

Mersey Messenger

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**YOU MAY HAVE
NOTICED THROUGH-
OUT THE HOSPITAL A
GROUP OF YOUNG
ADULTS**

"WE WELCOME"

**UNIVERSITY OF
TASMANIA,
LAUNCESTON CAMPUS**

**2nd YEAR NURSING
STUDENTS**

**ACCOMPANIED BY
CLINICAL TEACHER—
JENNY RICE**

**The students are at
the hospital
undertaking practical
placement**

From 12-23rd May 08.

CEO's Message –

Australia sets aside a week each year to recognise the important contribution that volunteers make to Australian Society. This year Volunteers week was from May 12 - 18. During this week we acknowledged the volunteers who particularly assist in hospitals. Every hospital in Australia - both public and private, depend upon the support of their dedicated volunteers to help support the services of the hospital.

Hospital volunteers help in many ways, they help patients find their way around busy hospitals, they help reassure relatives of sick or injured patients. They also run many of the support services that hospitals need and can not directly provide such as Kiosks and Chaplaincy support. Finally, volunteers also help raise funds for often much needed equipment and services.



The Mersey Hospital is blessed by having many supporting volunteer groups and volunteers. We are particularly pleased to recognise the work of the Hospital Auxiliary which is very capably led by Ms Sheryl Rockcliff. The Auxiliary volunteers assist the hospital by running the kiosk which is a highly valued service by staff, patients and visitors to the hospital and raising funds for hospital equipment. Over the last 5 years this group of volunteers have raised in excess of \$180,000 for equipment in just about every department of the hospital.

We also acknowledge the other important volunteer groups including the Red Cross and the Chaplaincy Service members. All of these groups and other individuals contribute their time each year to help make the Mersey Community Hospital a much better place for our patients. The hospital is proud of, and very grateful for the support of all of volunteer groups and individuals.

Recommencement of Eye Surgery

Eye surgery recommenced at the Mersey in mid May. This is made possible by the arrival of a new "State of the Art" operating microscope specifically designed for ophthalmic surgery. The new unit cost in excess of \$90,000 and was welcomed by the hospital's attending eye surgeon Dr Michael Haybittel. Dr Haybittel stated that the microscope was an excellent unit which allowed him to provide optimum care for patients needing complex eye surgeries such as cataract surgery. This is the first major item of eye surgery equipment that has been purchased for the hospital. Other equipment will arrive in the next couple of months. One of the first



patients to benefit was Mr Lionel Mundy from Penguin who underwent successful eye surgery this month. A keen bowler, Mr Mundy is looking forward to the improvement in vision that the surgery will provide for his game skills. What out competition!!

New Sterilizer for Central Sterilizing and Supply (CSSD) - Providing Optimum Service Delivery



**WHAT'S IN THE BOX?
REVEALED!**

Dr James Roberts-Thomson participates in London Marathon

Over \$100,000 raised towards developing a Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary



The question on everyone's lips "What's in the Box" can now be revealed!

Our eagerly awaited new Sterilising Equipment costing \$91,260 has arrived.

This Sterilising Equipment will provide the Hospital with an optimum quality system for sterilising activities which is crucial for maintaining a risk free environment.

'Sterile' means free from viable micro-organisms and micro-organisms covers bacteria including mycobacteria and bacteria spores, fungi and fungal spores and viruses.

CSSD Staff are looking forward to undertaking education in the operation of the new sterilising equipment which will be commencing in the coming weeks.



The London Marathon Experience 2008

Dr James Roberts-Thomson

I was honoured to be able to represent the State of Tasmania in a team of 10 participants in the London Marathon on 13th April, 2008. The history of the modern day marathon goes back exactly 100 years to 1908 so it was a memorable time to be there. As usual for English spring, during the run we encountered sunshine, wind, rain and hail.

Fortunately it was not too severe. Guess how many people started and finished the Marathon? Over 34,000

and just as many spectators lining the whole route. Some gave out sweets, oranges or biscuits. I had a feast on the way. We started at Black Health in South East London, just before halfway we crossed over the Thames on Tower Bridge before entering the Docklands area, then it was back along the river to Central London.

After 24 miles we turned next to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, at 26 miles turned to

Buckingham Palace (gave a quick wave to Liz and Phil) and then 26 miles (42.2kms) the race finished about halfway down the Mall. I was spent! Time was 3hrs 59 mins 33 sec. I could barely walk. Everyone on the Team finished, our average age 55 years and so far well over \$100,000 raised towards developing a Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary.

If anyone is interested in looking at James' photos please come along.



High Dependency Unit (HDU) - An Essential Service with Exceptional Staff

The HDU at the Mersey Community Hospital has been established to care for patients who generally need high level monitoring and management of their condition including single organ failure that is expected to improve with a short stay in a HDU.

The HDU is a specially staffed and equipped 4 bed

unit able to provide care to patients at an intermediate clinical level with expert medical and nursing care and monitoring facilities. Medical staff are generalist specialist clinicians and not intensivists. The Unit is located adjacent to the Emergency Department. It has provision for twenty four hour access to pharmacy,

pathology, operating theatres and medical imaging services. Access to physiotherapy and other allied health services are available when required.

