



MEDIA RELEASE
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Inaugural Remembrance Day at Bethesda Hospital

The Hon. Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of Western Australia and Member for Cottesloe attended Bethesda Hospital today for a function marking the private hospital's foundations in WA nearly 70 years ago. This afternoon's launch function and church service was attended by past and present staff of the hospital, as well as members from Churches of Christ and hospital board.

Premier Barnett launched Bethesda Hospital's publication booklet entitled 'Our Beginnings', and was on hand to present gifts and certificates to some of the hospital's long serving staff members. Amongst those receiving awards was Penny Collin, an Enrolled Nurse who has been associated with the hospital for 43 years.

Ms Joyce Brand, a former staff member also attended the event and provided much of the content for the 'Our Beginnings' booklet. Ms Brand worked at the hospital from 1969, taking over as Matron from Matron Beryl Hill who had established Bethesda Hospital in 1943. She spoke of her experience with Matron Hill, who she described as a very spiritual person who had worked hard to establish a hospital with a Christian ethos, seeking to care for more than just the physical needs of patients.

CEO of Bethesda Hospital, Ms Yasmin Naglazas said that 'it was a humbling experience researching Bethesda Hospital's beginnings, and learning more about our heritage and history to share these stories with our staff, doctors, visitors and members from the Churches of Christ'.

'The Subiaco congregation of Churches of Christ features significantly in the hospital's beginnings, with members of that congregation forming the inaugural board of management in 1943.'

'Our staff, including our volunteers are a vital part of our hospital community. We are proud to recognise their continued work and dedication towards providing excellent health care through our length of service awards', Ms Naglazas said.

Bethesda Hospital is an independent 88-bed award-winning hospital in Claremont who has been providing outstanding surgical and palliative care and service to the Western Australian community for nearly 70 years.

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