

Wesleylink

WINTER 2016



Meet our miracle mum

Wesleylink is a community publication of The Wesley Hospital, a leading Queensland not-for-profit private hospital

Kylie with her team of clinical specialists

Message from Ann Maguire, General Manager



Kylie Newcomen (story opposite) is a patient who inspires us. Not because of the uniqueness or complexity of her case, or her miraculous recovery, but for the reason that she is one of those patients who leaves a mark long after they have gone home. Her remarkable story keeps us going, and reminds us why what we do as a hospital is important.

Increasingly advanced medical treatment and healthcare is providing the gift of an improved quality-of-life to our patients - whether it's the

heart procedure that gets them back on the golf course or the knee replacement restoring an active lifestyle. Countless people have told me their stay at the Wesley was a turning point for the better.

The team responsible for Kylie's care was exceptional. Such miracles of modern medicine do not happen without a massive team effort and excellent equipment, some acquired thanks to our donors. With continual technological advances and improved techniques, your donations contribute significantly to assist us in purchasing equipment for our operating theatres. As a not-for-profit hospital, the Wesley receives no government support so I encourage you to

consider making a donation before the end of the financial year to help us continue to provide the best clinical care possible.

Keeping up with technological change is our modus operandi. For more than 30 years the Wesley Breast Clinic has been a leader in breast imaging and diagnosis, enabling early intervention and saving countless lives. This year the clinic is going digital, as it shifts to full electronic delivery of images directly to specialists and other clinicians involved in the patient's care. This leap forward was aided by funds raised by the Wesley Auxiliary that facilitated the purchase of the software.

The co-ordinated multidisciplinary approach continues for those affected by a breast cancer diagnosis. The Wesley has a team of dedicated breast care nurses to make the experience easier. The donation of breast cushions stitched by St Columban's College students is just one of the ways our supporters are making a difference.

The Wesley Hospital Choices Cancer Support Centre will soon be marking its first birthday in its new home in historic Drysllywn House. Choices extends our care beyond the hospital to anyone affected by any type of cancer diagnosis, for as long as needed. The good news is that most cancer patients are living longer - dying with cancer, not dying of cancer. Our vision for Choices is big - please don't hesitate to get involved in helping us develop this one-of-a-kind service.

On behalf of our patients, I thank you again for your support, and urge you to consider a tax-deductible donation to The Wesley Hospital this tax time.

Ann Maguire
General Manager
The Wesley Hospital

Team's massive effort to remove rare tumour

Wesley clinical teams undertake life-saving operations as a matter of routine, but one procedure stands out for its remarkable outcome.

Kylie Newcomen is known as our "miracle patient" after a surgical team removed an extremely large tumour that had spread from her uterus into her heart.

The mother of 10-year-old twins had no idea she was living with the rare growth until she suffered what seemed like a severe asthma attack and lost consciousness for about 30 seconds at the family farm between Moree and Goondiwindi.

"I had experienced vague chest pains but I had no idea that there was anything seriously wrong with me," she said.

Her husband, Bill, drove her to Goondiwindi District Hospital but after another serious episode of irregular heartbeats and blackout she was transferred to Toowoomba Base Hospital where a computed tomography (CT) scan detected a mass in her right atrium and right ventricle.

"I had experienced vague chest pains but I had no idea that there was anything seriously wrong with me."

Amid growing concerns, Kylie was rushed to the Wesley where echocardiograms and a transesophageal echocardiogram, conducted under the direction of Wesley cardiologist Dr Andrew Rainbird, showed the mass coming up from the inferior vena cava (the IVC vein that carries blood from the lower body to the heart). Further studies to determine the extent of the growth included a coronary angiogram, a venogram, a cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) scan. The results showed the potentially life-threatening tumour coming out of the right ovarian vein, up the IVC into the heart.

By then, a team of specialists had assembled, made up of cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Graeme Hart, vascular surgeon Dr Nicolas Boyne and gynaecological-oncologist Dr Jim Nicklin.

Kylie was admitted on a Friday and early the following week the specialist team began the four hour operation.

"We weren't certain what we were going to find. We planned for the worst and thankfully it didn't come to that. We were able to remove the entire tumour," Dr Hart said.

