



# The STORK



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## KEMH Alumni Inc Newsletter

Issue No. 14

Dec 2023

### President's Message

Wishing all a happy Christmas season and a peaceful New Year.

The highlight of this year would have to be the presentation of the first **Edith Cowan Award**. This is something very dear to our heart – the aim of the KEMH Alumni has always been to support current staff as well as providing opportunities for present and past staff to meet socially. The award allows all our members to directly contribute to the pursuit of excellence in the treatment and care of patients at KEMH.

The **KEMH Alumni web page** is a way of keeping in touch with coming events, as well as being able to catch up on past events. We are currently working on bringing this up to date and making it easier to navigate.

<https://www.kemhalumni.com.au/>

Myself and the committee look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year.



Jenny and Bev at KEMH staff Christmas markets

### FUNDRAISING

The ALUMNI once again had a stall at the annual KEMH staff Christmas lunch and markets. There were less customers than last year but the money raised – over \$500 - will be put towards the Edith Cowan Award and other events in 2024.

Thank you to all those have renewed their membership – your membership is a very important part of how we raise money to be able to support current staff of WNHS.

The cookbook and tea towels are also always available on-line through our web site -

<https://www.kemhalumni.com.au/>



**Excerpts from the NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE Facebook page**

### **IN THE NMHS ANNUAL REPORT - a patient thankyou to MGP**

“Words cannot properly describe the gratitude we have for Maddi, Lolitta and Ginny from MGP-5 as well as Taylor from the labour ward and all the doctors and midwives, other medical, administration support and food and beverage staff that assisted in the birth of our son. Every single person we dealt with was phenomenal. The most kind, caring, knowledgeable and confident people. They made us feel comfortable and secure. We, without reservation, recommend the Midwifery Group Practice (and its expansion) at KEMH based on our experience”

### **AUSTRALIAN MIDWIFE OF THE YEAR**



A member of King Edward Memorial Hospital’s Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) was named Australian Midwife of the Year. Paula Wells, who provides antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care to a mixed risk group of women, has been part of the MGP since its inception in 2016.

Her experience in a similar program was integral to MGP’s development, guiding the team through start-up and helping to lead and support student, graduate, registered and clinical midwives. She is also on the panel to interview graduate midwives who apply to join MGP for the second half of their graduate year. She then helps mentor successful graduates. Additionally, Paula consults with multi-disciplinary teams to ensure safe, appropriate women-centred care and develops and facilitates childbirth education classes.

### **ABORIGINAL SPECIFIC MGP**



Aboriginal women experience higher rates of adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes than non-Aboriginal women. The Strong Links Program commenced in April 2023, alongside an Aboriginal specific Midwifery Group Practice (AMGP). The program is a women-centred, Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer-led service. The outreach service, including home visits, initiates contact with family to engage women and conducts follow-ups regarding non-attendance. It works in conjunction with other services. Stakeholders and consumers assisted in the design and development of the program.

## BUNBURY KNITTING GROUP



Joy and Barry travelled from Bunbury to King Edward Memorial Hospital this week to deliver a precious bundle of beanies and knits for the newborn babies on behalf of a Bunbury knitting group. The group have been crafting and donating beanies to the hospital for about 30 years to make sure the smallest of babies are comfy and cosy for the festive season.

## PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH



Mum and midwife Sam is sharing her experience with perinatal mental health to raise awareness and spread the message that support is available. After welcoming the arrival of her premature twin boys, Harry and Jack, Sam was admitted to the Mother and Baby Unit at King Edward Memorial Hospital for five weeks for support.

Sam, whose twins are now two years old, is now urging other parents to reach out for help.

Read Sam's story:

<https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/.../Perinatal-Mental...>

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AUGUST

As State Coordinator of the Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Program for the past 15 years, Leanda's efforts have built capacity of the sector and enabled organisations throughout WA to better support and care for vulnerable women and their families. Leanda has been integral to shaping perinatal and infant mental health in WA, ensuring the longevity and sustainability of the program. We are also wanting to wish Leanda all the best on her upcoming retirement. Leanda has played an integral role at King Edward Memorial Hospital and she will be missed.

## BEARS OF HOPE



Thank you to the Rose Garden Committee of the Matilda Bay Rotary Club for donating 100 Bears of Hope to the Women and Newborn Health Service.

The bears are designed to provide comfort for our patients and families who experience loss. Each bear is donated in loving memory of another family's baby.

The donation will bring vital comfort, connection and acknowledgement to many families across Western Australia