



Health  
Northern NSW  
Local Health District

Issue 7, August 2018

# Volunteers worth their weight in gold

Annual General Meeting season is in full swing, and our United Hospital Auxiliaries (UHAs) have been gathering across the District to highlight their mammoth achievements over the past year.

The Kyogle UHA branch held their AGM on 6 August. In 2017-18 the branch donated over \$40,000 worth of items to the Kyogle MPS.

This small group of 25 volunteers receives regular donations from local community groups and businesses. Throughout 2017-18, the UHA received \$8000 from the Kyogle IGA Community Benefits Scheme, and over the lifetime of the scheme more than \$100,000 has flowed through to the Auxiliary.

Other donations for the year came from the Semitones Choir, Three Hospitals Bike Ride, and the Kyogle Lady Bowlers, who donated \$535 from their Charity Bowls Day. The Kyogle



▲ Members of the Kyogle United Hospital Auxiliary.

Patchwork Quilters also raised \$3000 for the Auxiliary through their Quilt Fair.

Nicole Ellevesen, Acting Executive Officer/Director of Nursing for the MPS

Network, addressed the AGM, thanking the volunteers for their continued work and commitment to the hospital.

"I'd like to give our heartfelt thanks, we

appreciate your hard work and dedication," Ms Ellevesen, said.

"It really makes a difference to the patients  
**continued on page 5**



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Alex Stephens looks into research across the LHD



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Digging deep drought-affected farmers

The Northern NSW Local Health District Board and Executive are committed to fostering a safe and inclusive work environment. Improving workplace culture is a key priority for 2017-18, with an emphasis on enhancing staff wellbeing and increasing communication throughout the organisation.

This past month I attended several AGMS of United Hospital Auxiliary branches within our district. The work these dedicated volunteers provide to our hospitals is just incredible. Each year, the UHAs spend tens of thousands of hours volunteering to support their local hospitals and staff by providing funds for equipment.

Perhaps more importantly, these volunteers help ensure our hospitals retain their community feel, keeping strong connections with our neighbourhoods and providing those extra touches that make patients feel at ease. The UHA is truly an amazing organisation made up of amazing individuals.



Winter is well and truly here, and whilst we are not seeing the number of flu-like presentations that we saw last season, we are experiencing even greater presentations than the same period last year.

This has resulted in our hospitals, and particularly our emergency departments, being exceptionally busy. I want to thank all our clinicians and

staff for their hard work and dedication to providing high quality care to everyone who presents to our hospitals and services.



This week I accompanied the Member for Lismore, Thomas George, on a progress visit to the Bonalbo Multi-Purpose Service (MPS). Construction is progressing on schedule with the project expected to be completed later this year.

It's great to see the new facility taking shape, with Stage 1 already operational and Stage 2 progressing well. The new MPS will provide a modern, integrated health facility for our patients and residents in that beautiful part of the world. I look forward to working with our staff and the community as we head towards the final phase of construction.



I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Davies family, following Greg Davies' sudden and unexpected death. I worked with Greg for a number of



years, and he was a clinician dedicated to providing high quality services to our communities. Greg also had a passion for teaching and supporting disadvantaged communities. I was extremely saddened by Greg's passing and he will be greatly missed.

*Wayne Jones  
Chief Executive*

## From the Board Chair



I would like to congratulate all our staff on the Rapid Response results from the May 2018 Standard Observation Chart Point Prevalence Audit.

The Northern NSW Local Health District compliance rate for calling Rapid Responses when required was 100%.

This is a fantastic improvement from the previous audit result of 36%. The current focus areas for improvement are

now Nurse/Midwife In Charge Clinical Review and reviewing Altered Calling Criteria that are about to expire.

Thanks to the leadership of the senior nursing staff, Nurse Managers and the Clinical Operations directorate for their commitment to this area over recent months.

The Board was extremely pleased, and specifically asked me to pass on their congratulations to staff for their dedication and hard work.



I am pleased to report that the Northern NSW Local Health District Service Agreement for 2018-19 has recently been endorsed by the Board and Executive Leadership team.

Each year, the LHD enters into a Service Agreement with NSW Health.

The Service Agreement operates as a key component of the NSW Performance Framework and specifies the number and broad mix of health services, the level of funding to be provided to our

health district, and the service delivery and performance expectations.

We anticipate that the funding allocations for this year will enable us to successfully meet our elective surgery targets, as well as provide the level of health care that our community expects.

This Service Agreement will also allow us to improve the community-based services we provide, especially in caring for people with chronic diseases and helping them stay out of hospital.

The Service Agreement is now available on the the staff intranet at <https://intranet.nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/northern-nsw-lhd-service-agreement-2018-19/> and the NNSWLHD public website.

