Official Launch of March Arts

Harmony Day and Close the Gap Day Celebration

Milestones celebrated at Continuous Service Awards

Redevelopment Update
Concord turns the First Sod
Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Concord Connection. I would like to thank our staff who worked tirelessly over what was a very busy Christmas and New Year period. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by myself and our patients, who were pleased to have such dedicated staff caring for them. I would also like to welcome back those staff who have returned from a period of leave, as well as extend a very warm welcome to new staff joining our team at Concord Hospital. We are delighted to have you join us. On this note, a special thanks to the Medical Allocations and Development Unit and the Medical and Surgical Superintendents who coordinated a seamless 2019 Recruitment Onboarding and Orientation experience for our new workforce of Junior Medical Officer Interns.

We had a very busy end to 2018, and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding achievements made during our hospital accreditation process. Staff across all areas of the hospital worked incredibly hard and it was excellent to see this work recognised by the ACHS surveyors in December. We have now turned our sights to sustaining these achievements to ensure that we continue to provide excellent care to every patient, every time.

The end of 2018 also saw continued enabling works towards the development, which are now nearing completion. A newly refurbished location for the Drug Health unit opened in March, allowing for demolition of the ward 64 and 65 buildings, followed by the start of major construction in May. In the interim, I would like to sincerely thank you for your patience as we experience disruptions around the campus. I know these can be challenging at times, but your continued dedication is appreciated and we will soon begin to see our new hospital taking shape.

In December, we had the opportunity to reflect on the wonderful work of our dedicated volunteers at the Volunteers Appreciation Lunch. Thank you once again to our volunteers for all the work that you do to help keep Concord Hospital running smoothly. You work in synergy with our fantastic staff, and it was wonderful to see you at our Staff BBQ on the newly refurbished Green.

January saw a live concert, picnic and movie night at Yaralla Estate on Australia Day. Thank you to the staff from our Marketing and Community Relations Department for organising this great family event, which was enjoyed by many members of our local community. Another highlight was the Continuous Service Awards in February, where we celebrated the dedication of some of our longest-serving staff members. These staff have made significant contributions to our hospital community over the years, helping to shape the culture of pride for which Concord is renowned which makes the hospital so special.

Please join me in congratulating those staff who received a Service Award, – what a fantastic achievement.

Concord launched March Arts for Sydney Local Health District with a call going out to those with artistic flair to make a submission to our March Arts staff exhibition. This is a month-long festival held throughout the District which showcases the valuable role that integrating the arts into our health services can have on improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The annual Concord Hospital Trivia Night was also held in March. As Nursing’s annual fundraiser for International Nurses Day, it was a fun night for a great cause with staff dressing up to a favourite book theme.

In April, we will honour our heritage by paying respect to those who gave their lives and fought for our freedom at an ANZAC Service. Staff and members of the community are invited to join in the Service to be held at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway on 24 April at 10.30am.

As we look to the rest of the year, there will be a series of exciting developments in service delivery and capital works, and I look forward to working with you to bring these to fruition. Once again, thank you for your hard work and dedication, providing outstanding care to our patients.
Introducing the New Leadership Team in Emergency Department

Dr Nitin Jain started at Concord as the Director of Emergency Department on 14 January. Dr Jain has been working as an Emergency Department staff specialist at Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals for last six years and most recently as the Deputy Director of Emergency Medicine at Liverpool Hospital. He is a strong patient advocate, keen supporter of our junior doctors and likes to work closely with our nursing team and allied health colleagues. His particular interests are end of life care, observational medicine and critical care in the Emergency Department.

Ms Sharon Taylor has worked at Concord Hospital for the past twenty-nine years and has been part of the Emergency Department team for the past fifteen years in various roles, most recently as the Clinical Nurse Consultant. Ms Taylor commenced in her new role as the Nurse Manager in late December 2018. Ms Taylor views challenges as an opportunity for change and so looks forward to the new challenges ahead.

