and support for carers and clients.

She encouraged south-west residents to look at the different support groups offered by WDHS.

People can learn more about WDHS support groups by calling the Frances Hewett Community Centre on 5551 8450.



Above: WDHS chief occupational therapist, Sue Adamson, Carers Victoria development worker and educator, Carol Henderson, and WDHS support group co-ordinator, Jennifer Neaves, prepare for the session

# Sowing the seeds of farmer health

The second biennial National Centre for Farmer Health conference will be held in Hamilton, Victoria, from 17 – 19 September, 2012.

Following the success of the 2010 inaugural conference 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health', the 2012 event entitled 'Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health' is already attracting strong national and international interest from high-profile industry authorities.

The goal of the conference is to build in participation of farming families and agricultural workers, as well as academics, agribusiness and the medical, health and safety community in order to equip people with the skills and confidence to function in parts of the country which do not have the support and services of metropolitan Australia.

Themes for 'Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health' include;

- **Mental health** – Wagging the black dog's tail
- **Chronic disease and healthy lifestyles** – Feast or famine
- **Agricultural hazards and safety** – Reducing harm on the farm
- **Agriculture in a changing climate** – It's not always fair weather farming
- **The business of farming** – Being productive in a digital landscape
- **Human and animal health** – All creatures great and small
- **Lucky dip** – Tell us your specialty!

The multi-faceted role of speakers ensures participants will be given a detailed grounding in service delivery to the agricultural community. Keynote speakers include nurse practitioner Dr Lisa Schiller from the University of Wisconsin in the US; toxicologist Associate Professor John Edwards; Dr Anthony Hogan, Director of the National Institute for Rural and Regional Australia; rural consultant Cathy McGowan AO; Foodbank Australia's Director Greg Warren; Jock Laurie, President of the National Farmers' Federation; Matthew Johnstone, author, illustrator and public speaker on depression; medical educator Adjunct Professor Scott Kitchener; Art4Agriculture Director and dairy farmer Lynne Stong; Tasmanian farmers Rob & Kathy Henry; Julie Hill from Safe Work Australia; and Master of Ceremonies Libby Price, Country Hour presenter on ABC radio.

A new and exciting addition to the conference program is the Hypothetical's session taking place on Monday 17th September, led by lawyer Jamie Fisher. The Hypotheticals' will bring together a notable group of individuals to discuss a 'what if' biosecurity outbreak affecting both sheep and humans, with reported cases in "Hamilltown" (a fictitious place) in Victoria, occurring just as the nation is getting ready to eat lamb on Australia Day!!!

To provide an interesting, lively and informed discussion, the Hypothetical's panel will include a farmer, academic, educationalist, health professional, agri-professional, a media/marketing representative, a member of industry and politician.

The conference will also be again hosting the national photography

competition entitled 'In Focus – Celebrating Farm Life' which was highly successful and popular at the 2010 conference.

Competition entries will be collated and exhibited at the regionally renowned Hamilton Art Gallery from 29 August – 14 October, 2012, with winners announced at the Conference Welcome Reception on Monday 17 September.

NCFH Event Coordinator Felicity Little said "the common portrayal of farming and agriculture in recent years has been one of drama or gloom. For those that have experienced aspects of country life, we know there is still much to celebrate, and the photography exhibition hopes to exemplify this.

"We are giving the community the opportunity to share their visions of all that agriculture and farming means to them through the lens of a camera" said Mrs Little.

Themes for the competition include;

- **Of droughts and flooding rains** – Impact of weather events
- **Red sky at night** – Farming environment
- **Country wisdom** – Safe farming practices
- **Working the land** – Agriculture at work
- **Malting barley to Mallee bulls** – What we grow
- **Future farmers** – What does farming look like in the future
- **Images of farm life**

Further details about the conference, keynote speakers and the photography competition can be found at [www.farmerhealth.org.au/conference2012/home](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/conference2012/home). For more information please contact the National Centre for Farmer Health on (03) 5551 8533.



