May 16, 2016

Celebrating our nurses and midwives

Sydney Local Health District has paid tribute to its 5,000 strong team of nurses and midwives with a week of events to mark the international day of recognition on May 12.

Considered to be society’s most valued professionals, the international day highlights the vital and important contributions made by our nurses and midwives on a daily basis.

The celebration also recognises the passion displayed by our nurses and midwives as well as the essential role they play in delivering quality healthcare.

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital’s Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Claire Harris, said nurses and midwives change peoples lives every day.

“The compassion and care shown to patients is what makes this such a great hospital,” she said.

RPA’s General Manager, Deborah Willcox, said it was tremendous to celebrate the achievements of our nurses and midwives.

“It’s such a privilege to work alongside our wonderful nurses and midwives who always have a smile and are up for a chat.

“Our nurses and midwives are a force for change and I know they will continue to be because that’s why our patients get great care and that is what makes this hospital as good as it is,” she said.

RPA, Balmain and Canterbury Hospitals enjoyed a week of celebrations including trivia, pizza deliveries for nurses on night shifts, ‘themed games, and bed-making competitions as well as staff barbecues and awards ceremonies.

Concord Hospital also commemorated the sinking of the hospital ship Centaur in WWII and included a ‘Concord’s Got Talent’ spectacular as part of its celebrations.
To coincide with its 75th anniversary, the hospital featured a nursing diamond jubilee award which was presented to Nursing Unit Manager Edith George for going above and beyond the call of duty.

International Nurses Day is held each year to mark the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Award winners include:

**RPA**

Margaret Gleeson – Excellence in Patient and Family Centred Care
Rebecca Bourke – Excellence in Clinical Practice – Assistant in Nursing/Enrolled Nurse
Kristina Whelan – Excellence in Clinical Practice – Registered Nurse
Kate Cheney – Excellence in Clinical Practice – Registered Midwife
Peter Hauser – Excellence in Education
Wendy Tilden – Excellence in Management (NUM Geriatrics)
Diane Kirkwood – Excellence in Clinical Leadership (Lung disease CNC)
Anthea Harrowsmith – Outstanding Graduate Nurse
Susanne Webster – General Outstanding Practice
Ruby Ishinjerro – Excellence in Operating Theatre
Rebecca Gribben – Executive Unit Award

**Balmain Hospital**

Bridget Canham – SLHD Excellence in Nursing Award
Rhea Soria and Valeria Donato - Sian Williams Balmain Hospital Nursing Excellence Award

**Canterbury Hospital**

Cherrie Ren, Penny Abouharb and Glen Wiseman - Kevin Stewart International Nurses Day Award
Linda Collins – Rotary Nurse of the Year
Lijun (Lily) Wei – Liz Martin Excellence in Midwifery Award
Geraldine White – SLHD Patient and Family Centred Care Award for Canterbury

**Concord Hospital**

Min Zhu – Dr Brian Jones Scholarship
Jing Wu – Dr Gavin Barr Scholarship
Cathie Cincotta – Cardiology Training Scholarship
Sharyn Taylor – Celia Curteis Memorial Scholarship
Sally Lockhart and Maritta Serrao – Clifford Buchanan Memorial Scholarship
Pauline Pleno – Jan Bell and Diane Watson Scholarship
Emma Allen and Leisa Hudson – Jean Marion Martin Scholarship
Paul Kaura and Marisa Vocalan – Masonic Freemason Lodge Chelmsford Scholarship
Fiona Ly – Kath and Max Russell Memorial Scholarship
Jessie Buluran, Rungnapa Ougphaibo and Ferdinand Fernandez – Professor Dan Neuroscience Nursing Scholarship
Sabita Bhandari Koirala - Rose and Jack Memorial Scholarship
John Waters – SLHD Award
Edith George – CRGH Nursing Diamond Jubilee Award