Thank you to our Donors

Concord Hospital would like to thank the following donors for their support:

- Rotary Club of Five Dock and Rotary Club of Concord for generously donating $11,000 in proceeds from their joint Golf Day towards the Hospital’s Aged Care Service.
- Mrs Tieu Nga Huynh, who kindly donated $3,000 towards the work of the Concord Centre for Palliative Care.

Calendar of Events 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Service</td>
<td>Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1 May</td>
<td>International Secretaries’ Day</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 1 and 2</td>
<td>7am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>Centaur Service</td>
<td>On the Green</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>International Nurses’ Day</td>
<td>113th AGH Memorial Chapel</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 August</td>
<td>VP Day</td>
<td>Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 19 August</td>
<td>Vietnam Veterans Day</td>
<td>113th AGH Memorial Chapel</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 September</td>
<td>Spring Markets</td>
<td>On the Green</td>
<td>9am – 3pm</td>
<td>9767 6038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 28 &amp; Sunday</td>
<td>Rivendell Flower Show</td>
<td>Thomas Walker Estate, Rivendell</td>
<td>10am- 3pm</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<td>29 September</td>
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<td>9767 8488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16 October</td>
<td>Tour de Concord</td>
<td>On the Green</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>9767 6038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 October</td>
<td>Clinical Day</td>
<td>Medical Education Centre</td>
<td>8am – 5pm</td>
<td>9767 6221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25 October</td>
<td>Veteran Health Day</td>
<td>Medical Education Centre</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25 October</td>
<td>Medical Staff Council Dinner</td>
<td>Thomas Walker Estate, Rivendell</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>9767 8488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3 November</td>
<td>Kokoda Day</td>
<td>Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11 November</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Service</td>
<td>Front Lawn Concord Hospital</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Alice Kang</td>
</tr>
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<td>Monday 2 December</td>
<td>Volunteers Appreciation Lunch</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 1 and 2</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Melva Lindley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 December</td>
<td>Christmas Markets</td>
<td>On the Green</td>
<td>9am - 3pm</td>
<td>9767 6038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 December</td>
<td>Staff BBQ</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 1 and 2</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Peta Macfarlane</td>
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Our volunteers and consumer representatives provide invaluable assistance to patients and staff across many departments within Concord Hospital. Their services were recognised on Monday 3 December at an annual luncheon held in their honour.

The luncheon marked the end of another successful year where the tremendous contribution made by volunteers in 2018 was celebrated. A buffet luncheon was served, accompanied by live music and jovial dancing.

With the start of 2019, our loyal and committed volunteers commemorated their annual return to work at a Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday 26 February.

Held in the 113th AGH Memorial Chapel, the service, led by Fr Graeme Malone SSS and Anglican Chaplain Mr Dale Baikie, began with a tribute to volunteers who have passed on. A memorial candle was lit and floral tribute was laid in their memory.

Volunteer Michele Celler delivered a bible reading which was followed by Diane McPhail’s heartfelt account of her own experiences as a ‘pink lady’. Diane’s address of how she came to work and love the volunteers of Concord Hospital left a resounding impact on the many who share the challenges and rewards of volunteering at the Hospital.

The volunteers at the service recited an undertaking of service and renewed their commitment to offer their time, ability and good will in assisting staff and patients of the hospital.

At the conclusion of the service, volunteers gathered in the conference rooms to enjoy refreshments and to learn about the new and exciting challenges ahead in working alongside the building works of the redevelopment.

We would like to thank all our volunteers who generously donate their time and expertise to support Concord Hospital. Be sure to say hello when you see them around the hospital!

Volunteers from our Thursday Markets wish to thank all hospital staff for donating goods and supporting the weekly Markets.
On Friday 8 March, 210 members of our local community gathered to celebrate International Women’s Day 2019 and help raise funds for the world-leading blood cancer clinical trials at Concord Hospital.

The event was organised by The Bloody Great Committee and guests enjoyed a beautiful breakfast at Le Montage, where sponsors and hospital representatives mingled with the wider City of Canada Bay community, represented by local Mayor Angelo Tsirekas.

