

Newsletter No 8 September 2009

FRIENDS OF HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL



PARADISE ON THE MEND

WELCOME TO NEWSLETTER NUMBER 8

It is about 12 months since our last Newsletter (No.7 October2008) and one might be forgiven for assuming that little of note had happened at the Helena Goldie Hospital (HGH). The assumption would be quite wrong. Firstly with regard to staffing - Dr Dina took some well-earned leave at the end of 2008. He and Dr. Zolte are completing their term of service at the end of 2009 and their successors Dr. and Mrs Longbottom are already at the hospital in preparation for taking over full responsibility. It would be hard to overestimate the contribution Drs Dina and Zolte have made to the hospital and the well-being of the many patients that have passed through HGH in recent years. They will both be greatly missed and we wish them and their family every happiness in the coming years.

Chris Leve has been on study leave. He has returned with greater insights to be Director of Nursing. Henry Gumi similarly spent time away and has returned to direct the Nursing School. It would be wrong to overlook the major contribution made to the Nursing School by Henry's locum, Mark Leeming, who has returned to England with his equally enthusiastic, hardworking wife Beth.

With all these various comings and goings it is always necessary to have some stability and this has been provided by the steady administrative support of Eddie Pratt, Helen and Patrina. Where would HGH be without them?

But what of the Friends of Helena Goldie Hospital? From the viewpoint of the Burnside Rotary Club (South Australia) the recent highlight was in June when John Caddy, son Jack, past Rotarian Garry Humphries and his friend Brian Collins visited Munda to be part of a concerted team effort to redecorate the hospital. Their visit was preceded by a container from Donations in Kind; Adelaide packed not only with requested medical equipment but paint and materials generously donated by Michael Stewart – manager of our local Mitre10 store- and the Bianco Organisation. It was particularly encouraging for the Burnside group to work alongside the energetic, enthusiastic apprentices from the local Tabaka Rural Training Centre. As the Burnside group left they were replaced by young people from the Shalom College, Bundaberg Qld. and so the teamwork continued. Apart from running out of paint towards the end the entire exercise was a remarkable success.

2009 has been notable for the involvement and re-involvement of a wide range of organizations – Rotary Clubs, Zonta Clubs, Church groups, Hospitals and individuals with a practical interesting supporting HGH and the work it does in the local community. This support is especially welcome since the hospital has been going through a particularly difficult time financially due to the Global Economic situation.

The Burnside Rotary Club HGH Committee has always seen part of its role as facilitating communication between the many Friends and organizations whilst fostering collaboration in order to avoid duplication of effort. John Caddy is in the process of rationalising the mailing list, updating email addresses and upgrading our communications generally. If you are someone with a change of address or contact details please let him know. The visit of the E-Health team and Michael Austin (Rotary Club of Sydney Cove) to improve the IT facilities at HGH is especially well-timed.

Recent excellent news from HGH is that their application to Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) for someone to lead and advise on the development of a Strategic Plan for the hospital has been successful. It is

almost certain that HGH will be developed on its present site rather than relocated. However a well-founded Strategic Plan will carry many advantages, including improved access to essential equipment and potentially a more regular and predictable source of support funding from the Ministry of Health.

In recent years it has been increasingly attractive for Senior Medical Students especially from the UK to choose HGH as an “elective placement” for several weeks. Building of suitable accommodation on site has now been completed and this will be of great benefit to both students and hospital. The hospital will receive a small but steady stream of income and students will benefit from being readily available for emergencies.

INFORMATION about the HGH Program is available on an attractive display stand and also as a 10 minute MS Power Point presentation with commentary. Speakers from Burnside Rotary Club are available & can go almost anywhere at almost any time. Contact John Caddy caddyjs@bigpond.net.au
The Editor (Chris Hughes) would always welcome comments or queries about the Newsletter or HGH.
Email: emandcee@bigpond.com Mobile: 0418 835 977

DONATIONS

To make a donation toward the Helena Goldie Hospital Program please forward cheques to;

John Caddy, HGH Program,
PO Box 95, BURNSIDE SA 5066

Cheques are payable to – Rotary Overseas Aid Fund (Helena Goldie Hospital).
Private donations are Tax Deductible.

Before the Work



After the Work