**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH**  
Biennial Conference 2012

**SOWING THE SEEDS OF FARMER HEALTH**

**National Centre for Farmer Health**  
**Biennial Conference**

**17 – 19 September 2012**  
**Hamilton, Victoria, Australia**

[www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)

**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH** in partnership with

## Agricultural Health and Medicine course an outstanding success



Above: Childers Practice Manager, Gaye Cook, Clinical Associate Professor Susan Brumby, NCFH and Dr. John Heinrich, GP in Toowoomba.



Above: The 2012 group attending the HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine in Hamilton.

With the initial HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine courses, run by the National Centre for Farmer Health in partnership with WDHS & Deakin School of Medicine, completed for the third consecutive year, we are reaping the rewards of success with over 70 graduates from every state in Australia.

The course aims to equip rural professionals from differing vocations to be proactive in their expertise, recognising and understanding the risks faced by people in remote and rural areas. This aids in the prevention of incidents and illnesses and gives health professionals the tools and knowledge to help improve the health, wellbeing and safety of those who make their living off the land.

Agricultural Health and Medicine consists of 25 topics, many of which are presented by local and national experts including Dr Andrew Bradbeer, Mr Stephen Clifforth, Sue Adamson, Dr Dale Ford, Psychologist Jan Austin, Vet David Rendell and RIST CEO Bill Hamill. With the conclusion of the Hamilton based course, the enthusiasm of the participants is spreading. We now have enquiries from further afield to hold more Agricultural Health and Medicine courses in other states, while others are optimistic about starting an AgriSafe clinic within their farming community. As a result, we have now scheduled another two HMF701 courses in Trimester 2 for Toowoomba in June and Bundaberg in July. Western Australia is not being left behind, with our WA participant encouraging others in her scope of work to embrace this new proactive style of health care in rural and remote communities in outback WA.

HMF702 Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Communities is the continuation of this course and can be undertaken as a stand-alone subject which can be completed fully online. Enrolments are open and the course commences in July. The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine is the culmination of these two units.

Dr Scott Kitchener, Director of Queensland Rural Medical Education said:

“Rural health is becoming dominated by the issues of access to procedural services somewhat ignoring the day to day work of health professionals in the specialised area of supporting agricultural communities in the particular health issues they confront. I looked widely to find a course or program with this focus. HMF701 was a stand-out in this manner partly being the only offering in Australia providing a professional development opportunity for rural health professionals in agricultural health, but mostly because of the quality of the program and the focus on practical health care in agricultural communities. I have appreciated both the focus and that there is now a focal point for rural health professionals in agricultural health at the National Centre for Farmer Health.”

Awareness of issues such as mental illness, diabetes, zoonoses, safety in the workplace and improvements being adopted in the agricultural and rural settings are valuable facets the Agricultural Health and Medicine course aims to impart. If you, or someone you know, has a passion to take on the challenge of improving the health, wellbeing and safety in our farming communities, visit our website [www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au) or contact us on 03 5551 8533.

The Agricultural Health and Medicine one week intensive course was conducted in Toowoomba, run in partnership with QRME (Queensland Rural Medical Education) and the NCFH.

## Tell us what you need!

Every two years **Arthritis Victoria (AV)** carries out a consumer survey to help us plan our services and identify issues that are important to people with arthritis, osteoporosis and other musculoskeletal conditions. The survey is voluntary, anonymous and should take only 15 minutes. We will publish the results on our website by December 2012.

You can fill the survey out at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/arthritisvicsurvey> or contact us for a paper survey (which we will send to you with a reply paid envelope).

We really appreciate your time in filling out this survey. Your thoughts and experiences are the most important tool we have to improve the health of all Victorians living with these conditions. If you know of anyone who might be interested in completing this survey, please feel free to pass it on.

