

# Medical matters

The Noosa Hospital Newsletter



Noosa Hospital  
111 Goodchap Street, NOOSAVILLE QLD 4566

07 5455 9200

Summer 2008

NOOSA  
HOSPITAL

## A note from the Chief Executive Officer



On 1 September 2007, Noosa Hospital celebrated its eighth anniversary of providing services on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The hospital continues to be a unique health service proposition in Queensland by the nature of its public-private partnership arrangements.

Since opening in 1999, the hospital has progressively broadened the range of services it provides to the local community. In 2006/2007 over 50,000 patients received care at the hospital. This number will grow

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again in 2007/2008. In absolute terms, the total number of patients who have now received care at Noosa Hospital since 1999 equates to the entire population of the Sunshine Coast!

With the assistance of Queensland Health, Ramsay Health Care has made a significant investment in the upgrade and expansion of facilities over the past 12 months. Completed projects include the construction of a dedicated administrative annexe and staff education centre, an upgrade of the hospital's sterilisation services

and the construction of much needed additional car parking facilities. All of these initiatives are aimed at positioning the hospital to accommodate growing service demands over coming years.

We remain committed to working closely with the community to ensure our services are relevant and appropriate to local need. Further, Noosa Hospital continues to support local events and organisations including the Noosa Long Weekend, the Sunshine Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, the Tewantin-Noosa Lions Club and the Noosa Triathlon to name a few.

The hospital's Medical Advisory Committee welcomed Dr David Henshaw, FRACP as its new Chairman earlier this year. The

Committee is instrumental in providing timely advice and support to the hospital's Executive team and provides an important formal link to the facility's medical establishment. Dr Andrew Spall was elected as the General Practice representative on the Committee and I would encourage local general practitioners to provide feedback to Andrew on any relevant Hospital issues.

On a final note, I extend a big thank you to our committed staff who work tirelessly to ensure we continue to provide excellent care to our patients. Only through their efforts are the achievements of the hospital possible.

*James Thiedeman, CEO  
Noosa Hospital*

### Sterilisation Services Upgrade

Since the hospital opened eight years ago, we have grown from undertaking approximately 3,500 operating theatre procedures a year to over 6,600 predicted for 2007/2008. This has pushed the hospital's sterilisation services to the limit, particularly in light of the number of orthopaedic procedures now being undertaken.

In June the hospital took delivery of a second prevac steriliser which doubles our capacity to sterilise surgical instrumentation. The new "Gorilla" steriliser is leading edge technology and will allow the hardworking CSSD staff to turn equipment around faster and with greater ease. The upgrade of sterilisation services represents a \$250,000 investment for the hospital.

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# General News

## New General Practitioner Representative on the hospital's Medical Advisory Committee

Noosa Hospital's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) is the peak forum through which the views of Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) of the facility are formulated and communicated. It provides a means whereby VMOs can participate in the policy making and planning processes of the hospital.

The MAC is also responsible for reviewing applications for appointment and re-appointment of VMOs of the facility - giving due consideration to the training, experience, competence, judgement, professional capabilities & knowledge, current fitness, character and confidence. Recommendations from the MAC are made thereon to the Board of Ramsay Health Care.

After seven dedicated years of stewardship, in February Dr Mark Newbold stepped down as Chairman of the MAC and as the general practice representative. The hospital extends its thanks to Dr Newbold for his involvement with this important committee. Dr Andrew Spall (Poinciana Avenue Medical Centre) has stepped up to the challenge as the general practice representative following Dr Newbold's departure. Dr David Henshaw (VMO General Physician) was unanimously voted as the committee's new Chairman.

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## More Car Parking



Each week over 1,500 patients attend Noosa Hospital for treatment of some kind. When you combine that with over 200 staff parking at the hospital every day, it amounts to a lot of cars needing somewhere to park.

On Thursday 12 July we officially opened a major extension to our existing car park. Mr John Crossley, Chairman of Noosa Hospital's Community Board of Advice was there to cut the ribbon, declaring the new car park open at midday.

Our public ward Unit Manager Sr Jill McEvoy-Williams was the first to enter - whisking into the new zone to park her brand new mini.

The major investment to expand the car park was in response to growing parking congestion around the hospital.

To ensure the new facility was sympathetic to the native flora and fauna that surrounds the hospital – we worked closely with Noosa Council and landscape architects to come up with the best design and layout.

The new car park will be largely used by hospital staff thus freeing up space for patients and their visitors in the existing car park which is located closer to the hospital itself.

# Unit Profile – Oncology

## An interview with Jill McEvoy-Williams

### 1. What's the name of your unit?

The Noosa Hospital Oncology Unit

### 2. How many people work within the unit?

There are three of us working here as well as one senior Specialist Haemato-oncologist.

### 3. How many patients do you treat each month?

We have about 130 – 150 patients that we treat every month.

### 4. Have there been any new developments within the unit?

The unit has recently been expanded and refurbished to accommodate increasing numbers of patients. We've just installed brand new infusion pumps in the unit. We also recently refurbished the ward with new paint, and new comfortable leather recliner chairs. We try to make the environment bright and friendly and that's helped by our volunteers who come along each day to provide massages for patients.

