



Servionews

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Grand Old 'Ladies' to Receive a Facelift



Front: Roy Bodycourt, Jan Bryant, Max Kay, Fred Ordynski. Back: Sue Ried, Jill O'Donnell, Jeff Green, George Crafter, Yvonne, Draydon, Anna Gault.

precinct a recognisable heritage area for local, national and international visitors.

The RPH Museum, its staff and volunteers has played an important role in the creation of the society, which is fully supported by the hospital executive arm.

Director of Planning (New RPH) Dr Philip Montgomery officially launched the society in the grounds of historic Kirkman House, one of the buildings earmarked for restoration.

Society Chairman and former RPH renal technician Fred Ordynski said the society had made submissions to the Department of Health to have the area excised from the rest of RPH, and had approached a range of heritage organizations for their support. If successful, the heritage precinct would be a great historical and cultural hub that would remain in the public domain for many years.

"This is the oldest hospital complex in Australia still in use," Mr Ordynski said. "The Murray Street precinct contains some historical and architectural gems starting from the Cathedral end of Murray Street, including Colonial House which was the first to be built in 1855.

"The Administration block, built in 1894, is a wonderful example of Victorian architecture and is almost unchanged. An earthquake in 1968 removed some chimney stacks and the turret roof.

"Then comes the famous Moreton Bay fig, which is well over 100 years old. Its location was right in front of the old nurses' quarters and it would have many tales to tell if it could speak.

"Also in the precinct we have the original and unique hospital kitchens, built in 1909."

Western Australia's first dedicated hospital was opened on Royal Perth Hospital's present site on July 14 1855. The convict-built hospital was originally named the Colonial Hospital, then the Perth Hospital, and was renamed Royal Perth Hospital in 1946.

The hospital buildings targeted for preservation are:

- Colonial House - built 1855
- The Administration building - built 1894
- Kirkman House (formerly the nurses quarters) - built 1909
- The School of Medicine - built 1930
- The Old Kitchen - built 1909



Concept drawing of the proposed future RPH historic precinct.

Some of Royal Perth Hospital's oldest buildings will be restored and brought back to their former glory under a five-year plan proposed by the newly-launched Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Society Inc.

The society was officially launched on Friday April 17 and already has 50 members.

It was developed by a group of dedicated current and former RPH staff and volunteers who want to highlight the rich history and culture of buildings on the Murray Street side of the RPH site.

If the group gets its way, the grand old buildings to receive a facelift would include the 154-year-old Colonial House building, built in 1855, and the Administration building, constructed in 1894.

They also hope to create an amphitheatre and lush gardens along the Murray Street stretch, all designed to make the heritage



A/Prof. Paul Mark

Greetings From the A/Executive Director

April was a busy month with the Ashmore Reef Incident occurring early on the morning of 16th April, the launch of the Four Hour Rule Program across RPH/SCGH/FHHS and PMH, and the swine flu alerts.

My thanks again to all who participated in the RPH response to the boat explosion, which was a superb team effort.

The hospital has received a visit from Federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Evans, Premier Colin Barnett, Health Minister Dr Kim Hames, and Director General Dr Peter Flett. Chris Evans brought with him a number of members of the Afghan Community in Western Australia who expressed their

heartfelt thanks for the services rendered to their countrymen.

The commencement of the Four Hour Rule Program marks the beginning of a six month period during which all staff are encouraged to participate in designing how we will care for emergency (unplanned) patients in the future. In the first three months, emphasis will be placed on the following processes which are intended to engage staff in developing solutions.

continued on page 2 >

Miracle doctor

Dr Sean George is one very lucky man. Head of General Medicine at Kalgoorlie hospital, he was driving back from a clinic at Esperance in the early afternoon with his intern when he started to feel slightly unwell. They stopped at a rest spot and he called his wife (who is also a physician) to say he wasn't feeling very well. After discussion with her he thought he may still be able to try to make the drive back to Kalgoorlie.

At the last minute he thought better of it and decided to take himself to the nearby GP clinic in Kambalda. He directed the doctor to do an ECG and give him some medication. It wasn't long after, that he went into cardiac arrest.