The benign tumour, known as an Intravenous Leiomyomatosis, is a rare condition seen in women. The tumour can spread throughout the venous system, leaving the uterus and even causing death, when growing into the heart from the IVC.



Kylie at home with her family

After two days in the intensive care unit (ICU) Kylie was transferred to the cardiac ward where she made a swift recovery.

"I am incredibly grateful to the specialists involved, the Wesley's ICU, coronary care unit and the nursing staff," Kylie said.

Bill added his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone involved in his wife's journey back to health.

"It was a terrifying experience, thinking I could lose her. The twins were frantic but are happy that mum came home," he said. "The care and support we received was exceptional during this difficult experience. The healthcare delivery at the Wesley is world class.

"The staff were so amazing – so many made the extra effort to lift our spirits and encourage us in often emotionally overwhelming circumstances."

The Wesley's "miracle patient" is now back at work at the local school and leading a full life, keeping up with the twins' many activities.

"It's hard to believe what happened to me," Kylie said. "I'll always have a strong connection to the Wesley and the team that saved my life and cared for me."

Wesley Breast Clinic says farewell to film in digital move

Doctors of Wesley Breast Clinic patients will soon access breast screening or diagnostic images electronically, thanks to a generous donation from the Wesley Auxiliary.

The donation of \$48,535.90, was presented to the breast clinic at a recent Auxiliary fashion parade, will go towards a "digital image delivery solution" for the clinic.

The new software will be used to replace film images, and will make the clinic's diagnostic images available to the referring doctor online, immediately.

The clinic's applications manager Jayne Barclay said the clinic currently relies on the transport of film images by the patient, staff or courier services to get the films to consulting suites or the operating theatre.

"This is the next step in making the clinic a digital service," she said. "In 2011 we moved to digital mammography, in 2013 we moved to new digital information systems, and we are hoping to implement this new solution in the coming months."

"We are delighted to now be able to make a significant contribution towards improving outcomes for patients at the Wesley Breast Clinic"

The new digital process will replace the need for patients to take film images to specialist breast surgeon appointments, with a web link integrated into the digital radiology report sent, making the report and images available to review before the patient arrives at the medical suites.

"It will also be used for the breast surgeons using the Wesley theatres. Currently, when a breast specimen is taken, we image the specimen in the clinic, print the films and physically deliver these back up to the

theatres. With the new solution, as soon as the specimen image is taken, it will be available digitally for the surgeons in theatre.

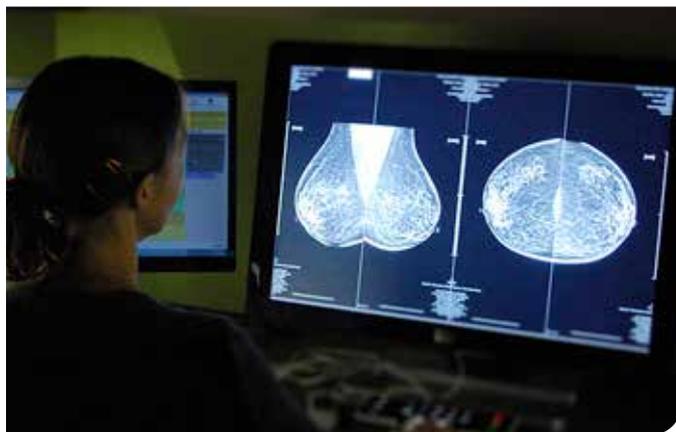
"It will also give all of our referring GPs the ability to review their patient's images from their computers, which is something we have not previously been able to provide," she said.

Wesley Auxiliary President Jill Reeves said their group of dedicated volunteers had been tirelessly raising money for the hospital for more than 35 years, raising more than \$30 million for improvements to services and technology.

"The Auxiliary previously raised and donated \$80,000 to fund the purchase of a Mini C Arm Imaging System to assist with orthopaedic surgery," Jill said. "We are delighted to now be able to make a significant contribution towards improving outcomes for patients at the Wesley Breast Clinic"

The Wesley Breast Clinic offers the most comprehensive range of screening and diagnostic breast services in Queensland in the one location, provided by a large expert team of doctors, radiologists and nurses, including dedicated breast cancer nurses.

To make a breast screening appointment at the Wesley Breast Clinic, phone (07) 3232 7202.