*Brian Pezzutti  
Board Chair*

# Growing the leaders of tomorrow

District Manager, Work Health and Safety, Yvette Bowen, recently graduated from the NSW Health Senior Executive Development Program.

The 10 month program is designed to grow senior leadership potential within NSW Health, and increase the skills and capabilities of senior executives and general managers to operate effectively in a broad range of roles within the health system.

► Chief Executive, Hunter New England LHD, Michael De Lorenzo; Yvette Bowen; and Chief Executive, Health Education and Training Institute, Annette Solman.

Yvette was nominated for the program by Northern NSW Local Health District Chief Executive, Wayne Jones.

"Yvette was selected for the program based on her history of achieving high outcomes in her own portfolio, and her capacity to take on lessons learnt from the Senior Executive Development program and in turn enhance our services," Mr Jones said.



## Take a minute to save a life like Greg's

A normal day at work took a turn for the better when Greg McMahon got the life-saving phone call he'd been waiting for.

The Northern Rivers resident who had been on dialysis for 12 years, on and off the kidney transplant waiting list, helped launch DonateLife week this year in Lismore.

"I was doing dialysis every second afternoon for five hours a night, it was very tiring and it takes a toll on your

family as well," Greg said.

After a seven-hour operation in Brisbane in March this year, Greg now has a new kidney. It has changed his life dramatically, and he encourages everyone to become an organ donor.

"Please do it, it saves so many lives," Greg said.

"Someone has had to lose their life for me to have a better life, but if you can't take a kidney with you, what's the good of that?"

As part of DonateLife week, the annual Cycle for Life was held at Salt Central Park, Casuarina, on Sunday 29 July.

Around 450 people turned out in the winter sunshine for a casual ride through stunning countryside.

"The purpose of the cycle was to raise awareness of organ donation within the local community while having some fun," Mary Campbell, Donation Specialist Nurse,

► From left, Fiona Slassor, Dr Mike Lindley-Jones, Dr Mark Dalton, and Howard Clare at the Cycle for Life.



► Greg McMahon helps launch the new DonateLife bus advertising in Northern NSW.

Northern NSW Local Health District, said.

Donation Specialist Medical, Dr Mike Lindley-Jones, said DonateLife week was a great time to remind the community to join the Australian Organ Donor Register online, and let family members know your wishes to be a donor.

"Registration has a direct influence on consent rates, with nine in ten families saying yes to donation when their loved one was registered, so it's important to register and discuss your views," Dr Lindley-Jones said.



# Stopping to smell the roses

As a task-oriented person, I can easily get caught up in meeting deadlines and crossing off items on my to-do list. I don't often make time to slow down and take a breather, and I'm sure I'm not the only one.

This month, having gone to a few Annual General Meetings of our local UHAs, I have had the chance to sit and listen to the reports of small, but dedicated groups of volunteers and the sum totals of their efforts over the past year. It's been lovely to be part of those meetings, getting to know some of our volunteers a bit better, and hearing about their dedication to their communities.

Ordinarily, AGMs can be seen as boring and procedural. But, I have to say, these meetings are essentially a chance for our UHAs to celebrate the successes of the year and to take a moment to congratulate themselves for their ongoing efforts.

If we didn't take the time to stop and reflect, we might miss the fact that these groups, some with only 16 volunteers, are contributing to the more than \$5 million worth of equipment being donated to hospitals across NSW each year.

I'll take a moment to stop and raise a tea cup to that.



**Fiona Baker**  
Editor

# My Health Record visiting hospitals

This month, hospitals on the North Coast are providing patients with the opportunity to learn more about My Health Record.

Community information stalls are being held at six hospitals across our region, with North Coast Primary Health Network staff on hand to answer questions.

My Health Record is an individual's online summary of key health information and is easily accessible by doctors, specialists, and hospitals.

My Health Record also puts the person at the centre of their care.

It gives individuals access to key health information including medications, immunisation records and test results.

This month residents can learn more about My Health Record between 10am

and midday at the following locations:

- 24/08/18 – Ballina Hospital
- 27/08/18 – Grafton Hospital
- 29/08/18 – Lismore Hospital

NSW Health clinicians can access information about a patient's recent health history from all NSW LHDs and the My Health Record, via HealtheNet.

This year every Australian with a Medicare or Department of Veteran's Affairs Card will be given a My Health Record unless they choose not to have one.

Already, 5.8 million Australians have a My Health Record, which is a secure online summary of a person's health information.

Those who choose to opt out can do so until 15 November 2018 by visiting [myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://myhealthrecord.gov.au) or by calling the helpline on 1800 723 471.

**Your health record  
in your hands**  
[myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://myhealthrecord.gov.au)

Australian Government  
Australian Digital Health Agency



## Check out NNSWLHD Facebook page

The Northern NSW Local Health District Facebook page is used for a range of promotional activities, including the Health Promotion newsletter, pictured right, and by the LHD Media Unit to promote local events and celebrate the achievements of staff and volunteers.