### 5. What else can you tell us about the unit?

We are looking forward to our end of year Christmas Party. Each year we have a big "get together" for past and present patients. Usually we get 250 people attending and it's a great time to celebrate life and health!

Oncology referrals to the Noosa Hospital Oncology Unit should be made via Dr Sybil Kellner's rooms (Contact number 07 5443 5504)



# Specialist profile – Dr Mel Pretorius

### 1. What is your area of expertise?

I work in the General and Laparoscopic Surgery department and I specialise in Gastrology.

### 2. Where did you train/where have you spent most of your working life?

I was trained in South Africa where I worked in the private sector as a physician for many years. I moved to Australia seven years ago to work at Nambour Hospital.

### 3. How long have you been based in Noosa?

I've been working at Noosa Hospital for the past year.

### 4. Why did you move?

I decided I wanted a new challenge and to try something different. I really enjoyed working in the public sector in Nambour but it was time for a change.

### 5. What services do you offer patients?

I mainly perform endoscopies but I have a particular interest in the field of Inflammatory Bowel Disease and we hope to expand services in this area of expertise at Noosa Hospital.

### 6. What do you like about working at Noosa Hospital?

We have a fantastic working environment here. The staff are friendly and of course the town itself has a lot to offer.

Referrals to Dr Mel Pretorius can be made via Noosa Hospital (Contact number 07 5455 9200)

# Charity Corner

## Tewantin Noosa Lions Club River Convention

In October 2007 Noosa Hospital was proud to be a Bronze Sponsor for the Tewantin Noosa Lions Club River Convention at the Noosa Leisure Centre.

This annual event involves more than 350 Lions Club members from across Queensland coming together for three days of fun and social activities.

There were a number of guest speakers during the event, as well as forums to discuss fundraising projects for the future.

Given the exceptional work the Tewantin Noosa Lions Club does in our local community, Noosa Hospital was very pleased to be able to sponsor such an event.

## Zoo Steriliser

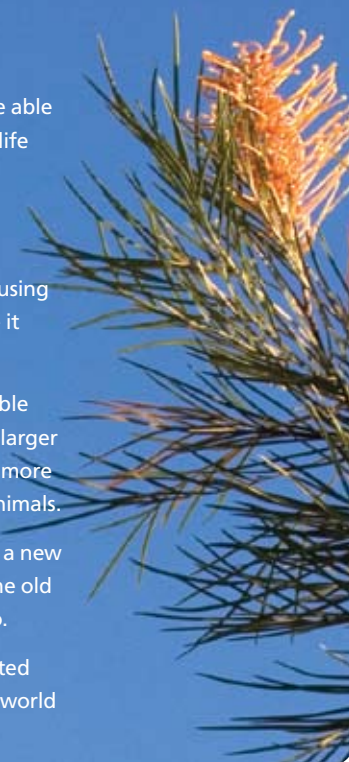
Noosa Hospital was pleased to be able to assist Australia Zoo's new wildlife hospital by donating an \$80,000 steriliser.

The wildlife hospital treats 5,500 animals each year and had been using a small desktop steriliser because it could not afford a new one.

The donated equipment will enable the operating theatre to sterilise larger instruments and in turn perform more procedures on injured and sick animals.

Noosa Hospital recently installed a new steriliser and was happy to give the old one a new home at Australia Zoo.

In the past the hospital has donated second hand equipment to third world countries.



# Going Green

## TravelSmart

As Noosa's second largest single employer, Noosa Hospital has agreed to become a flagship site and participate in the national "TravelSmart" initiative. In short, the aim of the initiative is to promote and encourage sustainable travel alternatives such as walking, cycling, public transport, and car pooling.

Karen Flockhart (D Pavilion) has kindly agreed to coordinate the TravelSmart initiative here at the hospital and she has been busy organising a number of events as part of the scheme.

Bus and Bike Information Sessions – in the month of August Noosa Hospital hosted a series of workshops which covered basic bicycle riding skills and safety as well as bike maintenance. Our bus sessions offered lessons on how to use the Transitlink online service when planning trips to and from work.

TravelSmart Challenge – more than 20 hospital staff took part in this 12 day initiative in August which involved participants earning TravelSmart points for using alternative ways to get to work. Points were awarded for public transport use, walking, cycling and car pooling.

Ride to Work Day – there were quite a few pushbikes in the hospital car park on October 17 when staff took part in the TravelSmart Ride to Work Day. The event was supported by ABC Coast FM and included a yummy breakfast to reward all the riders for their efforts!

## Other 'green' initiatives:

- staff and volunteers are being encouraged to switch off lights and air conditioners in empty rooms and offices
- administration staff are now switching off their computers at night rather than leaving them on standby
- staff are being encouraged to report leaking taps
- we are in the process of replacing theatre taps with sensor taps to reduce the amount of time the water is running when staff are scrubbing
- we have increased our usage of recycling bins and are currently investigating other ways in which hospital waste can be recycled
- the hospital is hoping to replace the use of "Kinguard" in theatres with 'rigid' container systems to reduce waste
- we continue to donate second hand equipment to third world countries/ charities as part of our recycling program