The Hon Jeanette McHugh, lifelong community activist and the first woman from NSW to be elected to Federal Parliament, spoke about her time in politics when a woman’s voice struggled to be heard.

Concord Hospital’s Associate Professor Ilona Cunningham, Head of Haematology Department, followed with an equally inspiring insight into her life as a 17 year old Hungarian immigrant with no English, to her outstanding success as a world class haematologist and medical researcher.

When patients Lara Campisi and Bernadette Watt spoke of their cancer journey, there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. The appreciation for the wonderful care provided by the Concord Cancer Centre was truly palpable.

“Everyone was buoyed by the great sense of enthusiasm for a greater gender balance in all workplaces and in society and this very successful breakfast for IWD 2019 certainly contributed to that,” said Marie Piccin, Chair of The Bloody Great Committee.

“The event raised in excess of $10,000 for Concord’s haematology clinical trials and we thank the local community for its tremendous support.”
March Arts was officially launched at Concord Hospital on 8 March. The event promotes the benefits and positive impacts that forms of art can have on patients, staff, carers and the community within a health setting. The initiative celebrates the integration of health and arts programs across health services within the Sydney Local Health District.

At the official launch, Medicos Café was transformed with fresh artworks provided by Drummoyne Art Society (DAS). Three original portrait pieces, encompassed by the theme “Their Service, Our Heritage” were unveiled. Painted by DAS President, Jose Gutierrez, these portraits depicted WWI veteran Moses Caleb Gray, WWII Veteran Reginald James Chard and Afghanistan War Veteran Michael Fussell. The unveiling of the portraits were accompanied by the moving stories of each veterans’ sacrifice delivered by Head of Department, Geriatric Medicine, John Cullen, Director of Marketing and Community Relations Alice Kang, and Shane Greentree from Soldier On respectively.

Throughout the month of March, a wonderful array of art activities and projects have been on display around the hospital, courtesy of our patients, staff and local community.

A photographic display titled ‘Women in Service’, prepared by Dr Lloyd Ridley, can be viewed from the walkway between the Hospital foyer and the Medical Centre. This photographic exhibition is a tribute to the service of women during wartime.

The Hospital’s Main Foyer was transformed by Dr. Helen Parsons of the Embroiderers Guild NSW who has created a fabulous textile memorabilia display titled ‘Gathering the threads: Coming home’. The display focuses on Australian troops returning from the Boer War and World War I and the impact of war on their lives and families.

Just outside the Hospital main entrance, a series of portraits, photographed and designed by Renee Pinto can be viewed. This display named ‘My Story’ depicts the journey of eight cancer survivors from Concord Hospital. It is a photographic exposition of the strength of cancer patients, former and current, who have embraced the Hospital as part of their lives.

The artists were present on the night to introduce themselves and speak briefly on their art. Their works will be on display throughout the month of March for staff and visitors to view.

A number of talented Concord staff also showcased their amazing artworks in the Conference Rooms.
Left to Right: SLHD CE Dr Teresa Anderson AM, Director of Marketing and Veteran Services Alice Kang, WWII Veteran Reginald Chard with Acting General Manager Dr Genevieve Wallace.

Dr Lloyd Ridley prepared a photographic display titled 'Women in Service'.

Dr Helen Parsons, Embroiderers’ Guild NSW, introducing her work.

Portrait artist and president of Drummoyne Art Society, Jose Gutierrez.

Reginald Chard with Friends of Concord Volunteer Peggy Dickinson.
This year, the Concord Centre for Palliative Care (CCPC) unit celebrates five years of providing palliative care to patients from across Sydney Local Health District. CCPC is committed to providing patient and family centred care. The aim of palliative care is to improve quality of life and provide physical, spiritual and emotional support, ongoing symptom control and education, as well as support for all family members.

As part of the celebrations, local Aboriginal artist Mr James Simon was commissioned to design and paint an Aboriginal Mural. This mural is featured in the Palliative Care Centre and will help to make the Centre a welcoming place for our Indigenous patients.

The mural artwork, titled ‘Remnants of a Forgotten Past’ represents local waterways around the Sydney area. The remnants of an old campfire can be seen where people once gathered to hunt fish and forage for food.

