



DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

Provincial Government of the Western Cape

GROOTE SCHUUR HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER

GSH CELEBRATES LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Long Service Award ceremony was a posh affair and was held at Old Mutual, Pinelands. The hall was beautifully decorated and impressed most of the award recipients. The key-note speaker for the event was the Minister for Health in the Western Cape, Theuns Botha. He thanked the recipients for the excellent service that they have provided to the Provincial Government during their years of service. He encouraged them to continue to be an example to other workers.

Groote Schuur Hospital has not held a Long Service Awards ceremony for the last 3 years. This ceremony was held to give the awards to the staff who were supposed to have received their awards during that period.

A total of 481 staff were invited to the function for 20, 30 and 40 year awards.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Soli Philander, who had the crowd in stitches with his sense of humour. Karen Kortje, the Idols' winner, provided the entertainment with her powerful singing voice. She had a lot of staff on their feet dancing to her tunes.

The hospital congratulates all the staff who received awards. The award ceremony for staff who qualify to receive awards this year will be held in the second half of the year. More details of this will follow later this year.



Above - Karen Kortje singing at the event



Above - Soli Philander doing what he does best, entertaining the crowd

Quality health for all

PACS ONE STEP CLOSER

We are very excited about the PACS system getting closer and closer to being fully functional at the hospital. We are pleased to announce that the test server has arrived!!!! Now we can start connecting all the x-ray modalities, check compatibility, and lay the groundwork for a seamless transition when the proper server arrives.

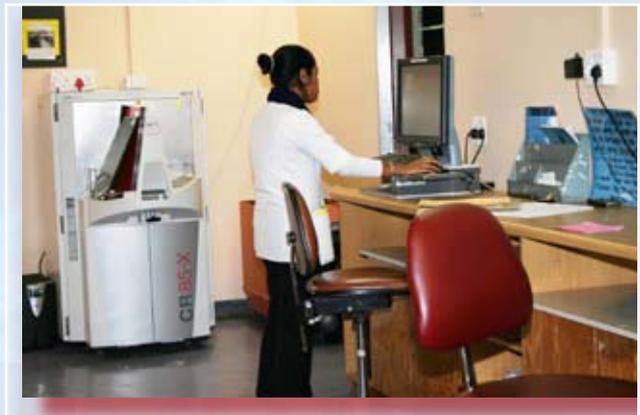
The PACS system will bring significant changes to the x-ray system. Some hard work has gone into getting all the equipment installed. Update includes:

- Network points - Only 70 network points still to be completed; the rest of the hospital has been done.
- PC's and wall-mounts roll-out - 90% complete; only 10% to be installed.
- Theatre - 95% wall-mounts completed; awaiting power point installations and connectivity.
- Network - New main Building not ready yet, Out Patients Department - can use PC's for lab results and Clinicom
- CR installations - 70% complete, awaiting network to completion and PACS to be installed so that images can be distributed throughout the hospital.

Dates for PACS administrator training have been scheduled for September. The Training for the users will be scheduled as soon as we have sorted the connectivity and all the modalities are running on the server.

Last year this time we were still at the drawing board, trying to design a better x-ray department. Well the renovations are now complete and the areas are being used as if they have always been there. All 7 new x-ray machines are installed and working well.

Well done to everyone who has contributed to the good progress we are making with the implementation of PACS at the hospital.



Above - Staff working in renovated area in C12

COOLING TOWERS PROJECT

The hospital took on a huge project to replace the cooling towers. The old towers had been in place for 25 years and because of corrosion wear and tear the time had come to replace.

The cost for the project was approximately R3 million. The cooling towers were removed and installed via helicopter with all the top floors of the building being put on alert. The project was carried out over two Sundays and involved Engineering departments - Reticulation Division, Building Division and all the patient care management/food distribution areas.

The installation of the new equipment holds many benefits for the hospital. These include air-conditioning which is linked to everything.

Without it equipment requiring chilled water would over-heat causing no operations to be done. Protective Isolation areas and the various wards/ICU cannot function normal without a proper cooling system.

A big thank you to everyone who came in to assist with the Cooling Towers project at the hospital.



Above- Cooling towers before going up onto the New Main Building.



Above - New cooling towers on top of the New Main Building.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY ROCKS GSH



Above - Pastoral Care blessing the hands of the nurses.



Above - Maternity department with the first prize they won in the competition

International Nurses' Day is always a very special day at Groote Schuur Hospital. This year was no different and for the second year running we combined with UCT to celebrate this special day.

The day started with Soli Philander from Taxifm as the presenter broadcasting live from the Palm Court area of the hospital. Nurses could send requests and there were some live interviews with nurses.