If you have any further questions or need help filling out the survey, please contact us via email at [advocacy@arthritisvic.org.au](mailto:advocacy@arthritisvic.org.au) or call us on 1800 011 041.

## National Centre for Farmer Health shares its knowledge overseas

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) was recently invited to present their work in New Zealand, Canada and Mexico. "We believe new co-operations will arise from these initial meetings and that global support for Agricultural Health and Medicine will grow. It is important to share learnings and data and help improve the health, wellbeing and safety of those who grow our food and fibre wherever they live." Director, Ms Brumby said.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) held their annual conference in Vancouver in November 2011 with the theme PLAN.FARM.SAFETY. Everyone involved in farm safety in Canada – professionals, researchers, producers, suppliers and manufacturers – was invited to share solutions for positive transformation within Canada's agricultural safety culture. Clinical associate Professor Susan Brumby was sponsored by Farm Credit Canada to deliver a keynote address on the work at the National Centre for Farmer Health and Sustainable Farm Families. Ms Brumby said 'the conference delegates were particularly interested in looking at how the NCFH have incorporated health, wellbeing and safety in farming populations rather than just focussing on safety. Australia shares many similarities with Canada, including great distances and access challenges and lifestyle issues.'

In London, Ontario a cross sectoral workshop was held with a panel comprising of local GP, Dr. Rob Annis, the Head of CASA Dean Anderson, NCFH Director, Sue Brumby and facilitator, Dr. John Kelly to discuss 'better farm health and better farm business'. The workshop was a resounding success with over 70 people attending ranging from academics, farmers, agribusiness, industry, health services and safety organisations. It was sponsored by Ontario Farmers Association and supported by the Poultry Industry Council where previous WestVic Dairy Executive Officer, Tim Nelson works. Mr. Nelson was familiar with the work of the NCFH with dairy farming families in the South West. A lecture on Agricultural Health and Medicine was given as part of the

Occupational and Environmental Medicine Rounds at St. Michaels Hospital Toronto.

Across the Tasman, DairyNZ were interested in looking at the health of their dairy farmers against a back drop of industry change and increased pressures. Particularly, how to engage Dairy farmers to support good health, well being and safety in an industry with high productivity, rising debt and environmental challenges. A keynote presentation was given to the Dairy Extension conference followed by a small workshop with key stakeholders the following day in Dairy NZ Offices in Hamilton, NZ. We are currently working with DairyNZ to attend one of our Sustainable Farm Families programs to see our work in action.

In March, Ms Brumby spoke at the International Congress on Occupational Health in an international session on the Structure and Services for Occupational Health Surveillance in Agriculture and represented the University of Iowa on Education services in Agricultural health.

Two clear messages came from this conference – firstly, that despite some advances, agriculture is still lagging in occupational health and safety standards in both industrialised and developing countries. Secondly, the review of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) by the World Health Organisation will include international exposure and diagnostic criteria for the early detection of occupational diseases and occupational causes of diseases. It is due for release at 2015. Ms Brumby believes this is an important step in working to address underreporting and under diagnosis, and assist in understanding new ways to prevent occupational diseases.

In all three conferences, participants and delegates were very interested in the work of Western District Health Service and the NCFH, our partnership with Deakin University, education in agricultural health and medicine, Sustainable Farm Families and our recent research. A recent report of the farmer health website has shown an increase in the number of new users from those locations recently visited.

## Weaning agricultural workers off bad health

Buyers, sellers and workers were joined by lifesavers at the 2012 Hamilton weaner sales.

The National Centre for Farmer Health team, a partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University, with support from the Southern Grampians Shire Council, was on location to offer free health assessments to agricultural workers including producers, stock agents and truck drivers for seven days in early January.

NCFH Director Sue Brumby said, "Our role was to be there to better educate those working in the agricultural industry, that being physically and mentally up to the task is as vital to any agricultural business' success as the quality of the animals catalogued for the weaner sales. "There's no point spending all your time and effort producing fabulous weaners, and then not live to see the fruits of your labours," she said.