The artwork was officially unveiled on 27 March 2019.

Mural artist, James P. Simon discussed the symbolisms within the mural

Dr Ghauri Aggarwal, Head of Department, Palliative Care and SLHD CE Dr Teresa Anderson AM unveiled the artwork of the CCPC Mural

Uncle Max Eulo performed the traditional smoking ceremony around the CCPC building

Cultural Dance Performance by Murry Mudgin Girls Dance Group
Australia Day Honours

Australia Day 2019 marked a special occasion for Professor Matthew Peters who was acknowledged for his commitment, dedication and hard work towards his profession.

Professor Peters was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to thoracic medicine, medical education and professional organisations. He is Head of the Department of Thoracic Medicine at Concord Hospital and has held the chair of various hospital councils and committees.

His particular interests include asthma and the prevention and better treatment of smoking-related lung disease. Other research interests include aviation safety in patients with lung disease.

Concord Hospital congratulates Professor Peters on this wonderful achievement.

Cantonese Pain Management

The Pain Clinic at Concord Hospital worked in collaboration with the Multicultural Health Service, NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) and Chinese Australian Services Society (CASS) to run a series of free community pain management programs in February and March.

The programs, held at Concord Hospital, teaches ways of managing chronic pain. Developed for Cantonese-speaking people, the program is specifically designed to help members of the community who struggle in seeking helpful, technical advice due to language or cultural barriers.

Because chronic pain can induce anxiety or depression, persisting pain quite commonly negatively impacts the lifestyle of suffering individuals both physically and socially. The two-and-a-half hour program, held over six weeks, outlined management strategies for good physical, mental and social health.

Mother’s Day High Tea

You are invited to join us for Mother’s Day High Tea at Yaralla

Saturday 11 May 2019
11.30am to 1.30pm

Yaralla Estate
Nullawarra Ave, Concord

The magnificent Yaralla Estate will come alive with beautiful music, poetry reading and a delicious High Tea. Treat mum to one of Sydney’s best kept secrets.

$50 per person. Bookings Essential. Phone 9767 5256 or email
SLHD-ConcordEvents@health.nsw.gov.au
Harmony Day, falling every year on 21 March, celebrates inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all people regardless of culture or background. This year, coinciding with Thursday market day on the Green, a diverse range of ethnic food and performances celebrated the multiculturalism of Concord Hospital staff.

Food stalls offered a wonderful mixing pot of ethno-cultural cuisine, such as Lebanese, Taiwanese, Malaysian, French and Turkish. Cultural performances were also featured on the Green including a traditional Chinese lion dance and two repertoires from the Rhodes Multicultural Community Association Dance Group.

An Aboriginal art painting project was also held inside the conference rooms to acknowledge Close the Gap Day. Children from Yaralla Child Care Centre and Five Dock Cherry Bridge Station Pre-School attended to participate in the day's activities and learn indigenous art from local artist Aunty Kathy Farrawell. The children were thrilled to create their own masterpieces and display their artistic talents.

The event also provided an opportunity to educate the school children on living healthy lifestyles. Oral Health staff and Dr Rabbit taught the children that a healthy body starts with good dental habits. Staff and visitors were also encouraged to learn about Oral Health and Social Work at the respective information stalls.
Concord Hospital congratulates Dr Michael Chan for winning the Mendelson research prize at the abdominal radiology group of Australia and New Zealand’s annual scientific meeting in Auckland in March.

Dr Chan presented the paper: “HCC screening for high risk patients who have suboptimal screening ultrasound: an abbreviated non-contrast MRI screening protocol” together with his co-authors Drs Stephen McDonald, Yang-Yi Ong, Katerina Mastrocostas, Edwin Ho, and Jessica Yang from Radiology as well as A/Prof Alice Lee and Dr Cositha Santhakumar from Gastroenterology.

