



## Valentine's Day Big Walk



On 14 February 2007 the Hospital Creche was a hive of activity when the children of our staff embarked on a Valentine's Day Big Walk. The children sporting "valentine's" outfits enjoyed the break in routine.

### CO-ORDINATING CLINICIANS

3 Groote Schuur Hospital staff have been appointed as Co-ordinating Clinicians.

They will assist the Department of Health in ensuring the improvement of healthcare at all levels. They spend their time equally between their clinical duties at the hospital and Co-ordinating Clinician tasks.



Dr Ivan Joubert –  
Critical Care (6-  
month appointment)



Prof Bryan Kies –  
Internal Medicine



Dr Anthony Reed -  
Anaesthetics

## BUDGET UPDATE

Staff are aware that the hospital will have the challenge of dealing with a budget reduction during this financial year. Hospital Management during a Strategic Planning session held on 11 and 12 April 2007, looked at various ways of tackling the cut in our budget. The aim of the Strategic Planning Session was to draw up a Business Plan which will set specific goals and objectives, which the hospital will strive to achieve during the current year. Managers from various disciplines were in attendance and gave their input through workgroups. Dr Tom Sutcliffe who mediated at the session, was impressed to note the dedication and commitment of managers, especially in the face of budget cuts. Once the Business Plan has been signed off, it will be communicated to staff.

**Beds :** Groote Schuur will have to reduce 60 beds.

**Staff :** There is an assurance given that no Groote Schuur Hospital staff will be retrenched. However, a reduction of Agency staff will be considered. The non-filling of posts will be considered where applicable in line with specific services that will be reduced or no longer be offered in terms of the Comprehensive Service Plan (CSP).

The CSP is in its final stages of consultation. It will focus on the reduction of duplicated services over the central and regional hospital platform. It is the intention of the hospital to communicate openly and frequently with staff around the service adjustments, so that staff can be included in the process, especially where it affects them personally.

## HEALTH MINISTER VISITS GSH



(l to r) Minister Madlala-Routledge and Minister Uys (Centre) discuss the Renal Unit with Dr Mike Pascoe

Deputy National Minister of Health, Minister Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, and Minister Pierre Uys, Western Cape MEC for Health, visited Groote Schuur Hospital on 19 March 2007.

The Ministers visited a number of clinical areas and met with various Clinical HOD's to get a first-hand account of "what's happening at GSH".

Thanks to all who were involved.

## RESTORER OF NOTE



Mr Ebrahim Cassim (pictured above) proudly displays the Anaesthetic Machine which he restored.

Mr Ebrahim Cassim, Chief Technician in the Clinical Engineering Department, is a dedicated man, who finishes projects he starts.

Approximately 18 years ago, Mr Cassim noticed a rusted trolley lying amongst scrap metal about to be taken to a scrap yard. On further inspection he realised that it was in fact an old anaesthetic trolley.

With much dedication and "elbow grease" the restored fifty year old trolley was reborn. "At times I wanted to give up hope of ever finding the right parts, but when I eventually found them, they had to be sandblasted, chromed and epoxy-coated" said Mr Cassim. The machine is complete with a carbon dioxide absorber, and has been donated to D23 Anaesthetics Department to be displayed in their museum.

## NURSES' RECRUITMENT DRIVE

While the shortage of nursing staff is a nationwide problem, the hospital is pleased to announce that approximately 50 new Nurses were appointed during the first 3 months of 2007.

This intake is largely due to a successful Nursing Recruitment Drive undertaken by the hospital in the latter part of 2006.

Welcome to our new Nursing colleagues - we hope your career at Groote Schuur Hospital will be rewarding.

## HEART ECHO MACHINE



Mrs Joey Jauch of the Facility Board and Prof Johan Brink with the new Heart Echo Machine purchased from donated funds. A handover function was held to thank all those individuals and companies involved in the fundraising effort.