Health professionals conducted basic health assessments, which included assessments of weight/height (Body Mass Index), vision, blood pressure, blood glucose and lipid profile (blood cholesterol). One hundred and fifty two people participated with an average age of 55. Data analysis revealed 73% of the participants were either overweight or obese (BMI  $\geq 25$ ), 18% had raised blood glucose readings (non-fasting  $\geq 6.5$ mmol), 43% had raised total cholesterol readings ( $\geq 5.5$ mmol)

and 54% had elevated blood pressure readings ( $\geq 140/90$ mmHg). 48% of the participants self reported with moderate to very high psychological distress. Discussions on their current health status identified the different indicators and appropriate actions to maintain or achieve good health status.

Great results were achieved with many participants going to their GP for further health assessment. Sue Brumby said, "Pleasingly, some have re-contacted the NCFH to thank us for getting them to address serious health issues".

"The National Centre for Farmer Health has an emphasis on preventive health and identifying strategies to assist agricultural workers to operate at full capacity and still be healthy and safe."



Above: National Centre for Farmer Health Clinician, Mark Atchison performs a health check at the Hamilton Weaner Sales in January 2012

# Pedal power at the Murray to Moyne

In 1987 the very first Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay was held raising \$10,000 for the Port Fairy Hospital. The event grew steadily, drawing in teams eager to raise funds for Hospitals and Health Services throughout Victoria. In 2011 an estimated \$1.3million was raised by 1,204 riders from 150 organisations who rode on behalf of hospitals and health services throughout Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

This year, over 3,000 people were involved in the 26th Murray to Moyne including two teams from Western District Health Service taking part to raise funds for the Hamilton Base Hospital and Peshurst Campuses. The Hamilton Base Bikers, which included a rider from the Coleraine campus, and the Peshurst teams were supported by 15 people each including riders and support crew.

Craig McAllister, Hamilton Base Bikers Team Captain said the ride was "the best for ages, the weather was utterly magnificent and the team spirit was fantastic." Both teams left Mildura at approximately 9:30am on Saturday arriving back in to Hamilton at around midnight on Saturday. They did the final leg to Port Fairy on the Sunday arriving down there in time for lunch and a well earned rest.

The Peshurst team, re-invigorated after a year's break, by Peshurst Campus Director of Nursing, Alastair Doull, also had a fantastic ride. "It's not just about raising the money, our team do it for the overall betterment of Peshurst and the community spirit the town enjoys so much. We have quite a few riders who have participated in the Murray to Moyne over 15 times, some have done it for 21 years."

The Peshurst community rallied to make this year's comeback event a success. A concert was held at Stonefield Estate Winery thanks to the generosity of hosts, Vivian and Bill Bradley. A great success, the day made a major contribution to the fundraising total of \$21,150 for the Peshurst team.

Mr Doull said major sponsors, RES Australia, Bendigo Bank and Thornton Engineering, raffle sponsor Kelly's Hardware Mitre 10, and the efforts of the nine riders and some 30 volunteers guaranteed the event's success and has people committed to a 2013 ride.

RES Australia Developer, Simon Kerrison said "The Company has a commitment to supporting communities and is looking forward to supporting Peshurst again. Supporting a health service was a priority, which will ensure the sponsorship provides benefits across the whole community."

"I have visited the Peshurst and District Health Service campus and am very impressed with the hospital and the staff. It is wonderful for a small community to have such a high standard facility", he said.

Both Craig and Alastair wanted to acknowledge that the Murray to Moyne is a whole team effort. The riders are completely dependent on their support crews from the bus drivers to the sandwich makers; they all play a huge part in getting their teams home on what is a very gruelling but highly entertaining ride.

Funds raised will go towards purchasing equipment to enhance patient, resident and client care at the respective campuses. In total between the two teams, over \$33,000 has been raised.



