2006 is the 50th Anniversary of our hospital and we intend celebrating the event. The formal handing over of the Hospital by the S.A. Red Cross Society to the Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope, was held on 29th February 1956. The first patients entered our main doors on 18th June, 1956. They were 15 recovering polio patients. The Hospital was established as an enduring memorial of the sacrifice, suffering and service of South Africans in World War 2, which was 1939 to 1945.

In choosing this form of memorial, the South African Red Cross Society was influenced by the fact throughout the world, children were the innocent victims of the war. It was therefore appropriate that it’s memorial should take the form of a Hospital devoted to the relief of the suffering of children.

To date, a Steering Committee has been convened to discuss the arrangements and events to be considered. One function has already been confirmed and will be for all staff - the Interfaith Service to be held on June 18, 2006 at St. George’s Cathedral where we intend rededicating the hospital for future generations.

A questionnaire has been sent out to all staff for their consideration and input - due date to be returned 30th September. We hope that staff will consider an “Open Day” where we feel it will benefit the community, donors and past patients to see the skills and activities that make the Hospital so famous.

We are also considering holding a Celebration Event at the Athlone Stadium later in 2006 which would include music, sport and fun events aimed at children. The Hospital Entertainment is also planning a special staff function.

In order to make the year successful and meaningful, we are requesting that staff help in any way they can and to please respond to the above questionnaire and also provide ideas they may think appropriate.

WE WANT TO MAKE THE YEAR SUCCESSFUL.
Nursing News

SISTER RIATHA JENKINS
A special thanks is due to Riatha Jenkins who was Head of Nurse Education at Red Cross Children’s Hospital from February 2005 to June 2005. She was previously Head of Nurse Education at Karl Bremer Hospital. During her five months at RXH Riatha established Student Placements from Western Cape College of Nursing and UWC (RNs) and New Hope (ENs) and Sarepta (ENs) for practical skills training. She was also co-ordinator for Registered Nurse and Enrolled Nurse Bridging Courses.

In conjunction with Richard Ngcobo (HR) Sister Jenkins facilitated nurses attendance at Skills Development courses at the Provincial Academy. Riatha participated in the Orientation Programmes for new nursing appointments at RXH, and assisted with the recognition of Nursing Staff by participating in the Annual Certificate Presentation Ceremony, for students of all levels, for those with no absent days or sickness and for those nurses who gained special awards.

And so, it is with regret that we see Riatha leaving RXH. She will be returning to her previous post at Karl Bremer. Again, we thank Riatha for her valuable contribution to Nurse Education at RXH and we wish her well and all success in the years ahead.

D Schulman June 2005

Cup of coffee? SSEM and The Coffee Company co-sponsor your habit!

Royden Peirone - Branch manager from SSEM (Specialised Systems Electro Medical (PTY) Ltd) sponsored the coffee machine. Genti de Vries (far right) is from The Coffee Company, who waved the hiring fee and placed the coffee machine free of charge. The coffee is also provided at a special reduced rate. Thanks to Hans Human for arranging the supply of coffee in ICU.

OccuPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY WEEK AT Red Cross Hospital 25-29 April
This competition was held in the Hospital during Child Safety Month. June theme “Watch that child: child safety is no accident”

The competition entries which were posters were all on show in the main foyer.

RESULTS OF POSTER COMPETITION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

First: NOPD
Second: Education department
Third: Sr J Knoble
4th: Ward D1
5th: Cheche
6th: Cheche
7th: Sr Oliver(RMH)
8th: Cheche

MENSHIP AND Labour Committee (IMLC)
The Organisational Rights Agreement (ORA) provide for the constitution of the IMLC. The IMLC is a committee composed of Labour and Management representatives. Each labour union may elect up to two shop stewards to represent it in IMLC meetings.

There are currently 6 labour unions that meet the requirements for representation at IMLC meetings viz. DENOSA, HOSPERSA, NEHAWU, NUPSAW, PAWUSA and PSA (alphabetical order)

Their contact persons and details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNION</th>
<th>CONTACT PERSON</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>EXTENSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENOSA</td>
<td>J ZIYAMBI</td>
<td>CSSD</td>
<td>5192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOSPERSA</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NEHAWU</td>
<td>J MMBIA</td>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>5387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUPSAW</td>
<td>F SAM</td>
<td>MEDICAL RECORDS</td>
<td>5266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAWUSA</td>
<td>Y KABA</td>
<td>FEES DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>5182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA</td>
<td>J JEFFERIES</td>
<td>X-RAYS DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>5196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff members are urged to contact these representatives for assistance with labour related matters.