It is regularly updated with the happenings across the LHD. Check out our [page](#) today!



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Cover image: Richmond Valley

# Volunteers worth their weight in gold

from page 1

and residents of the aged care facility."

For 2017-18, the Lismore Base Hospital UHA donated \$45,232 worth of equipment to the hospital.

At the AGM on 9 August, Lismore UHA President Diane Miller presented a certificate of appreciation to Richmond Network Business Manager, Kevin Carter, for his assistance over the years, and in particular with their recent move to a permanent kiosk in the hospital foyer.

At the Byron Bay UHA AGM on 16 July, Vice President, Jan Lang read the President's report on behalf of Mollie Strong, who was overseas.

The UHA had a very active year, with a full program of fundraising events including markets, garage sales, raffles, BBQs, football gate collections and a Charity Golf Day.

The UHA spent \$36,000 on



▲ Kyogle Hospital Auxiliary executive team. From left, 2nd Vice President Margaret Roberts, Publicity Officer Carolyn Barnard, Assistant Treasurer Anne O'Neill, Treasurer Cherie Heath, President Elaine McIntosh, and Secretary Jan Harlum.



◀ Byron Hospital Auxiliary executive team. From left, Vice President Margot Coggin, Assistant Secretary Sandra Pogson, Secretary Maureen Weir, Assistant Treasurer Joy Taylor, Vice President Jan Lang, and Treasurer Kay Sandon, with NNSWLHD Chief Executive Wayne Jones. Absent is Mollie Strong, President.

equipment for Byron Central Hospital (BCH) throughout the year, a remarkable achievement for a group with only around 16 active members.

BCH Director of Nursing, Keryn York, praised the auxiliary for their continued efforts over the years.

"We are extremely proud of our hospital and your many years of work and campaigning. The hospital would not be what it is without the community support and the UHA support," Keryn said.

► Lismore Base Hospital Auxiliary returning President, Diane Miller, with Richmond Network Business Manager, Kevin Carter.



# Taking a look at research readiness

Graduates from the Executive Clinical Leadership Program (ECLP) will be among those guiding improvements in patient care over the next decade.

Northern NSW Local Health District Director of Research, Alex Stephens, is one such leader who has recently completed the program with a project centred on the research engagement, barriers and needs of a large, rural public health organisation.

"The ECLP is a fantastic development and leadership course," Alex said.

"It enables graduates to gain skills in communication, leadership, management, conflict resolution, change management and work-life balance."

As part of the program, candidates are given the opportunity to conduct a project that aims to improve an aspect of the health service in which they work.

"My project focused on gaining an understanding of the needs and barriers of Northern NSW LHD staff towards engagement in research.

"This was achieved through a comprehensive research capacity audit survey, badged as the 'Have Your Research SAY!' survey conducted earlier in the year.

"There was a tremendous response

to the survey, with over 1000 staff responding," Alex said.

The survey provided robust baseline data on levels of research engagement and types of research currently undertaken, and information on the main barriers towards greater engagement in research, as well

as the types of education, training, support and resources respondents felt would benefit them in their research endeavours.

"The survey has provided important information for the LHD Research Strategic Plan, which we hope to launch in 2019," Alex said.



▲ NNSWLHD Director of Research, Alex Stephens, with his poster presentation for the Executive Clinical Leadership Program.

## Prime exposure for breast care service



▲ Monica Hogan, Richmond Specialist Breast Care Nurse on site at Primex.

Northern NSW Local Health District Richmond Specialist Breast Care Nurses had a successful stand at the Primex Field Day Event in Casino over three days in June.

Richmond Specialist Breast Care Nurses were a beneficiary of this year's event, which included a stand in one of the main pavilions, and a \$3000 donation to support the nurses to continue to provide services for those diagnosed with breast cancer.

Breast Care Nurses and supporting staff members attended the event each day. Staff who assisted this year were Monica Hogan, Karen Hennings, Lisa Beasley, Bronwyn Browne and Kerrie Anderson.

There were an estimated 250-300 visitors to the stand each day, and the response from the community was overwhelmingly supportive.

"It was inspiring to see firsthand the

impact that the support of the Breast Care Nurses has on the community, and we cannot thank Primex enough for giving us the opportunity to further promote our service," Kerrie Anderson, Richmond Network Community and Allied Health Business Manager, said.

"So many people approached our stand to say 'thank you for saving my life', 'thank you for being there for me every step of the way', and 'there is no way we could have got through this without your support'.

Specialist Breast Care Nurses provide information, education and support to patients and their families. They work within the community, seeing people in both public and private hospitals, in specialists' clinics and in patients' own homes, as well as working with a specialist team of Doctors and Allied Health staff to support women with early and advanced breast cancers.

