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## Royal Prince Alfred Hospital turns 135

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has a long, rich tradition of clinical excellence.

Today, staff are celebrating 135 years of caring for our patients, their families and loved ones.

RPA has always maintained its strong ties to the community as a hospital built by the people for the people.

“Our doors are always open to care for those in need,” says acting general manager Nobby Alcala.

The origins of RPA stem back to 1868 when Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, was enjoying a lunch at Clontarf and was shot by Irishman Henry James O’Farrell. The community dug deep and in less than six months raised more than £21,000 (about \$3,802,228 today) to build the Prince Alfred Memorial Hospital.

The University of Sydney then donated the land in exchange for a joint venture to train medical students, a partnership which continues to thrive today.

The doors opened on this day in 1882 and by 1884, RPA had established itself as the first teaching hospital in NSW - the first of many significant clinical milestones achieved.

Others include: the first open heart surgery in NSW, the first and only hospital in NSW to establish a Liver Transplant Unit (marking 30 years in 2016), and the first hospital in Australia with triage nurses.



RPA General Manager, Nobby Alcala, SLHD Director of Operations, Deborah Willcox and volunteer Barry Stafford celebrate two birthdays. Below, RPA after opening.



"This year, RPA opened the southern hemisphere's first training centre for robotic surgery," Mr Alcala says.

"And, earlier this month, we celebrated 50 years since the first kidney transplant and dialysis service was established."

The achievements over the past 135 years would not have been possible without the dedicated commitment of all staff and our incredible team of volunteers.

Among them, Barry Stafford, (pictured right with Nobby Alcala and Deborah Willcox) who turns 85 today and has been a concierge at RPA for 11 years.

"I had pericarditis and had surgery at RPA. I am grateful to everyone who looked after me while I was here. I volunteer as a concierge two days a week and love meeting patients, visitors, other volunteers and staff while helping people to get to where they need to be," Mr Stafford said.

"I feel even more connected to the hospital because we share the same birthday. Only difference is that I'm 85 not 135 years old."