Patients who are at high risk of liver cancer require six monthly screening ultrasound, however, a select group of patients have suboptimal screening ultrasound due to factors such as fatty liver and cirrhosis. For these people, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an alternative way to identify liver cancers but is costly and takes a long time to perform. The team successfully proved that a more limited (and less expensive) protocol could be a viable alternative screening tool for finding these cancers early.

Celebrating Seniors’ Festival at Concord

Aged Chronic Care & Rehabilitation staff held a stall at Concord Hospital’s Thursday Market Day on 21 February to celebrate NSW Seniors Festival (13 – 24 February 2019).

The day was a huge success with a lot of passing family members and carers stopping by over the lunch time to learn more about Aged Care and Rehabilitation services and the help that is available.

A number of carers enrolled into Dementia Carers Support Groups run by the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Service while others signed up for the Falls Prevention Course. Information and giveaways regarding oral health were exceptionally popular. On top of all this, a large number of non-Aged Care staff took the opportunity to gather information that will benefit the experience of patients they look after regardless of department or ward.

Information regarding Aged Care and Rehabilitation can be found on the SLHD Intranet website at: http://slhd-intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/SLHD/acr/
Milestones Celebrated at Concord Hospital

Concord Hospital is fortunate to have many long-standing staff committed to the wellbeing of the Hospital and its patients. A special luncheon was held on Friday 15 February to honour staff who have continuously served the hospital for greater than 15 years. The luncheon celebrated both the milestones of individuals as well as the cumulative 1125 years of service between those present.

Staff were presented with service pins acknowledging their 15, 20, 25 or 30 years of service. Medical Records administrator Mr Brett Wallace received an engraved bronze medallion for his 35 years of service. Celebrating 40 years of service was Ms Kathleen Musson from Nursing Services who was presented with a beautiful glass plaque acknowledging her time at Concord Hospital.

Guest speaker and 2018 Pride of Concord recipient, Ms Vivienne Bush, Director Corporate and Clinical Support addressed the audience, recalling some wonderful memories of her early days at Concord.

Congratulations to all our Continuous Service Award recipients. For those staff unable to attend the luncheon, please contact the Marketing Department on Ext 76038 to arrange for collection of your award. Staff who have queries regarding their own length of service, please contact Human Resources Department on Ext 76256.

Staff celebrating their service milestone achievements

Kathleen Musson (left) accepting her glass plaque for 40 years of continuous service

Guest speaker Vivienne Bush shared some wonderful experiences of her time at Concord
Continuous Service Awards

Brett Wallace (left), recipient of the bronze medallion for 35 years of service

Bronze medallion presented for 35 years of continuous service

Staff celebrating their service milestone achievements

Brett Wallace (left), recipient of the bronze medallion for 35 years of service
With the continued digital transformation of our hospitals, the State's first ‘Smart Room’, capable of mimicking the digital hospital environment, was launched late last year at Concord Hospital to support staff and student training.

SLHD’s Information and Communication Technology Services team, in partnership with The University of Sydney, Cerner and technology vendors Hospital Products Australia, Hill Rom and Zebra have created the ICT Smart Room which is co-located within one of the Simulation Labs at the Medical Education Centre (Bldg 26). The training environment simulates clinical practice and demonstrates the technology systems in use across the hospitals of the SLHD and is fully upgradeable as new technology is deployed.

“This is the first ‘smart room’ training environment of its kind in a hospital in NSW – another leading technology innovation created and delivered by Sydney Local Health District with the support of our partners,” the District’s Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson said.

The room features two scenarios: one reflecting a standard ward and bed and the other, a high technology bed currently used in CRGH Burns Unit with the ability to bring specialised care to bed bound patients. The bed can be configured to bring patients to a sitting position as seen or inflated from side to side to assist with pressure area care and minimise/ reduce staff injuries. The bed can also be programmed to perform chest percussion from underneath the patient. Each scenario is linked to a Workstation on Wheels (WoW) with access to all clinical programs available in the electronic medical record (eMR) Training Domain including CareAware VitalsLink™ device integration for wireless transmission to the electronic Medical Record. The Burns/ICU scenario has a Mortara 380 ECG in combination with PowerChart ECG™ and an ECG simulator. The environment also has the ability to duplicate training domain patient barcoded wristbands, the locally-developed electronic patient journey board and a downtime viewer. Wireless access was integrated as part of the project for the SLHD domain.