# Work in progress for new hospital

Planning for the new Tweed Valley Hospital is continuing at pace, with the planning application being prepared and early construction works targeted to commence later this year.

The site for the new hospital at 771 Cudgen Road opposite Kingscliff TAFE was confirmed by the NSW Government on 30 June 2018 following an extensive search that considered more than 50 sites

across the region.

The existing Tweed Hospital site has inadequate space to develop new buildings and access is impacted by flooding. It will be replaced by the new Tweed Valley Hospital, which will form the core of the Tweed-Murwillumbah-Byron health network and be the major referral hospital for this region.

The greenfield development

will provide new and expanded health services to meet the needs of the community and enable the implementation of modern healthcare models. It will provide opportunities for enhanced education, training and research and other complementary services on the campus.

Since February this year, more than 600 staff representing over 25 project user groups have been part of the process to determine the type and level of services that will be delivered at the new hospital. This will ensure it meets the needs of the local community and best supports staff in achieving optimal healthcare outcomes. Feedback received through regular staff forums and the project email has also informed this process.

More detailed information about the project will become available over the coming months as the master planning and concept design work progresses and the planning application is lodged.

The Tweed Valley Hospital is targeted to be completed in 2022 and operational in 2023. For all the latest information and project updates, please visit [www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au).

◀ A recent planning workshop for the Tweed Valley Hospital.



## Appraisals key to employee experience

The Culture and Engagement Committee has its eye on workforce processes across the LHD, in particular reviewing how staff appraisals and exit interviews are managed.

The committee notched up its third meeting since being established in May, and after the initial focus on improving staff engagement through the People Matter Surveys, members are keen to move on to improving internal processes.

Both staff appraisals and exit interviews can play a key role in highlighting where the organisation can improve to provide a positive

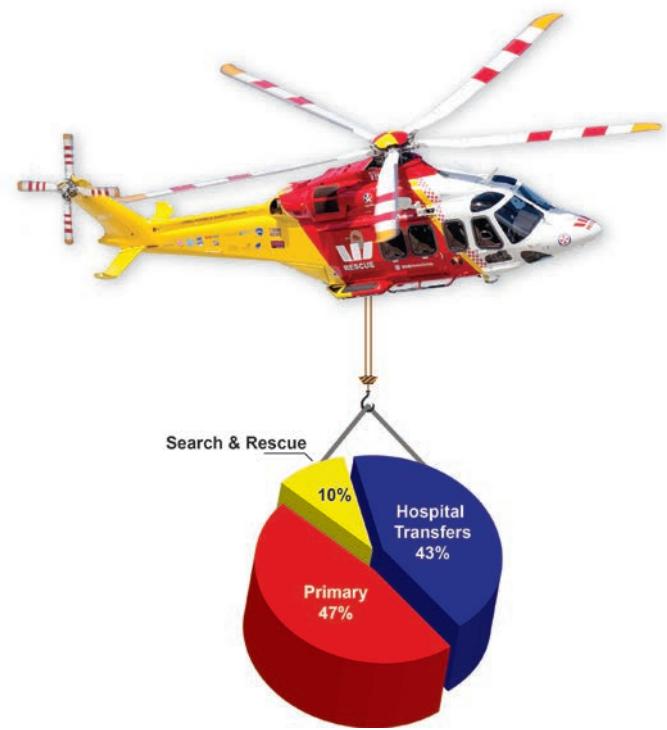
employee experience, in turn leading to better patient experiences and outcomes.

The committee will review the staff appraisals process, including options for an LHD-wide template, information packages for staff and managers, and better access to important policies and legislation.

The Workforce Department are working on a plan to utilise exit interviews as a valuable tool to gain insight and assess strengths and opportunities within the LHD.

Meeting minutes and agendas can be found on the staff [intranet](#).

## Helicopter Missions April - June 2018



# Comfort comes first for Tweed patients

Patients in The Tweed Hospital Cancer Care Unit will have a more comfortable experience, thanks to the Coolangatta Bowls Club. The

club recently raised \$4,000 for the Unit, which will go towards new chemotherapy chairs for patients.

"It is very important for patients to

be as comfortable as possible when receiving treatment," NUM Cancer Care Unit, Sarah Burton, said.

