

# Rural Palliative Care Project

Newsletter

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**The Rural Palliative Care Project** -The Southern Highlands Division of General Practice will manage this project with funding from the Department of Health and Ageing through the Australian General Practice Network. Our aim is to consider and develop processes which will assist in delivering high quality consistent care to palliative patients within the Wingecarribee Shire.

**Jane Mahony** joined the project as the **Clinical Nurse Project Officer**.

Jane, a local Palliative Care CNC has been working with the RPCP for 2 days per week for 24 weeks, her role is to trial the use of the **Liverpool Hospital End of Life Care Pathway** in the local area. This will be piloted at the Southern Highlands Private Hospital and The Abbey Nursing Home. Jane will be providing education about the pathway and other aspects of clinical practice to nursing and other health staff.



*Some of the Link Nurses with Jane at a recent education session in the Conference Room of the Southern Highlands Private Hospital*

**The Link Nurse Program** – this part of the project brings nurse representatives from the public and private hospitals, community health and private duty nursing agencies, residential aged care facilities and practice nurses together for education and discussion. The program aims are for these nurses to become the expert resource personnel within their organizations, to assist with the distribution of information to other staff including management and family carers and to assist in policy development, communication and collaboration with GPs, other allied health staff, the patients and families/carers. An education needs survey was completed and monthly education sessions have been organized by Jane Mahony, Clinical Nurse Consultant, and Margaret. It will included sessions from Jane and other expert speakers.

**Focus groups** have been held with GPs and hospital nursing representatives to gain insight into how the present Palliative Care Service operates and to consider possible improvements.

There have also been meetings with the **social work** staff and the **pastoral care** committee.



**Spirituality Workshop** at Satori Springs on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June was a very special occasion for all who attended. Anna Chetan Bloemhard, from the Mid North Coast Division facilitated the day so well, there was lots of time for reflection and discussion. We were able to truly consider what it may be like to be at the end of our life and what are the most important considerations at this time.

Satori Springs is a beautiful place to be and so conducive to thoughtfulness.



Home Hospice Annual Event 2009 – 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 in Sydney  
“ **Intimacy and Connection near End of Life**”

Keynote Speakers: Drs Sinead Donnelly and Frank Brennan  
Contact: email [Rhonda@homehospice.com.au](mailto:Rhonda@homehospice.com.au)

Check the **Caresearch website** – on the Palliative Care knowledge network [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au) there is an updated GP Home Page amongst other excellent resources.

**Next event:** CPD Evening for GPs. Case Presentations with an expert panel for discussion.  
Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Bowral Golf Club  
More on this shortly.

**Contact:** Margaret Mogg, the RPCP Coordinator on 48 616084 or email [Margaret@shdivgp.com.au](mailto:Margaret@shdivgp.com.au) for any additional information about the Project.