R5 vouchers in Pick n Pay’s “Win back your Grocery Money” promotion, to Tony van Marken climbing Everest and Hollywood celebrity actor Sam Neill donating funds.

The whole community is standing together to make the conditions better for staff working at The Red Cross Children’s Hospital.

The Trust team is keenly fundraising for our next major project in the Hospital upgrade programme - the building of the new Operating Theatres complex.

www.redchshospital.co.za
NEWS from the Friends

Our AGM was held on 25 August with 3 guest speakers giving us insight into the services they provide for our patients. All volunteers, Jane Beaumont spoke about Reflexology and Pain, while Tilly, the clown spoke about the therapeutic nature of caring clowning and laughter. Linda O’Flaherty spoke about healing through the practice of Aromatherapy. While these disciplines may be seen by some as ‘hocus-pocus’, it involves play and touch, which aids the healing of our patients. We are privileged to have these volunteers as part of our organisation. A big welcome to Nosisi Benzi our newest staff member. Nosisi is the lady to speak to for any needs mothers may have. Our volunteer programme now includes ward assistants who assist the nursing staff in a non-medical capacity. With these extra hands, the nurses are able to spend more time providing nursing care at the bedside of patients. As with all new programmes, there are challenges and these are being met by Ursula, Avril (who assists Ursula for an hour every morning) and Pauline, our Palliative Care Volunteer Manager. HELPERS can be found so please give us a — and we’ll do our best to make you. We continue to provide the daily assistance to the hospital through requests from hospital staff. Our priority projects for 2005/2006 are the Tracheotomy Home Care Programme and the Sibanye Support Group for Mothers.

Beading project

An income generation project for mothers (SIYAKHULA) was implemented in July with assistance from kidspositive, a project initiated by Dr. Paul Roux from Groote Schuur Hospital. Our new staff members, Heather, and a few mothers underwent training, and, on 2 August SIYAKHULA was officially launched at Red Cross Children’s Hospital. With the help of Sister Alexa Joachim and Dr. Theresa Jennings from the S4 Research Unit mothers are successfully producing and selling beaded items and cards. The Friends of the Children’s Hospital Association proudly supports SIYAKHULA and samples are available in the Friends office, 1st floor, New Out Patients Building. Please contact us to place your orders at; Ext. 5243 OR Email: frienaz@iafrica.com/fcha@iafrica.com

Bouquet of the Month for DI Nurses

I'm sure you have noticed the refurbishing of Ward D1 which has taken place over the past 6 months. All the effort behind this came from the Nursing Staff of the ward, under the leadership of Sister Manda Appels and also Sister Michelle Maree. This was a considerable challenge and entailed ensuring that all the correct procedures were followed in getting this planned and authorized and then fundraising to make it happen.

When you arrive at Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital early in the morning, D1 really looks very warm and welcoming with its bright curtains. I would like to nominate the D1 Nurses for Red Cross Hospital’s Bouquet of the Month in recognition of this effort which has benefited the patients as well as lifting the morale of their colleagues.

Graham Fiegen
Assoc. Prof Neurosurgery
Divisions of Paediatric Neurosurgery and Neurology

Visit & party at Oncology

An income generation project for mothers (SIYAKHULA) was implemented in July with assistance from kidspositive, a project initiated by Dr. Paul Roux from Groote Schuur Hospital. One of our staff members, Heather, and a few mothers underwent training, and, on 2 August SIYAKHULA was officially launched at Red Cross Children’s Hospital. With the help of Sister Alexa Joachim and Dr. Theresa Jennings from the S4 Research Unit clinic mothers are successfully producing and selling beaded items and cards. The Friends of the Children’s Hospital Association proudly supports SIYAKHULA and samples are available in the Friends office, 1st floor, New Out Patients Building. Please contact us to place your orders at; Ext. 5243 OR Email: frienaz@iafrica.com/fcha@iafrica.com

Annual Nurse’s Certificate Presentation May 2005

D.D.N:  
Amredez R  Management

A.D.N:  
DIWEL C  Management

CPN:  
ESSEOP R  ICU
FRANCIS B.J.  ICU
KNUIJ H  Procurement
LUCAS I  Education / TPN / BURNS
NOUMALO S.Z.  ICU
OCKERS P  RMM
SCHERFERS L.C.  SOPD
STARCK V.L.  SPEL
ZWOMHL S  CSSD

PA:  
WENT A  SPEL
NEL C  Theatre

EN:  
SAYHMAN A.S.R.  ICU

ENA:  
ABRAHAMS A  Milk Kitchen
MINNIES C  B1
COELDH B  B1
BAGGOT I T. D2

Courses:

Unit Management Course

B. ORRIE  D2
D. MOODIE  G1
E. VERREULEN  Resigned
L. LARRY  S27
K. ADAMS  Resigned
R. PIETERS  E2
Y. VAN ROOI  E1

Upgrade Course for High Care

S. DREYER  D2
U KEET  D1
A.W. PICK  B2
J.A. SOLDMANS  C2

APLS:

N. MOLLER (Instructor)  Education
H. BENTHAM  ICU
N. ABRAHAMS  Trauma
Z. NOUMALO  ICU

PLS:  
A continuous training programme which is also going to involve the EN and ENA.