The District’s Chief Medical Information Officer, Dr Angus Ritchie, said the room uses wireless device integration to reflect current technologies. “The interactive bedside setting allows staff and students to simulate clinical situations and by doing so, improve their skills, proficiency in the eMR and the delivery of high quality patient care. As we look to the future and continue to develop and test new eMR programs, the Smart Room will provide a simulation environment to trial new technologies and then train staff of all levels of experience.”

ICT Project Manager Clayton Frater notes in having created the room and procured the devices and equipment from vendor/partners as Grants of Equipment, vendors are eager to continue their partnership with recent offers of a new Volumat MC Agilia Infusion Pump for inclusion, to be followed by the new Agilia Connect Wifi pump for assessment in the future. Already utilising the latest generation of WoWs, an offer of an 8th generation WoW utilising RFID technology is in discussion for next year to review, which would allow staff to swipe on and off rather than logging on by typing.

For more information, Jacqueline contact Laurens, Health Informatics Team Manager via email at: Jacqueline.Laurens@health.nsw.gov.au
After 18 years as Manager of the Research Office at Concord Hospital, Virginia Turner will be retiring in April. This is a very important and challenging senior managerial role, managing the human ethics and research governance processes for the hundreds of human research projects and clinical trials being undertaken at any one time at Concord. Virginia is a remarkable person who has worked quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to provide the infrastructure and support that has facilitated the emergence of Concord Hospital as a major research and academic hospital.

Virginia has been particularly committed to helping early career researchers with developing their research ideas and successfully navigating the complicated ethics and governance requirements for human research. All researchers that have interacted with Virginia know that she is very collaborative and supportive, providing solutions rather than barriers for research projects and proposals. As a key member of the Concord Research Committee, Virginia has led a number of important innovations, including travel awards for early career researchers and prizes for presentations at Concord Clinical Week. She has been instrumental in supporting Concord Clinical Week and an advocate for showcasing and rewarding our local early career and more senior scientists.

Prior to taking up her role as Manager of the Concord Research Office in 2001, Virginia had worked as a histopathologist at the University of Sydney. Virginia has trained three chairs of the Human Research Ethics Committee over the last two decades and supported the many people who are required for an HREC including researchers, clinicians, lay people, lawyers and ministers. Virginia has also been a great mentor for the staff in her office, and it is a credit to Virginia that she is leaving the Research Office with such a high reputation for its efficiency and supportiveness and with excellent staff who can maintain the high standards that Virginia has established. We wish Virginia the very best in her retirement.
Following on from the success of trivia nights past, this year’s Great Trivia Night event held at the Canada Bay Club again proved popular with the theme for the evening being “Books”.

An exceptional effort was made for both group and individual costumes, with each table decked out in their finest book-themed attire. Winning first prize for best dressed group for their impersonation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was the Colorectal team. The award for best individual outfit was presented to Chris Parker, NUM Burns Unit for her costume as the evil witch from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The challenge was hot and fierce as all eyes were on the coveted winner’s trophy. Congratulations to the ICU team who proved to be the brightest and brainiest group on the night, taking out this year’s title.

Thank you to all who supported the event and to the Trivia Night Organising Committee for their efforts. Special thanks also to Smart Salary, who generously donated this year’s winner’s and best dressed table prizes.

All funds raised from the evening go towards this year’s International Nurses’ Day celebrations.
My name is Jenny Gibney. I have just completed my PhD which focused on improving the oral health of older people on acute aged care wards. The research was conducted at the Centre for Education and Research on Ageing based at Concord Hospital. My interest in oral health is in the aged care population and implications of poor oral hygiene on these patients - particularly the risk of aspiration of bacteria from the oral cavity due to poor oral hygiene, and its association with Hospital Acquired Pneumonia. The aim of my research was to develop an oral hygiene education and training model suitable for staff on acute care wards that improved the oral health of aged care patients.