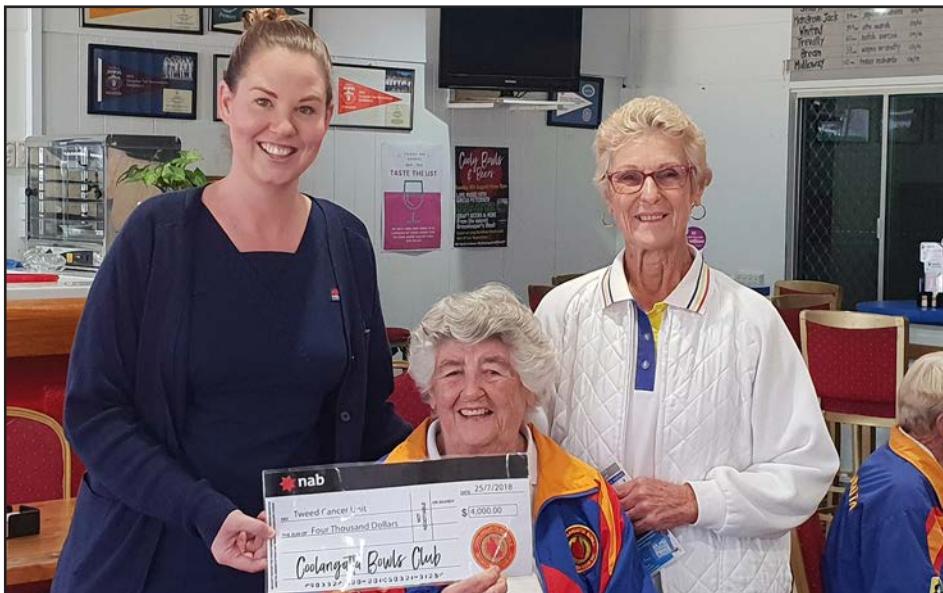
"Patients can be in that chair for eight hours a day so the comfort and design of it really matters."

The special chairs offer a range of health and safety aspects for patients, and being height-adjustable means staff can more easily administer treatment.

"At the touch of a button the chair adjusts so that the patient lies flat with their head lowered, and there's a built-in CPR board so emergency situations can be handled in the chair," Sarah said.

The funds were raised through raffles, donations, and wrong bias fines as well as a special donation of \$500 from the Men's All Sports Club.

▲ From left, Nurse Unit Manager, Sarah Burton with Coolangatta Bowls Club life member, Edna Harrison and Ladies President, Yvonne Lowry.



## Learning the skills of the trade

A group of nine aspiring managers have been learning the skills they need to support teams and deal with challenging situations in the workplace.

Employees who recently completed the HETI People Management Skills Program (PMSP) course this year were: Ian Smith, Senior Financial Accountant, District Finance; Heather Thomson, NUM Byron Sub Acute Mental Health Unit; Isabell Ward, After Hours Nurse Manager, Ballina Hospital; Andrew Gosling, NUM Renal Services, The Tweed Hospital (TTH); Alison Gould, Occupational Therapist Lismore; Bronwyn Browne, Acting NUM, Casino Health Richmond Network; Rochelle Russell, Dispensary Manager, Pharmacy, TTH; Sharon Brodie, Clinical Lead Sexual Assault Counsellor; and Helen Murphy, Registered Nurse, Casino Hospital.

This six-month blended learning pathway combines two days of face to face workshops and four on



▲ From left, Bronwyn Browne, Sharon Brodie, Helen Murphy, Rochelle Russell and Alison Gould receive certificates of completion from NNSWLHD Chief Executive, Wayne Jones.

line modules. A half-day workshop provides participants with the opportunity to develop and deliver a presentation to the group.

The PMSP develops the people management skills and capabilities of supervisors, managers and leaders within NSW Health to

create working environments that enhance patient care and staff satisfaction. The course utilises the eight core skills that serve as building blocks for people management:

- Coaching and Mentoring
- Critical Conversations
- Resolving Conflict
- Presentation and

### Facilitation

- Driving Innovation
- Effective Communication
- Influencing and Negotiating, and
- Managing Change.

Enrolments are now open for the next PMSP, commencing November 2018. To enrol, logon to [My Health Learning](#) and search PMSP.

# Cancer innovations in focus

The 7th annual Innovations in Cancer Treatment and Care Conference is being held on Thursday, 13 September in Sydney.

Presented by the Cancer Institute NSW, the event supports innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement across the cancer health system.

Northern NSW Local Health District has had a high level of input into this conference in previous years, and an

abstract has been accepted for this year.

This year's conference addresses the important issue of 'Right care, right place, right time'.

This is a key event for all clinicians, health workers, researchers and people affected by cancer in NSW.

Registration is FREE, bookings essential, click [here](#).

For more information, visit the Cancer Institute NSW [website](#).



innovations conference 2018  
cancer treatment and care

join the [#CancerInnovations](#) conversation

## Be safe, be screened

The BreastScreen mobile van is visiting the following towns:

Coraki: 27 and 28 August

Kyogle: 29 August – 13 September

Casino: 3 – 27 September

Grafton: 10 September – 10

December

Appointments are open now, call 13 20 50 to book.

Breast screening continues to be an important health check for women.

Women in Australia currently have a 1 in 8 risk of developing breast cancer in their lifetime and approximately 49 Australian women are diagnosed with breast cancer

each day. However, due to early detection, most women survive breast cancer.