## PSA NEWS

The following members have been elected as office bearers:

Mrs F Martin, Fees -  
Chairperson  
Mr H Jansen, Engineers – Vice  
Chairperson  
Mrs M Mentor, Support Services  
– Secretary  
Additional members  
Mr N Barnes – Security  
Mr J Pedro – Security  
Mr MS Allie – Clinical  
Engineering  
Mr I Fortuin – Comm Centre

## IAEA Nobel Prize Money Fights Cancer Crisis in Africa

To fight the looming cancer crisis in Africa, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assembled many of the world's leading cancer experts, hosted by Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town, in Cape Town from 11-16 December 2006.

With the support of African Nobel Laureates Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the gathering brought together senior representatives from major national and international cancer organisations, together with leading public figures and specialists. Their aim was to assess the growing cancer burden in Africa and focus on building effective cancer control programmes at national and regional levels. The IAEA sponsored the workshops using funds awarded for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

Professor Raymond Abratt, said in a statement that cancer education and screening programmes for certain cancers have been introduced in a number of impoverished communities, but these need to be extended so that more patients may benefit. "We now seek other freedoms in our care of patients with cancer," he says. "We seek freedom from preventable cancers, freedom from treatable cancers and freedom from the sufferings which may come from cancer."

## S.A.P. DETECTIVES



SAP Detectives Jantjies and Daniels who are based in the Medico Legal Department in the OMB

Having the South African Police Service on the Groote Schuur Hospital premises definitely has its benefits. Ms E Greeff, Chief Porter in Main Admissions, sincerely thanked them for being there for her in her time of grief. "In all the mayhem of death certificates and mortuary arrangements, it was indeed a pleasure and honour for me to be assisted by the detectives," said Ms Greeff

Detectives, please keep up the good work.



The new Surgical Registered Nurses from Kwazulu Natal (ex-bridging course 2004-2006) enthusiastically thanked Sr Wulff for the Orientation File for Registered Nurses. (l to r) Magboeba Fortune, Lucinda Solomons, Sr T Wulff, Yvonne Theron and Zelda Kleinsmidt.



Boston House College Students treated Kidz Positive children to treasure boxes. The boxes, all individually decorated, provide each child their own space in which to store personal belongings.



Mr S Titus : Programme Development launches the new feeding cup.

## CUP-FEEDING LAUNCH

On Tuesday 13 March 2007, Groote Schuur Hospital was the venue for the launch of a newly developed Baby Feeding Cup.

To enhance breastfeeding practices, the UNICEF/ World Health Organization Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) discourages the use of pacifiers, dummies and bottle-feeding. The Western Cape Department of Health has developed a unique feeding cup that fulfils the needs of the BFHI strategy. Groote Schuur Hospital staff were instrumental in the development of the cup.

Our Maternity Centre was declared "Baby Friendly" a number of years ago and Mrs Bets Steyn, A.D.N. Maternity, accepted a renewed Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Certificate. The new cup supports the initiative and even small premature babies can be cup-fed – eliminating the need to bottle-feed.

The cup looks quite simple in design. However, it has been designed to "grow" with baby, is more hygienic, non-spill and seals with a lid so expressed milk can be easily transported.

### CONDOLENCES:

The hospital would like to express its sympathy to the family of the following staff who passed away:

- Mr W Gordon, Snr Messenger - Fees
- Mr RM Kanti - Snr Mesenger - EHS
- Mr P Sass – Security
- Ms D Sauls - Catering
- Mr J Titimani – Radiography
- Mr A Valstar - Benevolent Association



**Andrea Grobbelaar** has been promoted to Assistant Director Nursing: Surgery, the position was previously held by Ms Joan Brainers who retired last year.

### CONGRATULATIONS



**Diana Kemm** has been promoted to Assistant Director Nursing : Theatres. She fills the position of Mrs Jackie Reid who left the service towards the end of last year.

**SECURITY ALERT :** Staff are reminded that they should be careful not to take short cuts through deserted and quiet side streets when coming to, and going home, from work. Instead, as far as possible, use main roads and try not to walk alone. Unsavoury characters wait for opportunities to attack the vulnerable – take charge – don't become a victim!

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## LETTER 1

Dear Editor  
Attached hereto (letter 2), please find a letter of gratitude about the service received at Groote Schuur Hospital. My friend, the authoress -- Anna Gatz has actually sent this letter to the Argus in the hopes that they will print it, but I felt that I wanted to add on another bouquet to her bouquet.