Generally, patients will only be managed in the HDU for a period of up to 72 hours. If a patient's condition is not substantially improving by 72 hours they will be

transferred to a hospital with an ICU for ongoing care.

In the month of March 2008 a total of 90 patients were admitted to the HDU.

28% went home.

52% transferred to Wards

20% transferred to RHH/NWRH/LGH



**High Dependency
Unit
Officially Opened
11th March 2008**

**Specially Staffed
& Equipped
4 bed unit**

**A total of 90
patients were
admitted in
March 08**

Conjoint Annual Scientific Congress 12-16 May Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Congratulations are extended to Dr Mohammed Ashrafi, Surgical Registrar who has been invited to attend as a Presenter at the Conjoint Annual Scientific Congress in Hong Kong. The Annual Scientific Congress is the largest annual multi-

disciplinary surgical meeting in Australasia and attracts over 2000 registrants comprising of surgeons and healthcare professionals.

Dr Ashrafi will present 7 papers including: *Continuous Intracutaeneus Infusion Using "Pain Buster" for Neuropathic Pain.*

The CRP approach to reduce 'lily-white' Appendicectomies and External Carotid Artery Aneurysm presenting as tonsillar tumour.

Dr Ashrafi will proudly be promoting our Hospital and Tasmania.

This is a remarkable achievement for which we wish him every success.

Introducing New Employees and Acknowledging Staff Appointments:

Christopher Richards, Registered Nurse, Dept of Emergency Medicine

James Horrocks—Casual Attendant

Gail Turner—Registered Nurse (casual)

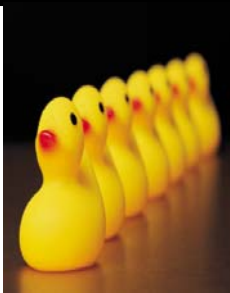
Clementina John—Enrolled Nurse (casual)

Vanessa Lake - Dietitian

DID YOU KNOW!

Allied Health Global Email
Address -

Mersey Allied Health Team



Are your ducks in a row?

✓ [Line Managers](#)

Are your ducks in a row?

✓ Quality folders

✓ Committee/dept minutes risk rated

✓ Quality and Safety discussed at dept meetings

✓ Do you know what EQUiP criteria you are responsible for?

✓ Are you ready for surveyor questions?

✓ Are all staff in your area involved in

QUALITY HOTLINE:

Julie Ext. 5458
Debbie Ext. 5612
Heather Ext. 5519

NEWSLETTER

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please email your Newsletter

Contributions to:

jan.carr@mersey.health.gov.au

Next Edition

Deadline 6 June 08

Many thanks to all staff who contributed to this issue



The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

EQUiP - is the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program developed and conducted by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

As mentioned last week EQUiP 4 is made up of three functions **CLINICAL, SUPPORT AND CORPORATE**

SUPPORT FUNCTION

Activity in the Quality Department for the past week has been focussed on **Standard 2.1.**

The governing body leads the organisation in its commitment to improving performance and ensures the effective management of corporate and clinical risks.

2.1.1

The organisations continuous quality improvement system demonstrates its commitment to improving the outcomes of care and service delivery.

Under this standard we have identified "**Line Managers**". Line Managers are those people directly responsible for criteria within the EQUiP Functions. Line Managers will be notified of their role, and support will be given to enable ongoing requirements associated with this responsibility to be completed.

Line Managers will work with the Quality Team and their departments to involve staff with quality improvement.

2.1.2

The integrated organisation-wide risk management policy and system ensure that corporate and clinical risks are identified, minimised and managed.

The main area of focus for the team is ensuring that our risk management approach is integrated through both clinical and non clinical quality projects.

As risks are identified they need to be managed at dept level. If unable to be addressed they should be referred to the relevant committee. All committees must rate the severity of risks identified. Committee minutes are to be forwarded to Heather Craigie our Risk Co-ordinator for risks to be included in our Risk Register as appropriate. Assistance with risk management will also be offered following review of committee minutes.

Put simply = "Are you leading and involved in making improvements in your department and is it documented"

Julie Duff, Accreditation Co-Ordinator

Diabetes Nurse Educator - Expanding Service Provision within the Hospital

Ms Louise Taylor, Clinical Nurse, Diabetes Education commenced at the Mersey Community Hospital on Monday 5th May, 2008. Availability as follows:

Monday 13:00—17:00 (weekly)

One Monday each month Louise assists with Dr Funk's Paediatric Clinic located within the MCH Outpatient Clinics. Next Clinic 16th June, 2008.

Wednesday 08:30—12:30 (weekly)

Thursday 08:30—12:30 (weekly)

On a Fortnightly basis A Gestational Diabetic Clinic will be conducted within the Ante Natal Clinic. Next Clinic 29th May, 2008.

Louise is available for patient referrals within the hospital. Referrals for specific clients to be reviewed can be faxed to The Diabetic Centre (6421 7767) to ensure that patients are accommodated.

We look forward to future staff educational sessions provided by Louise.