BreastScreen NSW recommends women aged between 50-74 years have a screening mammogram every two years.

Women living in Northern NSW are encouraged to call 13 20 50 to make an appointment for a free mammogram. A GP referral is not necessary.

Appointments are also available year round at our Lismore and Tweed Heads clinics. Twenty minutes every two years could save your life.



## Funding boost for medical devices

An affordable dialysis system is among the potentially lifesaving medtech devices awarded a share in \$9.85 million by the NSW Government.

Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard recently announced the recipients of the 2018 NSW Medical Devices Fund (MDF), which invests in the development and commercialisation of medical devices and related technologies.

"Since the Medical Devices Fund began in 2013, the NSW Government has awarded more than \$50 million in grants to 31 technologies," Mr Hazzard said.

Sydney-based Ellen Medical Devices received \$2.2 million to develop a portable, solar-powered dialysis machine, costing just \$1,000 to build and \$5 a day to run.

"Dialysis can cost up to \$100,000 per patient each year in Australia and up to seven million people die annually in developing countries because it is too expensive," Office for Health and Medical Research Executive Director, Dr Antonio Penna, said.

## Flu season kicks off in NSW

The flu season has officially started in NSW, two months later than in 2017, but the number of confirmed cases reported across the state is a mere fraction of the total at this time last year.

The NSW Health Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report revealed 426 confirmed flu cases for the week ending 5 August, up on the 365 cases for the previous week but well below the 6,449 notifications in the same week in 2017.

"To date NSW Health has distributed more than 2.3 million doses of flu vaccine to GPs and other providers, over 50 per cent more than the total distributed in 2017," Dr Kerry Chant, NSW Chief Health Officer, said.

"It's not too late to vaccinate and there are no shortages of government supplied vaccines in NSW for all age groups."

# DIGITAL DOSE - eHealth News

## eMeds is coming soon

Lismore Base Hospital (LBH) will be the first site in Northern NSW Local Health District to go live with eMeds on 3 October, 2018.

Trainers and Change Managers across the LHD have been busy developing resources and engaging with clinicians to ensure everyone is prepared for the implementation of eMeds.

eMeds adds to the current functionality of eMR2, which provides a fuller electronic medical record to improve our services for patients and staff.

Thank you to our Key Support Users who are currently undergoing specialised training sessions to support their colleagues with the implementation of eMeds.

Representatives from a cross-section of clinical stakeholders will participate in User Acceptance Testing (UAT) sessions to provide the eMeds team with feedback on the usability of eMeds.

UAT is where users can test the eMeds functionality that will be implemented across 2018-2019, paying particular attention to how new functionality and workflows will work in their specialty area.

## eMeds team growing

This month we welcome our newest member of the team, David Glendinning, a Medical Officer (GP) who also works some shifts at LBH Emergency Department.

David will be working alongside the NNSWLHD eMeds team and with our

A number of short videos are also available on the staff intranet, for staff to familiarise themselves with the basics of eMeds: <https://intranet.nnswhd.health.nsw.gov.au/emr/emr-meds-about-us/>.

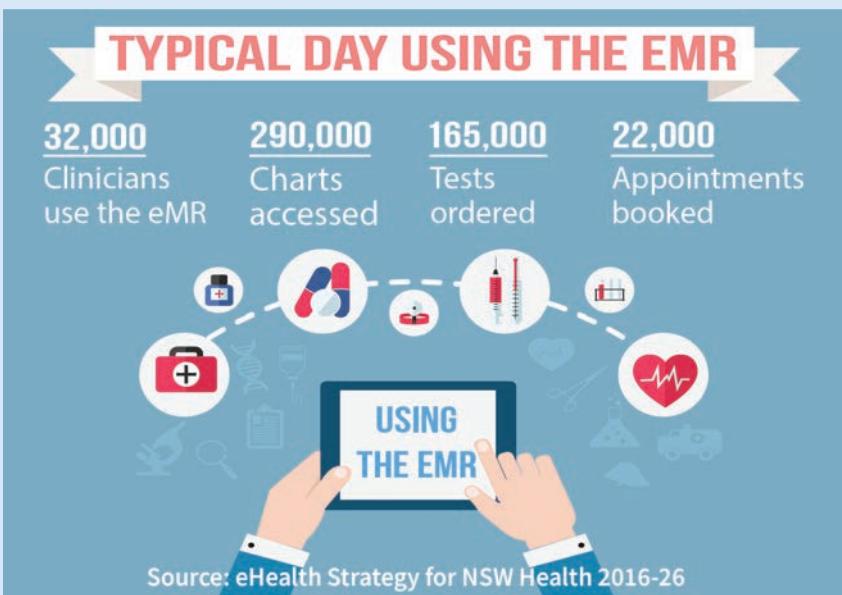
Over recent weeks, the old LBH recovery unit has been transformed into a simulation lab that will run every Wednesday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

These 30 minute sessions provide scenarios for clinical staff to practice the new workflows for medication administration using eMeds.