Chimes celebrate each new Wesley baby

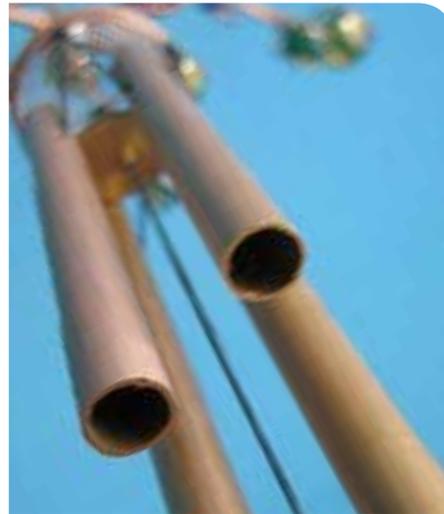
Have you heard the audible chimes that announce the birth of a new baby at the our hospital?

Director of Nursing Callan Battley said the initiative announces the exciting arrival of each new baby over the hospital PA system.

“The idea was put forward by several staff members who saw the concept in a number of other facilities, both in Australia and overseas,” he said.

“Celebrating the wonder of new life is a great reminder to us all about why we come to work each day.”

This was made possible by the generosity of our donors...thank you!



Medical students, love your white coats!



On January 19, The Wesley Hospital Director of Medical Services Dr Luis Prado presented the annual White Coat Ceremony for medical students attending the UnitingCare Health Clinical School.

This annual ritual is a significant event not only for UnitingCare Health but also for the cohort of medical students from The University of Queensland, Griffith University and Bond University. The white coat symbolises their coming together as students of UnitingCare Health and the start of their careers in medicine.

Dr Prado said: “Having medical students from three universities is not replicated in any other tertiary hospital in Australia, and we strive to lead the way in teaching and training medical students in a not-for-profit hospital.

“This unique educational environment, which includes The Wesley Hospital, St Andrew’s War Memorial Hospital, Sunshine Coast Private Hospital and St Stephen’s Hospital in Hervey Bay, provides the students with an opportunity to learn from leading clinicians, nursing and allied health staff and, most importantly, our patients, who are open and willing to assist with student learning.”

Your hospital by numbers



Operating theatres



Cardiac labs



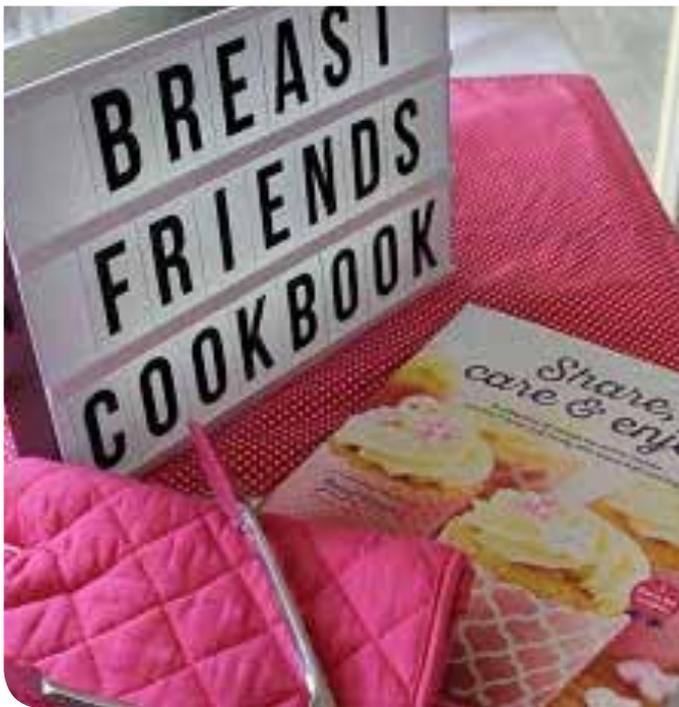
Birthing suites



Number of beds



Beds in ICU



TV takes stress out of wait for kids

Young patients and their families at The Wesley Hospital can now watch TV in the children's surgery waiting room, following a generous donation from Jindalee Rotary Club.

Nicola McGlynn, clinical nurse manager (CNM) maternity, Sonia Broadby (CNM) paediatrics and Diane Fischer assistant director of nursing, were on hand to show their appreciation to Rotarian Nick Netto who presented them with the cheque at the Gertrude McLeod Golf Club at Middle Park.