Our nurse education and training program is simple to adopt on acute Aged Care Wards as it requires minimal resourcing and has been validated by the studies mentioned below. The program has been adopted at Concord Hospital in the Aged Care Wards. Although the initial focus of the research has been on older people within the acute hospital area I believe this program has the potential to impact nursing care in relation to oral hygiene across acute, subacute and residential care settings.

I have recently returned from the European Association of Dental Public Health conference in Spain where I presented on my research.

My survey of nurses on acute aged care wards found that a combination of patient, nurse and systems barriers impacted nurses ability to undertake oral hygiene practices. The findings were published in a paper titled ‘Nurses’ knowledge, attitudes and current practice of daily oral hygiene care to patients on acute aged care wards in two Australian Hospitals’.

Another study undertaken was descriptive in nature. It sought to determine the prevalence of poor oral health among older patients upon admission to acute care wards and again seven days into their hospitalization. It found that, for the majority, oral health did not improve during their stay.

A paper titled ‘The oral health status of older patients in acute care on admission and day 7 in two Australian hospitals’ has been published in the journal, Age Ageing (Sep 2017).

As a result of the above studies, two interventions were undertaken to determine if oral health specifically oral cleanliness could be improved over a seven day hospitalisation period.

Intervention 1 involved an oral health therapist (OHT) performing a daily oral hygiene routine which resulted in significant improvements in the oral cleanliness of older inpatients’ oral cleanliness.

Intervention 2 found nurses undertaking the same routine with support from the OHT (education and skills training) could achieve similar results to an Oral Health Therapist.

A paper titled ‘Improving Oral Health for Older People in Hospital’ (2018) has now been published in the Australasian Journal on Ageing. This paper descriptively compares the oral health therapist led intervention, nurse led intervention and usual care. It can be found at https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.12588.

A fourth manuscript describing the nurse education and training program developed over the course of the two intervention studies will be submitted for publication in an appropriate nursing journal in the near future.

RCPA Pathology Article of the Year Award

Congratulations to Dr Owen Dent and Associate Professor Ronald Newland, recipients of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) Pathology Article of the Year Award.

2018 marked the 50th volume of the RCPA journal Pathology. In recognition of this, the RCPA has established a new award called the Pathology Article of the Year Award to be presented annually.

As such, the winning article ‘Competing risks analysis of the effect of local residual tumour on recurrence and cancer-specific death after resection of colorectal cancer: Implications for staging’ co-authored by Dr Dent and A/Prof Newland is the inaugural winner of this prestigious award.

As quoted by the editors, “Your winning article was considered to be of outstanding scientific merit and the most significant manuscript published in Pathology in 2018”.

The award was formally presented at the Pathology Update 2018 Conference on Saturday 23 February 2019 at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

Congratulations again on this well deserved award.

The article has been made free to view online for 12 months by the publisher of Pathology. It may be viewed at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0031302518302587.
Major construction work is underway on the $341.2 million hospital redevelopment at Concord Hospital.

Member for Drummoyne John Sidoti MP, was on hand to help turn the first sod on the main works marking a major milestone in the redevelopment project.

Mr Sidoti joined Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson AM, Director of Operations, Dr Tim Sinclair, Concord Hospital’s Acting General Manager, Dr Genevieve Wallace, Health Infrastructure Senior Project Director, Hayley Bell and head contractor Roberts Pizzarotti’s Chief Executive Officer, Alison Mirams.

The start of the main works is a significant milestone for the redevelopment which includes:

- Rusty Priest Centre for Rehabilitation and Aged Care, including ambulatory clinics, assessment and therapy areas and rehabilitation gyms.
- A new comprehensive Cancer Care Centre with additional capacity for day and inpatient services.
- Australia’s first National Centre for Veterans’ Healthcare to continue the hospital’s long and proud history of providing specialist services to veterans.

“The redevelopment will enable our clinicians to continue to provide world class healthcare in state-of-the-art purpose built facilities, allowing us to meet the demands of one of the state's fastest growing populations,” Dr Anderson said.