The GP and intern started resuscitation. They continued for over 45 minutes while they waited for medical staff to arrive from Kalgoorlie. Generally resuscitation would not continue for any longer than around 30 minutes, after which time it is highly unlikely the patient will be revived, and in the unlucky event that they did, they would most likely have compromised brain function as well as other serious health implications.

The intern asked for them to continue resuscitation until his wife, who was accompanying the medical team from Kalgoorlie, could have a chance to say goodbye. When his wife arrived the doctor told her Sean was dead and she needed to say goodbye. By this time they had been working on him for 55 minutes. His complexion was blue and he felt cold to the touch. He had received around 4000 chest compressions and 13 electric shocks.

His wife held Sean's hand and prayed. At just 39 years of age and with a ten year old son, she asked God to save him.

"It was in that second that I took a deep breath and came back to life" Sean said.

"Everyone was utterly amazed and I know it was an answer to my wife's prayer."

Sean was still in a serious condition. He needed to be flown to Royal Perth Hospital for specialist care as soon as possible. In another fateful twist the Royal Flying Doctors service omitted to go to a pre-arranged flight and as a result the plane was available. At this point Sean was alive but still unconscious.

It was 36 degrees but the plane was forced to remain grounded for an hour and a half while a freak hail storm passed over the town. Eventually they were cleared for take off. Sean finally arrived at RPH around 11pm and cardiology specialist Dr Sharad Shetty took him to theatre and put a stent in his right artery to clear the blockage.

Sharad was still not entirely confident that Sean would recover. He told Sean's wife that they had done all they could and now they had to wait and see how he recovered. Even if he did recover, it was highly likely that he would have encountered some form of long term brain damage.

On the Sunday, two days after the operation, Sean opened his eyes. He came off life support and was able to breathe on his own.

Amazingly Sean had no medical issues and was as cognisant as he was prior to the incident.

"I could remember everything that happened right up to the time I went in to cardiac arrest," he said.

"I even asked the staff in ICU if I could look at my chart and ECG."



Dr Sharad Shetty with patient Dr Sean George.

Two weeks later Sean was discharged from hospital and about eleven weeks later he was back at work. Amazing considering Sean should by all accounts be dead.

"Everything about the chain of events on that day contributed to saving my life," he said.

This incredible story of survival has meant that Sean has now been dubbed the "miracle man."

The Hot Spot



This Month the HEAT Team Would Like to Invite Staff to a Free Lecture about the Environment and Sustainability.

The HEAT Team will celebrate World Environment day by

presenting a free lecture by Gary Warden.

Gary Warden, trained by Al Gore in the "Inconvenient Truth" Lectures will conduct a one hour presentation from 1.30PM to 2.30PM on Thursday 4th June 2009 in the Bruce Hunt Lecture Theatre.

Gary will talk about climate change, sustainability issues and introduce a new environmental initiative for the education of the public called "Days of Change."

The allocation of two hours per month during work time has been endorsed by the Executive for members of the Health Environmental Awareness Team (HEAT) to develop and implement environmental initiatives at Royal Perth Hospital.

HEAT will focus on energy management, reducing waste, recycling and other sustainability issues.

The next meeting of HEAT will held on Wednesday the 24th June 2009 at 3.30PM in the Bruce Hunt 4 (downstairs).

The Hot Spot is presented by the HEAT TEAM. For further information on HEAT please contact Ray Stevenson: Ray.Stevenson@health.wa.gov.au or Mobile 0404 894 031.

Chinese doctors tour RPH



Assistant Director of Clinical Services Dr Ted Stewart-Wynne with Chinese Heads of Department from Hefei-Anhui Provincial Hospital.

Assistant Director of Clinical Services Dr Ted Stewart-Wynne played host last month to 14 doctors visiting from the Anhui province in China.

The doctors, each a Head of Department at the Hefei-Anhui Provincial Hospital in China's east, toured RPH, Joondalup Health Campus, Notre Dame University and the University of Western Australia on a medical fact-finding mission.

With expertise in the speciality areas of

Anaesthesia, Intensive Care, Radiology Cardiology and Internal Medicine, the clinicians, with the aid of an interpreter, were able to glean a wealth of knowledge and ideas from RPH medical staff.