Post Basic:  
With distinction
CPN Beatie C.C.  Theatre Technique
CPN Grp K  ICU

Congratulations to all those who have completed, are still in the progress and those that are considering.

Practice Development:  
Prof. M. Coetzee

Giving of certificates to her own group.

Recipients of the Aneen Mohr Award:

CPN Inelza Scheepers:  Surgical OP
SEN Mildred Madinda:  Short stay ward
SAN Brenda Joshua:  Allergy OP

SAN Brenda Joshua:  Allergy OP
SAN Brenda Joshua:  Allergy OP

Cheryl Beattie; Janine Lucas; exhibiting at the presentation were:
When cross-infection occurs in the hospital setting the source is usually an infected or colonized person. Bacteria usually spread from patient to patient on the hands of medical and nursing staff. Visitors who see only one patient are much less important as a cause of cross-infection.

Handwashing

By far the most important way of preventing the spread of pathogenic bacteria is by meticulous handwashing. However, despite the strong evidence for the importance of handwashing hospital staff often fail to wash their hands. Even a very brief wash seems to be effective, although washes are probably unnecessary, and if they are reused they may become a source of cross-infection. Hats and masks have a very limited role in preventing cross-infection. The use of gowns can reduce the number of people visiting a ward but, if they engender a false sense of security gowns may also reduce the number of people who wash their hands.

Antibiotics

There is a tendency for handwashing to be neglected because of the belief that infection can always be treated with antibiotics or, even worse, that it can be prevented with antibiotics. In most circumstances, antibiotic therapy but it can be reduced substantially by handwashing. While most doctors are aware of these principles, few really believe them to be true, and even fewer actually wash their hands after examining every patient. Some doctors, hospital staff must be trained to wash their hands; possible methods of persuasion range from the Aunty Jack approach (“if you don’t wash your hands...”) to more moderate techniques, such as the Centre For Disease Control (CDC) campaign based on the slogan “Handwashing saves lives” - it really does.

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Dr Adams has had 38 years of service. He started as an Intern at Somerset Hospital in January 1968. He was one of the first doctors at the Day Hospital organization in November 1969. Commissioner G F Jooste as the first Medical Superintendent in 1976. He moved to Groote Schuur Hospital in 1986 and held portfolios in Outpatients, the Medical Pavilion and Human Resources.

Said Dr Adams:

“I have worked with so many skilled and wonderful people over the years and would like to pay tribute to all of them who are too numerous to mention by name.

My best wishes to the Department particularly with the challenges of the 2010 Plan”

Our very best wishes to Dr Adams on his retirement.

The Institute of Child Health Library

“On 3 September 1974 the Institute of Child Health Library at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital was opened. This was another historic first for the Medical Library, which had thus become the first UCT Library and indeed the first Medical Library in South Africa to open a specialist sub-branch. The ICH Library was also the first UCT Library to incorporate a specially designed Audiovisual Teaching Unit. The first Librarian-in-charge was Miss Cecily Blumberg who had worked in the Medical Library some years before and had an excellent knowledge of Medical Librarianship. Miss Blumberg was appointed in February 1974 in a part-time capacity and immediately began to order, catalogue, and process books relating to Paediatrics purchased from a generous donation of R6800 received from Mr J R E Sharp. She also took into ICH Library stock the Red Cross Hospital’s existing collection of 430 bound volumes of periodicals and 1765 unbound issues, subscriptions to which had been funded by the Provincial Administration. The Library undertook to maintain and supervise this collection.

The ICH Library Committee was established when the Library was opened, to supervise and advise on the purchase of material for the collection and to formulate policy. Dr Robert McDonald, a driving force behind the establishment of the library, was Chairman of the Committee until the end of 1983 when he resigned because of ill health. He was succeeded by Professor Jannie Louw who has chaired the Committee with interest and enthusiasm ever since. The stock of the Library at present is 3850 books. 73 journals are received currently, 37 of which are funded by the University, 12 by Province and 24 received by donation.”

Sadiq Keraan, Librarian-in-charge