

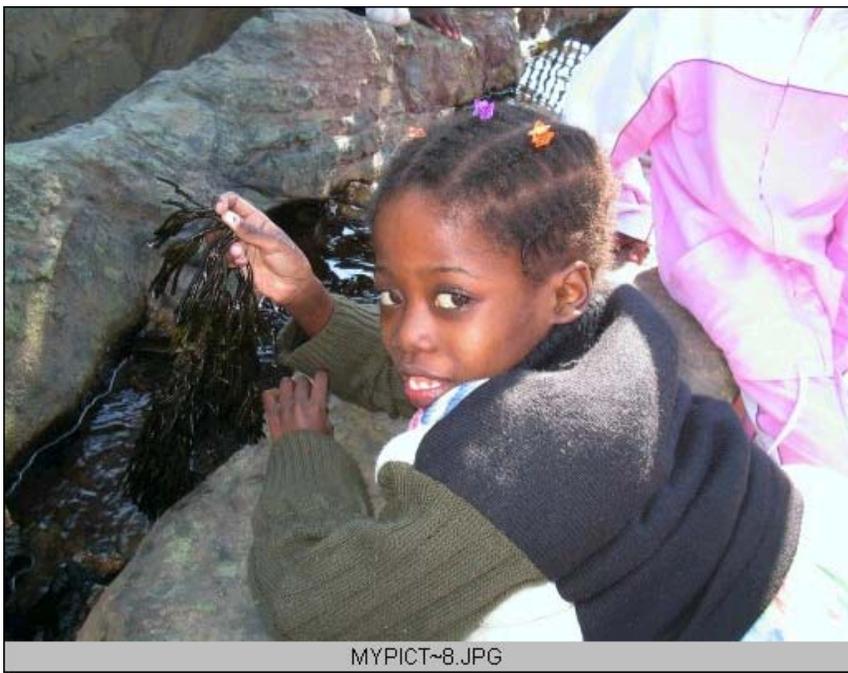


THE GREYPE-VINE.

Grey's Hospital

Pietermaritzburg

August 2004



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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Editor:	Alison Guise-Brown	Pager 515
Members:	Mrs A Chetty	Pager 200
	Mr W Hoosen	Pager 314
	Mrs Yolanda Thambiran.	X-ray
	Sister C Stilwell	H1
	Mr S Mthembu	Pager 800

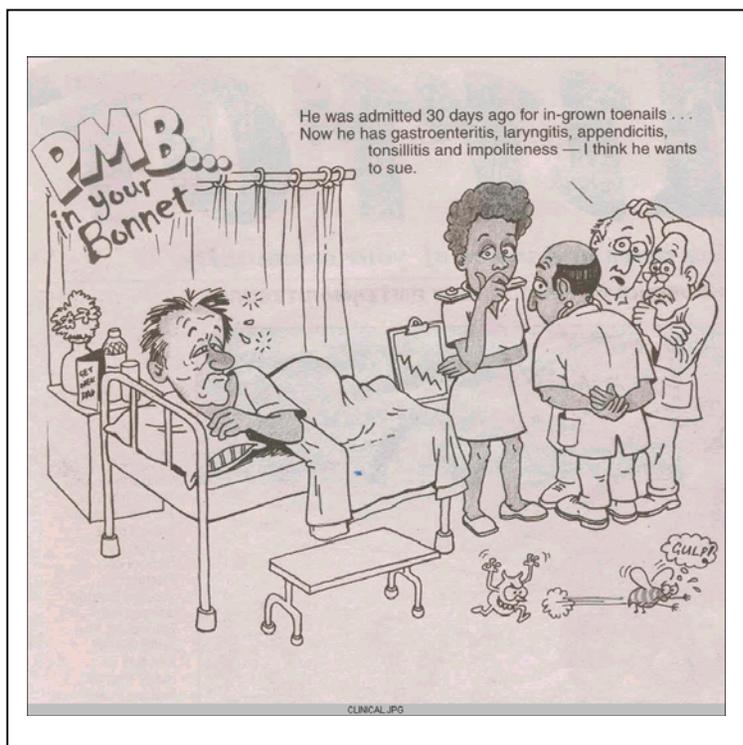
The first of September is always traditionally known as the first day of spring. The rain we had in August has made a big difference to the grass and flowers and everything is starting to look fresh and green again. As the earth changes so do our lives and that of those around us. The hospital welcomed new staff and said farewell to others and so did the Editorial Committee. Sister E Harper left Grey's to work in England and Mrs. Yolanda Thambiran, from x-ray, has come to join us. We would like to thank Sr Harper for all her efforts while she was working with us and we'd like to welcome Yolanda on to our committee and wish her a pleasant and worthwhile stay.