To give you some background, Anna is terminally ill and is having regular doses of chemo and not very strong, Gertie is and has been her caregiver - they are both 'mature' woman. So I am sure you can imagine how traumatised Anna was when Gertie had a heart attack in front of her. However, not only did Groote Schuur mend Gertie, but your entire establishment was so kind to Anna as well, that I have to add my thanks to her thanks.

It is no accident that this is where the first heart transplant was done -- it is clearly evident that everybody that works there has real 'heart' -- thanks to all of you and keep up the good work.  
Sincerely  
Lynn Grace

## LETTER 2 *Thank you GSH*

Dear Editor  
This afternoon my Family Friend /Carer (she is really my greatest friend whom I love and admire for her loyalty to our family) complained of pain in her chest and the description was exactly what I had experienced 10 years previously.

I immediately called my GP and said I was coming thru immediately and I became very authoritative with the Doctor as the symptoms were familiar. I recall my husband saying to me that it is important for the patient to be seen by a doctor immediately As the Golden Hour is critical.

The GP agreed with my layman's diagnosis and said it would be best if I drove Gertie to GSH. We were caught in between the school leaving moms, but we arrived at the hospital and I went straight to Trauma being very careful to read the signs. From the minute we arrived at the security

gate, where the guard asked if we need a wheelchair, we said yes, it was waiting for us at the entrance to trauma.

I was told where to park my car and to which ward they would take Gertie. The parking was a pleasure, the attendant with a big smile on his face, told me how to get to Ward C15. I was in such a state worrying about Gertie that I landed up in the wrong corridor but the personnel at the hospital were so friendly and took the trouble to show me the correct way. When I eventually found my friend she already had had an ECG and was admitted immediately to the Medical Ward for further blood test and x-rays.

I am so tired of hearing bad reports about the Hospital I felt I should tell this story so the people of Cape Town can be proud of our Famous Hospital.  
Anna Gatz

### **Special Thanks**

Dear Editor  
I wish to express my sincere and special thanks to the Orthopaedic Unit of Groote Schuur Hospital. Especially to Drs Steven Roche, Greg van Osch and Chris Marlins who through their efforts, knowledge, patience and determination over a period of 4 years have given me a "new lease" on life.

Initially when I met Dr Roche I did not have the use of my right arm as the elbow was broken as well as my left hip. After arranging fro treatment under the Endocrine Clinic for severe osteoporosis I finally had a hip replacement and now recently an elbow replacement which both turned out to be successful

But not forgetting the wonderful nursing care and patience from the staff of D14 wards and Physio, I could not have done it without their assistance and determination. Thank you all. I have had wonderful treatment from all persons concerned at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Keep up the good work.  
Patient : Rose Bileo

Dear Editor  
Four years ago our father, Achmat Daniels was diagnosed with Colon Cancer. Initially he had two operations, thereafter he received

"Chemo" therapy and subsequent to that he attended your ward on a monthly basis. He suffered for a while and unfortunately passed away peacefully on 13 October 2006.

On numerous occasions we accompanied our father to LE34. It is because of the treatment he received that we felt incumbent to write this letter.

Throughout his sickness, all of the staff at LE34 treated him with such love and care. The passion portrayed and the unselfish commitment helped him tremendously. All of the staff showed so much remorse. The culture even rubbed off on the remaining patients that suffered the same fate.

Our family hereby thanks all of you for everything you have done. We wish that the Almighty spare you for many, many years so that you may ease the fate all of us inevitably face one day or another. It is just the way you make the patients feel knowing full well at times that there is not much that can be done other than just making the patients feel comfortable. We have testimony to the fact that LE34 does a job well done.

Once again thank you for all your efforts. The patients, the families and the community on the whole appreciate your efforts.

Yours sincerely  
The Daniels Family.

The Children, Staff and Parents at GROTTIES Childcare Centre wish to thank the **Facility Board** and its members for allocating the finances to put up a new fence to secure our grounds.  
Much appreciated.

**GSH LIBRARY!**  
**The Hospital Library needs puzzles and books.**  
**Send or drop off with Bev May at the Hospital Library, E-Floor, NMB. Ext 3159**