A programme was prepared in Palm Court to show our appreciation to the nurses. A youth church band, Simon of Cyrene, played hymns as the crowd arrived for the event. Mr Gilbert entertained the staff with his Frank Sinatra interpretations. The motivational speaker was Mr Colin Chauke, who is a nurse at the hospital. Dr Carter and Mrs Maureen Ross also congratulated the nurses on this important day. We thank the Pastoral Care Department for coming to bless the hands of all the nurses at

The committee who organised all the celebrations for the day also ran a competition. Each pavilion at the hospital, including UCT hospital, had to design a banner using the theme for International Nurses' Day, 2011. The banners were displayed at the event and after a judging process, the first prize was awarded to the Maternity Pavillion. Well done to them.

For the first time we also had a programme for the night staff. The event was held in Kleinschuur with entertainment again provided by Mr Gilbert with more dancing from the night staff. Most of the nurses looked really special in the old nurses caps which they were wearing. There was also a beautiful lighting of the candles as part of the ceremony.

Thank you to everyone who made this Nurses' Day a special one. We hope the nurses felt special and took pride in their profession.



Above- The night staff had a ball at the event.



Above - Colin Chauke, motivational speaker for the event, addresses the staff.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY THEME 2011

Closing the gap, increasing Access and Equity

BAHA LAUNCHED AT GSH

On 23 February this year, ear surgeon Dr Estie Meyer, head of the new BAHA team at Groote Schuur Hospital, implanted Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (Baha®) into two patients. On 19 May, these two patients who had suffered hearing loss for years, were fitted with external sound processors that transfer sound to their cochleas via the implants in their skulls. The fittings will connect them to proper sound for the first time in their lives.

The two children who were selected according to international selection criteria for Bahas were Asiphe Ngamlana (aged 13 years) of Khayamandie in Stellenbosch, and Kanya Mbaliswana (aged 13 years) of Khayelitsha.

The Baha system consists of a small titanium implant that is drilled into the bone behind the ear where it fuses with the living bone.

The external sound processor is attached to the implant after a healing period of six to twelve weeks, to transfer sound to the cochlea (inner ear). The Baha system is normally indicated for patients who were born without ear canals or have middle-ear problems and cannot wear conventional hearing aids.

The Baha is an excellent alternative product to people with certain types of hearing disabilities. However, many candidates cannot afford the implant which costs about R50 000.

The new Baha team at the Groote Schuur Hospital comprises Dr Estie Meyer (Otologist) and audiologists Sharon Pithey, Megan Ferguson and Shanaaz Marlie. The team is clinically supported by Southern ENT, the South African distributor of the European imported Baha® system.



Above- GSH BAHA team with representatives from Southern ENT



Above - Nicolette Van Zyl, Southern ENT, fits external sound processor to Khanye

LOOK GOOD FEEL GOOD WORKSHOPS

Women diagnosed with cancer are often faced with the distressing side-effects of chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment. Self-confidence and self-esteem is at an all time low. Through the Look Good Feel Better Programme, ladies enjoy a two hour make - over workshop in the Tafelberg every second Tuesday.

Beauty professionals and trained volunteers take the ladies through a 12-step skin care make-up regime designed to combat the visible effects of treatment.

Groote Schuur Hospital is proud to be associated with these workshops which are making a difference in the lives of others.



Above - A volunteer conducting the workshop, with one of the patients.



Above - Volunteers working with patients in Tafelberg

PEDAL FOR PEDDIE 2011

By Dr Paul Roux

On 21 April an ill-assorted group of four cyclists set off on a 1000 km bike ride from Hamburg (70 kilometers South of East London) to Cape Town. Half of the group was very fit and eager to throw their bikes at, over and through any obstacle. The other half, not nearly as strong, was focused on getting to the other end.

Our common goal was to raise funds for the Keiskamma Trust (www.keiskamma.org) in order to replace their 'bakkie-cum-ambulance', which is indispensable to transport sick patients to clinics and hospitals. The challenges built into the ride – and these were real CHALLENGES – came courtesy of an organisation which runs the annual Freedom Challenge mountain bike race from Pietermaritzburg to Cape Town (www.freedomchallenge.org.za).

This race takes a route that is not for the faint of heart. Our share included three days to traverse the Baviaanskloof (and its seemingly numberless passes), riding up Swartberg Pass and through Gamkaskloof (die Hel), carrying our bikes up 600 metres of a vertical climb to get out of 'die Hel' at its Western end – and sundry other delights. We eventually covered 980 kilometres (some of it in the dark) and climbed the sum of 9500 metres, an altitude a little higher than the peak of Mount Everest.

We all finished the ride 11 days after starting out and it looks as though we will reach our goal of raising R 150 000 for the 'bakkie'. Two of us have resolved to stay home for the rest of the year. The other two were overheard planning on entering the Cape Epic as a team next year.

We thank the Rotary Club of Claremont and all our other sponsors for their generous support.