Other sessions will be added soon, including clinical handover, S8 and S4D – nurse witness workflows.

Approximately 45 nurses from across the hospital attended the first session. Feedback from this session showed nurses felt they had gained valuable experience with the system.

Our second go-live site, Byron Central Hospital, will soon have a simulation lab up and running. Byron Central Hospital will go-live on 7 November, followed by Murwillumbah District Hospital on 5 December.



change managers to provide Medical Officer engagement sessions.

Education modules are now available for Nurses, Medical Officers and Pharmacists through My Health Learning: look for 'eMeds Rural Learning Pathways'. Staff at LBH should be completing these now to prepare for the upcoming face-to-face training sessions.

## Child protection- are you up to date?



Have you done the new mandatory Child Wellbeing and Child Protection Training?

All staff are required to complete the new training by 30 September.

Since the last update, another 1000 staff have completed Part 1 of the training, but there is still a long way to go.

All staff need to complete Parts 1 and 2 by 30 September, and staff working with families also need to complete Part 3 of

the training by 30 September.

Remember, after you have made a report, apply a child-at-risk alert to the patient eMR.

If you have any difficulty with the training or applying an alert, contact the child protection team at [NNSWLHDchildprotection@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NNSWLHDchildprotection@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au).

To access the training, log into My Health Learning at [myhealthlearning.health.nsw.gov.au](https://myhealthlearning.health.nsw.gov.au) or through the staff intranet.

# Snags raise funds for farmers

Staff from NSW Health Pathology, Lismore, recently held a fundraising BBQ and raffle, with money going

towards drought-relief charity, Buy a Bale.

All up, the team raised an outstanding \$1426.

"It was really great to

see people from all over the hospital come down to support it," Steve Alvarez, NSW Health Pathology Lismore, said.



▲ Past and present Pathology staff members, from left Ajit Singh, Barry Jones, Sharon Jackson and Steve Alvarez, with happy customer Raegyn Hampson.

## Collaboration key for frontline staff

Senior operational commanders and managers from local health districts, NSW Ambulance and NSW Police will attend workshops across NSW to ensure best practice in managing people experiencing mental health problems.

Lismore held the first of these workshops on 22 August to support the implementation of the revised NSW Health – NSW Police Force Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU sets out how health staff, police officers and paramedics work together when responding to and delivering care to people accessing these services.

"In NSW, our priority is making sure anyone who seeks our help receives timely and appropriate care, in an environment that's safe for them and for our staff," Minister for Mental Health, Tanya Davies, said.

"This includes people living with mental illness, those in police custody brought to a health facility, and the management of public safety issues in health settings."

The revised MOU can be found at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth)

## HealthPathways News - August

### What is PrEP?

PrEP stands for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, and it's the use of anti-HIV medications to keep HIV-negative people from becoming infected.

HealthPathways has recently published the [Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV \(PrEP\) pathway](#).

PrEP can reduce the risk of HIV infection in patients who don't have HIV, but are at risk of infection. It is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for prescription by GPs for eligible patients.

NSW Health has a goal of ending HIV transmissions by 2020. A key element involves integrating HIV testing into practices.

Did you know that GPs diagnosed 42% of new HIV diagnosis in NSW in 2017?

GPs can also support HIV prevention by providing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV treatment to eligible patients.

The PrEP pathway provides GPs with best practice assessment and management guidelines, which may assist in prescribing PrEP to a patient.

The HealthPathway:

- Reinforces behavioural prevention for all patients
- Provides information on the importance of adhering to the medication
  - lists possible side effects
  - advises how to obtain the authority prescribed medication
  - provides ongoing monitoring of medication information

If a patient has HIV or Hep B, the referral section in the pathway provides local and up-to-date referral pathways.

The information section contains further clinical information regarding PrEP.

There is also a patient information section with printable PDFs available.

Access all the localised Mid and North Coast HealthPathways here:

<https://manc.healthpathways.org.au/>

[index.htm](#)

Username: manchealth

Password: conn3ct3d

To access HealthPathways related to articles in this edition of Northern Exposure, click on the links below:

- [Organ and tissue donation](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease- adult](#)
- [My Health Record](#)
- [Breast Cancer - established](#)
- [Breast Screening](#)
- [Influenza immunisation](#)
- [Child Protection services](#)
- [Child or young person at risk](#)

For more information contact Kerrie Keyte at [kkeyte@ncphn.org.au](mailto:kkeyte@ncphn.org.au)



## Research website up and running

Northern NSW Local Health District now has a dedicated research website.

The site is designed as a central hub for research support and resources, containing information on education and methods, grant and funding opportunities, research software, university and research partners, and research contacts.