The hospital was also able to purchase portable beds which will enable family members to stay overnight in the children's ward and maternity unit.

Diane said: "As a not-for-profit hospital we are very grateful for donations like this which help provide the extras that make the stay of our youngest patients and their families less stressful."

The Wesley has a 16-bed children's and adolescent's ward – currently the largest on Brisbane's northside.



Recipe for a good cause

If you're looking for a new cookbook (and who among us isn't?), look no further. Share, Care and Enjoy, published by Breast Friends, is a wonderful collection of recipes contributed by celebrities, sports personalities, breast cancer survivors and the people who share their journey; families, nurses, doctors, teachers. But they aren't just recipes — they're stories from real people for real people.

All proceeds go to cancer research, support programs and after treatment care, including our own Choices breast cancer support program. It's available at www.breastfriends.com.au for \$25, or phone our fundraising team on 07 3253 4650 to order your copy today!

Helping breast cancer patients one stitch at a time

St Columban's Piece Makers is a volunteer group of students who sew drain bags and comfort cushions for female and male patients who have undergone surgery for breast cancer.

This year the fabulously dedicated group from St Columban's College, Caboolture, produced and donated over 500 items, including a mammoth 354 items for patients at the Wesley and our sister hospital St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital. According to the school's Piece Makers coordinator Linda Upton, the girls have had quite a number of cards and emails from grateful recipients.

"The flow-on effects of this service are amazing," she said. "Because the hospitals no longer need to purchase these items, they are able to further resource other support services such as physiotherapy and counselling."

To thank the girls for providing pillows for our patients, our breast care nurses Rachel Reid and Mary McPhee hosted an afternoon tea at St Columban's on behalf of The Wesley Hospital, pictured below.

Pictured right are Rachel and Jan Snowdon with some of the St Columban's Piece Makers cushions.



"The flow-on effects of this service are amazing, because the hospitals no longer need to purchase these items, they are able to further resource other support services such as physiotherapy and counselling."



Have you considered leaving a bequest?

The inclusion of The Wesley Hospital in your will is a tremendous gesture and perhaps the greatest compliment that you can pay the hospital. We do not take this gesture, or our responsibility for it lightly, and we are very aware that the thoughtful generosity of past bequestors has had transformative effects in the hospital over many years.



We appreciate that your connection with The Wesley Hospital is so strong that you wish to make the ultimate gesture of thanks. As custodians of your legacy, we are aware that we have been given a great responsibility and that you are confident enough to trust us to make the best use of your gift.

If you would like more information or are considering including The Wesley in your will, please contact our donor care team on 07 3253 4650 for a confidential chat.

Did you know?

Now in its fourth year, the innovative Wesley Internship Program is the only dedicated intensive hospital-based internship program for Queensland high school students.

Chosen from a field of more than 400 applicants, 30 students spent their summer holidays learning from medical, allied and other health professionals through presentations, tours, simulation labs and practical work placements.

What's on at The Wesley?

Choices Cancer Support's 18th Birthday

For more information on how to support and get involved with our fundraising events, please contact our events team on 07 3253 4645 or via email events@uhealth.com.au

How your regular donations make a difference

Your regular gifts are one of the best ways for The Wesley Hospital to enhance our services, keep up-to-date with technology, expand our clinical work and update our facilities.

Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and their families. We differentiate ourselves by living our values to optimise patient care and experience every day. Thanks to the generous support of people like you, we can continue to improve the highest quality of clinical care for our patients.

Having a secure income gives us enormous confidence that we can continue to deliver the best care when people need it the most. You can decide the amount and the frequency of your gifts and can alter your gift at any time you like if your circumstances change. We'll issue you with an annual receipt outlining all of your generous gifts.

If you would like to join this very special group of supporters please complete the back of your donation form and we'll do the rest!

If you would like more information on how to become a regular giver, please contact our donor care team on 3253 4650 or by email fundraising@uhealth.com.au and we will be happy to help.

Contact Information

Wesleylink is an initiative of the UnitingCare Health Fundraising and Marketing office. To provide support or to find out more about any Wesley Hospital project, please contact our fundraising team on 07 3253 4650 or by email fundraising@uhealth.com.au

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