Above: Peshurst Concert supporters, Gwen Rentsch, Heather Kelly, Heather McKenry, Teresa Holmes and front Linda Spiers.

Below: The Peshurst Murray to Moyne 2012 team, Brendan Cottrill, Jake Linke (front), Brian Humphrey, Anne Gourley, Peter Ryan (back) Andrew Thornton, Anthony Page, Joy Lambourn, Alix Kelly, Viv Bradley (back), Alastair Doull, and David Thornton (absent David Linke).



## VITALITY FUN RUN

It's on again. The third annual Vitality "Run the Grange for the Grange" fun run will be held on Sunday November 11 so keep this date in your diary. It's a day the whole family can enjoy and your support will help us deliver high quality services to residents of the Grange Aged Residential Care facility. See you there!



**2012 HAMILTON FUN RUN SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2012**  
 "Run the Grange for the Grange" Lakes Edge Half Marathon, 10km run/walk or 4.2km run/walk



## Employee of the month



Craig Richardson, WDHS Hotel Services officer  
September 2011



Tracey Hatherall, NCFH Data Manager  
February 2012



Ian Powlton, Hotel Services Facilitator  
December 2011



Donna Spong, Div 2 Nurse  
January 2012



Darne Mulley, Theatre Technician  
November 2011



Rhonda Hamilton, Environmental Services Manager  
October 2011

# People in the health service

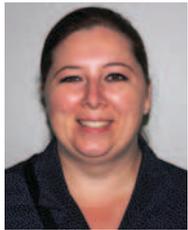


## Judy Esson

Judy Esson commenced as Assistant Director of Nursing- Clinical Operations in June 2011.

Judy assists the Deputy Director of Nursing in coordinating the day to day operational management of Acute Care, and Aged Care and Community Care. Judy supports the Nurse Unit Managers and is responsible for the portfolios of Risk Management and Quality Improvement.

Judy began her career at The Alfred in Melbourne where she studied and worked in Cardiac Critical Care. She was for many years a Nurse Manager at The Alfred, predominately in Surgical and Gastroenterology wards. She also worked as a midwife in London. Judy set up and managed a surgical ward at Cabrini Malvern where she became a Breast Care nurse. She also managed the Palliative Care Service then worked in the Clinical Governance Unit prior to moving to Hamilton.



## Carmen Jacobs

Carmen Jacobs is a registered Nurse Div 1 at Hamilton Base Hospital.

Carmen comes from Durbin in South Africa, where she was a High Dependency Nurse for two years.

Carmen, her husband and daughter arrived in Melbourne and a week later on January 6th this year relocated to Hamilton.



## Michael Andrews

Michael Andrews has been running his own private practice as a Dietitian for the past seven years and came to Western District Health Service in March this year.

Mark received his Masters of Nutrition and Dietetics at Deakin University in 1994 and has worked in a number of Melbourne hospitals.

Coming to Hamilton Base Hospital has given Michael the opportunity to work in Bariatric Surgery and General Outpatient services, which he is enjoying as new fields of work.



## Brigid Kelly

Brigid Kelly commenced work as a Community Liaison Officer in mid March bringing much skill and experience to the role.

Brigid received a Bachelor of Arts Journalism from Monash University in 2000 and has held several substantial administrative roles, both government health department related and corporate prior to joining the health service.

Ivory Print 03 5572 1121

## HELP US CELEBRATE

### Hamilton Base Hospital 150th Celebrations

November 23rd – 25th 2012

*Come and join in our birthday celebrations over this fun filled weekend featuring:*

The Annual Health Service Golf Day

Street Parade to be held along Gray Street involving the local schools, Hospital departments, Bands and other live entertainment on the Saturday morning

A Life Governors Dinner at the HEC Centre with Special Guest Host

Ecumenical Church Service for all denominations at St Mary's Catholic Church at 11:00am Sunday Morning followed by a morning tea, celebratory cake and historical tours and displays of the Hamilton Base Hospital