The site also contains content from the Research Education Seminar Series, covering introduction to research, robust study design, basic analysis methods, writing for research and research software.

It will be a good resource for new researchers wanting to learn about the benefits of research, basic research methodology, the scientific method and analysis methods that can be applied to a variety of studies.

See more at [nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/research-support-resources/](http://nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/research-support-resources/)

# Probus club helps provide ultrasound

Patients requiring surgical procedures at Murwillumbah District Hospital will now have access to a dedicated ultrasound machine, thanks to a significant donation by a local club.

The Probus Club of Murwillumbah donated the \$62,000 Flex Focus 400 Ultrasound Imager to the hospital after a bequest from long-time Probus Club member, Robert Joseph Keith.

"The club wanted to distribute the bequest where it will be of the greatest benefit to the residents of the district of Murwillumbah," Probus Club President, Joan Brown, said.

"This ultrasound will assist in treating Murwillumbah residents."

The machine provides 2D and 3D ultrasound echo and flow imaging, which aid in diagnosis and procedural

treatments requiring biopsy or puncture.

It's also used to perform geometric measurements and calculations as part of urology, cardiology, vascular, obstetric, emergency medicine and anaesthetic cases.

"This ultrasound machine will enable our clinicians to more easily diagnose and treat urological conditions," Murwillumbah Director of Nursing, Darleen Berwick said.

"This machine has so many applications, and it means that staff in the operating theatre will have access to this technology where and when it is needed.

"We can't thank the Probus Club enough for their extremely generous donation."

## Celebrations on the menu in Tweed



The results of the latest Work Health and Safety Audit for The Tweed Hospital were cause for celebration.

New Tweed Hospital General Manager, Joe McDonald, put on a thank you BBQ for all staff. Not only did Joe provide the

onions, but he cut them up and manned the hotplate as well!

It was a perfect day (and reason) for just such a gathering and a terrific opportunity to meet the new GM.

The BBQ was cheerfully

run by Level 4 staff, and was very well attended and appreciated by everyone.

Pictured above behind the BBQs are, from left to right, Joe McDonald on the onions, WHS Co-ordinator, Mark Freier, on the snags, Director of Nursing and Midwifery,

Adam Reid providing service with a smile, and Manual Handling Co-ordinator, Michael Daley, making sure there were no manual handling issues with the sauce and cranking out some tunes for the chefs and the happy customers.

# The last word...

## Vale Greg Davies

Long-serving senior dental officer, Greg Davies, sadly passed away at the end of July. Greg leaves behind his wife Lynne, and three children Joe, Lucy and Elin.

Greg gave over 18 years' service to the North Coast



community through his role as Dental Officer, Principal Dental Officer and Northern NSW Local Health District Director of Oral Health.

Greg had an amazing ability to see the big picture, putting many of his ideas

and innovative thoughts into action for the betterment of the public dental community.

His creation of the Special Needs Program at Goonellabah Dental Clinic improved the lives of many patients with special needs, and in turn the lives of their carers and families.

Capital Works and renovations, and sourcing the money for them, was a key legacy Greg has left the District.

Greg oversaw new builds at Pottsville and Yamba, and renovations at Port Macquarie and Grafton, though the jewels in the crown were the student facilities at Ballina and Tweed.

The development of dental student placements required excellent

negotiation skills with two universities and persistence to ensure the best model was achieved for the North Coast. Greg was also instrumental in the development of purpose-built student accommodation in Ballina.

Greg's vision ensured his opinion was greatly sought after at a State level, sitting on many Advisory Groups influencing State policy and direction.

The Oral Health Teams on the North and Mid North Coast are very grateful for Greg's visionary leadership. Greg was an outstanding ambassador for Oral Health Services.

We say a heartfelt thank you for the hard work and outstanding legacy Greg has left the public dental community.

## Mildred is 102 years young

Kyogle MPS aged care resident, Mildred Raymond, celebrated her 102nd birthday this month.

Staff and family members held a morning tea in Mildred's honour on 16 August.

Mildred is the most senior resident at the aged care facility, and has lived there since 2015.

Born in Taree in 1916, Mildred has seen many changes over the course of her life.

As the eldest of four children, Mildred left school when only 12 years

old to help at home and look after her younger siblings and her ill father.

An avid gardener, cook, and a great crafts-woman, Mildred has sewed, crotched and knitted for many people over the years.

Mildred attributes her longevity to working hard, never drinking alcohol, and not smoking or swearing.

However, Mildred does love sweets, oysters, and still applies salt to her food and full cream milk to her cup of tea.

► From left, Kyogle MPS staff members Janelle Gibson, Jacqueline Stewart, Nurse Unit Manager Leanne Schipanski, Reid Wilkie and Susie Cornell with Mildred Raymond.