Significant preparation had been undertaken before major construction work could start, including the relocation of staff to refurbished areas, demolition of several outdated buildings and upgrades to infrastructure. The new seven-storey Clinical Services Building will link to the current hospital.

The sod turn follows the December 2018 news that the main works construction contract had been awarded to Roberts Pizzarotti.

“Our community, patients and staff have been patiently watching the work so far, supporting the planning of our new services,” Dr Anderson said.

“It’s a very exciting time to see the construction begin and we look forward to this new chapter in Concord’s history.”

Stage 1 is expected to be completed in late 2021.

To see inside the new Clinical Services Building, go to: https://youtu.be/-gwUDW1QZx0
Supportive Security

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to one of the security guards at the Hospital who greatly assisted me today. Her name is Maria, I didn't get her surname but she is a blonde woman. My elderly mother who suffers dementia wandered off from the bus stop near the Hospital and Maria was instrumental in making various phone calls which assisted in finally finding my mother in Burwood. Maria kindly phoned me several times keeping me updated and was extremely supportive. I want to thank her and express my deepest gratitude for her courtesy and professionalism.

Thank you Maria, and God bless you,

Thank you,
[Name Withheld]

Outstanding Service at ED

Today my wife, had need to visit the Emergency Department, due to back pain. I write to congratulate your staff on the first rate attention she received, within half an hour she had been passed from triage to a nurse to a doctor. All of whom treated her professionally and with respect. In due course an x-ray was arranged. In the meantime a lady called to discuss our home setup and enquired if we required assistance, this was declined. A registrar called to discuss the x-ray results. Unfortunately this was not our first visit to emergency and it is good to see, that notwithstanding the renovation, your staff still provided outstanding service to those in their care. I neglected to write down the names of your staff, however if it is possible it would be appreciated if my thanks could be passed to them.

Kind regards,
[Name Withheld]

To the staff at Concord Hospital

Recently my mother was admitted twice to Concord. The level of care by all the staff - even a young nurse who told me he was a casual - was excellent - not only for mum but all the patients in her room. The staff took the time to answer questions thoroughly, were patient but most of all were very, genuinely concerned to give the best possible care for each patient. I especially want to thank Dr Chong for her expertise and understanding of dementia affected patients such as mum. She came to see mum yesterday at and I thought what an outstanding feature of Concord’s outreach programme to know that all the knowledge and understanding of mum's needs didn't end when she was discharged. I am so impressed that this is a feature of our health system - or is it only Concord? Because of the care Mum received at Concord we, as a family, understand mum's needs much more clearly and are reassured that there is excellent back up for the future. I have not had to visit a family member at Concord hospital before, but I have heard many excellent reports from a neighbour, work colleague and friend. Thank you for all your efforts and care. They are truly appreciated,

Kind regards,
[Name Withheld]

Our Compliments to Emergency Department

My wife had to be brought to the Concord Emergency on Sunday 20th January 2019 for high fever coupled with cough and congestion. Each and every staff at the Concord Emergency department was courteous, prompt, professional and efficient with the way they handled my wife’s health matter and identified the issue within a matter of two hours. Follow up treatment recommended was spot on. Our compliments to Dr Sandra Grota, Nurses on duty (Stephanie and others) on a wonderful effective job done. Facilities at the emergency were also of high standards and it was indeed pleasing to see such a well run public hospital despite all the media hype against it.

Thank you,
[Name Withheld]

To the nurses in Pre-Op and Day Surgery

I just wanted to commend the staff. The nurses in pre-op, as well as in day surgery, both in recovery and in the waiting room were excellent. The anesthetist and surgeon followed up consistently and had a great chair side manner. I would like to especially commend the nurses in recovery post-op (day surgery). They were beyond excellent! As a public patient, I did not expect this level of care. Thank you very much. Please let the nurses in recovery know, if possible.

Kind regards,
[Name Withheld]
ANZAC Service

Wednesday 24 April at 10.30am
Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway
Killoola St, Concord