Above - Four cyclists arrive at GSH after the 1000 km bike ride.

Right - Prof Steve Reid, climbing out of 'Die Hel'



BORN IN PALM COURT

On Wednesday 11 May 2011 we had some action in Palm Court in front of the Old Main Building. A doctor came running across from the Maternity Section to deliver a baby while the mother was still in the back of a bakkie.

The mother, Catherine Europa, was being driven to Somerset Hospital but they realised she could not wait any longer and they came to the closest hospital on their way to Somerset Hospital.

We are pleased to report that the baby and mother have been discharged and are doing well.



Right - Catherine Europa and her newborn

FAREWELLS - OUTPATIENTS DEPARTMENT

Outpatients sadly held a farewell for two of their colleagues, Rosemarie Brown and Khairunissa Murison. A combined event was held in the Tafelberg on 19 May 2011.

Sister Rosemarie Brown

She was appointed at Groote Schuur Hospital as a Registered Nurse on 1 November 1978 - 33 years ago.

Sr Brown is known as a caring, loyal, reliable person who only does her best. She always practised the Batho Pele principles by putting her patients and staff first. She is known as a person that cannot say no, as she is a true carer and to her, Nursing is a calling not a job.

A true "old school" nurse who is hands on at all times. You shall surely be missed in the passages of OPD. We wish you a well deserved rest and retirement.

Sister Khairunissa Murison

Sr Murison did her Midwifery training at the Peninsula Maternity Hospital and was appointed at Groote Schuur in the early 70's. At some stage she was committed to her family's well-being and she resigned.

Groote Schuur Hospital was fortunate to re-appoint Sr Murison on 13 March 1985, 26 years ago. She was promoted to Senior, then Chief Professional Nurse in the early 1990's. She will especially be remembered for her role as Operational Manager of the Surgical Department in OPD. She is described by her patients as a caring nurse, good-natured, soft spoken with a heart of gold.

Her staff describes her as a loving, caring but stern mother, leader and friend. She earned respect from all her peers and sub-ordinates and displayed a wealth of wisdom and experience in her Profession and life in general.

A caring touch, a listening ear and words of wisdom to all those that crosses her path. Always a smile or a wink that makes one's heart shrink.



Left - Sister Brown on right with Staff Nurse Meyers at the function

Sr. Murison you are what is being defined as a Nurse, Mother and Friend.



Above - Sister Murison on left receives flowers from Staff Nurse Brooks at the function

TRACEY DOUGLAS SAYS FAREWELL

Tracey Douglas moved on to Head Office having been the Quality Assurance Manager at Groote Schuur Hospital for the past four years. Tracey arranged her own farewell which was held in the Tafelberg.

Her commitment to doing the best job and passion for quality was appreciated by all at the hospital.

We thank her for the hard work she put in while working at the hospital and wish her well in her new position at Head Office.

Right - Tracey (centre) with Vida and Heather from Infection Control



GSH AT A GLANCE



Special Hygiene Team

A special hygiene team has been set up to improve hygiene in certain areas. On the left is the team that is currently busy in Maternity. Keep up the good work!

World TB Day

24 March 2011 was world TB Day. An awareness area was set up in Hospital Street to talk to people about TB. **On the right are staff from Occupational Health and Infection Control, with Medical Reps from 3M, discussing the N95 masks and the fit test kits.**



World Glaucoma Week

The Outpatients Department celebrated World Glaucoma week. Patients were tested with the Airpuff Tonometer. This outreach programme by the department is to assist in the prevention of blindness.

HCT CAMPAIGN REACHING END



The National HCT campaign is ending at the end of June. The campaign started in June 2010 and the target at Groote Schuur Hospital was to have 5 000 people tested.

We are pleased to announce that we have reached our target by so far having 8 000 tests done at the hospital. A big thank you to all of you who have had themselves tested, and to all the staff involved in doing the testing. We encourage everyone else to get themselves tested. It is very important to know your status.

We still have until the end of June to get ourselves tested for this campaign. After the campaign nothing stops you from getting yourself tested. Testing takes place in Outpatients on the F-floor in room 8.

HCT THEME

I am responsible...we are responsible.....South Africa is taking responsibility



DATE: Saturday 8th October 2011

VENUE: Behind Nico Malan Hall

TIME: 07h00 till 13h00

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN!

- 5km Fun walk around the hospital
- Exciting prizes to be won with LIVE DRAW
- Live DJ
- Food Market
- Braai Facilities available or bring your own Skottel Braai
- Fun for kids (Face painting & more)

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY
AND JOIN THE FUN**

Contact PRO at 2187/2188 for more details & entry forms

Please feel free to forward your comments or news to the editor, Alaric Jacobs, at alajacob@pgwc.gov.za or at (021) 404 2188