

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director RBWH

Louise Oriti



Summary:

- Anzac Day at RBWH
- RBWH Staff Council - new Chair appointed
- A refreshed space for neonatal parents
- Remembering a pioneering volunteer
- Flu vaccination now available

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear team,

Tomorrow, we pause to recognise Anzac Day and to show our appreciation to those who have served to protect the freedoms we all enjoy in Australia today.

While 25 April marks the day Australian and New Zealand troops landed on the shores of Gallipoli in 1915, Anzac Day has since grown from these origins to become a day to remember all who have served in Australia's defence forces, both those who returned home and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We will gather in the Level 1 atrium at 8am tomorrow for our Anzac Day service to honour every individual who has worn our nation's uniform, including the many RBWH staff who serve. At 9am the Last Post will be broadcast across the hospital via the public address system.

To all who have given their lives in defence of the values and freedoms we hold close, we honour your sacrifice. Lest We Forget.



RBWH Staff Council - new chair appointed

I am pleased to announce that Physiotherapy Team Leader, Cath Willis (pictured), has been appointed as the new Chair of the RBWH Staff Council. Cath has been a council member since 2022 and served as Deputy Chair since April 2024.

Cath replaces outgoing Chair, Liz Bennett, who has chaired the council since December 2020 and has decided to step down ahead of starting a period of leave next month. Thank you, Liz, for your hard work, passion, and dedication in helping make RBWH a great place to work.

We wish Liz well and look forward to continuing the important work of the Staff Council with Cath as Chair.



Refurbished neonatal parents' space

No new parent wants their baby to spend time in our NICU, but for those who do need extra care, the newly refurbished Neonatal Unit parents' lounge now offers a brighter, more comfortable space during an incredibly stressful time for families.

New mum Paige (pictured), who is preparing to take her daughter Aylah home after more than 100 days in the unit, officially opened the new space. Having experienced the "before" and "after" versions of the lounge, Paige is confident the refurbishment provides a more pleasant, peaceful place for parents to unwind while they manage the stress and anxiety of having a sick baby.

The lounge transformation was made possible thanks to the generosity of Ronald McDonald House, who funded the works to benefit RBWH families in our care. Thank you to our BEMS project and design teams who worked with neonatal unit staff to bring the vision of providing a more relaxing parents' space to life.

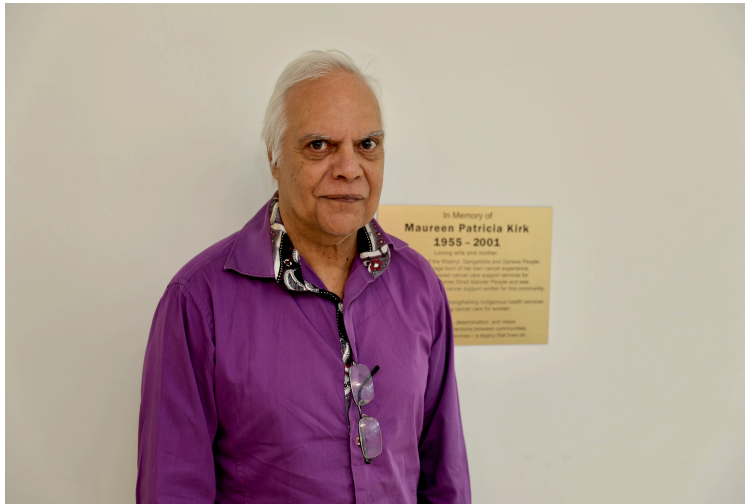


New mum, Paige officially opened the new neonatal parents space. Pictured with Emma Thompson, Ronald McDonald House SEQ CEO & A/Director Women's & Newborns, Peter Buttrum

Remembering a pioneering volunteer

Yesterday, RBWH Cancer Care staff joined the family of Maureen Kirk to unveil a plaque and honour the legacy of a pioneering cancer support volunteer. Drawing on courage born from her own cancer experiences, Maureen became Australia's first volunteer cancer support worker for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and dedicated much of her life to strengthening support services for women with cancer in her community.

Maureen sadly passed away in 2001 at just 45 years of age, but her compassion, determination, and vision created enduring connections and left a lasting legacy in how support is provided to First Nations Australians with cancer.



Maureen Kirks' husband Uncle Hughie joined a recent event to honour her legacy.

Flu vaccination clinic now open

The weather is getting cooler and the days are getting shorter, which means winter is just around the corner. With it comes a rise in respiratory illnesses and increased demand for our services. To help protect our community, flu vaccinations are available free for all RBWH staff. You can attend the clinic on weekdays at the Level 2 walkway or visit a community pharmacy where vaccinations are also free to all Queenslanders. Please consider rolling up your sleeve to help keep our patients, staff and community healthy this winter, and remember to bring your Medicare card. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Thank you all for everything you do for our community.

Kind Regards

Louise Oriti

Executive Director,
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital

We uphold our commitment to health equity through our Values in Action
Respect | Integrity | Compassion | High Performance | Teamwork



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Metro North Health's vision

Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services.



**Queensland
Government**

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