Media Release
Monday 13 May 2013

Bethesda Hospital Celebrates with their Volunteers

As part of National Volunteer Week from 13-17 May 2013, Bethesda Hospital will show their support and appreciation to the 50 plus volunteer group who donate their time at their annual Volunteer morning tea celebration on Wednesday 15 May 2013 at 10am.

These volunteers provide vital assistance and support to the staff, patients and visitors to the hospital, and mainly work in the main reception as a 'meet and greet' service, or in the 24 bed Palliative Care unit of the Claremont based hospital.

This year, the hospital has nominated one of their volunteers, Mrs Libby Howe for the WA Volunteer of the Year Award, with winners announced at the National Volunteer Week Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation at the Hyatt Regency Perth Hotel on Wednesday 15 May 2013**.**

Bethesda Hospital Volunteer Manager, Ms Sahara Scaddan noted that 'Libby was one of the first volunteers in the Palliative Care Unit when it opened in 2006. Since then, she has generously given her time on a weekly basis to provide companionship, comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families'.

'Libby also assists with fundraising efforts and tends to the hospital garden which is a relaxation spot for palliative care patients. Libby's genuine warmth, compassion and generosity is greatly appreciated by patients, visitors and staff alike, and she was a popular choice to be nominated for WA Volunteer of the Year'.

Libby was a previously a nurse, and has been volunteering for 12 years. She initially worked at the Cottage Hospice and moved across to Bethesda Hospital when this closed down.

Libby said that 'volunteering is a fantastic opportunity for me to give something back to the community, and make a difference to people's lives. I am also able to enjoy my other passion of gardening whilst working at the hospital'.

To find out more about becoming a volunteer at Bethesda Hospital, please contact Sahara on 9340 6423 or email sscaddan@bethesda.asn.au

Bethesda is an independent 88-bed hospital in Claremont, which has been providing outstanding care and service to the Western Australian community for over 60 years.

www.bethesda.asn.au

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