The staff's hard work and input towards Grey's application for the Premier's Service Excellence Award has been appreciated and as a result we have been short listed for the award. Let's all hold thumbs and continue working towards being the final winners.

The Nurses Dedication ceremony will be held on Thursday 7th October in the City Hall. The Hospital Choir will be singing and it promises to be as well organised and as moving as ever. Congratulations to all who will be graduating.

Infection Control Symposium.

The hospital's annual Infection Control Symposium will be held in the Nursing Campus Auditorium on Wednesday 29th September 2004 from 07h30 – 16h00.
Please book your seat with either Senior Sister R Sukhari or Mrs R Swartz in Ward G2 before 8th September 2004.
Lunch will be available at R 14h00 per head.



**Men are from Earth. Women are from Earth.
Deal with it!**

Interactive Program – May 2004

“I’ve got good news and bad news for you this evening dear!”

“Let’s hear it then.”

“The good news is that you don’t have to make lunch for me tomorrow. The bad news is that you have to take the kids to school in the morning. I’m flying with the Red Cross tomorrow.”

I wasn’t sure about how much traffic there would be between Hilton and Oribi at seven in the morning. So I made sure to leave no later than seven. I was told the aeroplane would be at Oribi Airport at 7.30am. In the event I needn’t have worried because the ‘plane’ didn’t arrive until 8am. There were suitable apologies as I climbed aboard.

“Where is that lady who always goes with us and talks and keeps us fed and entertained?”

“She’s been in Kokstad the whole week with the ENT people.”

Said lady is a volunteer who has been flying with the Red Cross since the program started some years ago. She gets nothing out of it except the thrill of being part of helping people in rural areas to get a better health service. Her husband supports and tolerates her eccentricity.

Today the friendly Red Cross optometrist is pulling the strings. We also have with us the surgeon and a colleague who is visiting him from Europe.

What strikes me in the flight from Pietermaritzburg to Griqualand is the amount of apparently empty land towards the Berg. We hear a lot about the shortage of land on the media and from the mouths of our politicians, but there still seems to be a lot of underutilised land in these parts.

We are whisked to Matatiele in about 30 minutes and dropped off at the airstrip. The driver from the hospital picks us up in their new Condor. Timing between the aeroplane and the transport at the airstrip is important as flying doctors have been mugged on previous occasions (though not in this part of the province).

The pilot and aeroplane leave to take the ENT people and the Red Cross lady back to Durban from Kokstad. They will come back and pick us up at lunchtime and take us to Kokstad.

Tayler Bequest Hospital at Matatiele is a substantial old building. The wards are still a bit lacking in creature comforts, but the staff are friendly and welcoming. At least most of the beds have curtains around them. A new laboratory has just opened at the hospital. There are two Cuban doctors and two Community Service doctors. One of the doctors is off sick. There is also a young woman doctor from the community who is raising her family in the Matatiele District and is committed to providing a service to the patients there. Private doctors in the community also provide sessional services. The housekeeper is disappointed that we don't have the Red Cross lady with us. They are good friends. She provides us with an excellent tea and then the surgeons go their way and I go mine.

The doctors have lined up a few inpatients and one outpatient for me. The lady in Outpatients has intractable headaches. We are able to arrange for her to have a CT scan in Pietermaritzburg and then to see the orthopaedic surgeons about her neck if this doesn't produce an answer. One of the inpatients is a young woman who has had a stroke. She definitely has to go and have a CT scan urgently. Young people who have strokes must be thoroughly investigated. At Grey's we can offer the services of a neurologist. There is an old man with a stroke who couldn't close his mouth after yawning – a dislocated jaw. The surgeon was able to help with that. There was an old man with bad lung disease from a career of mining in his younger days. We were able to arrange assessment for compensation for him. There is a young man, who has just returned from Mozambique, who has malaria. There is no anti-malarial medication in the hospital. The friendly pharmacist tells us that she had some quinine, but it's expired. The malaria sufferer must come to Pietermaritzburg if he doesn't settle down on his own. We will give him quinine and tetracycline if he does come to us. The surgeon and I do not concur on the cause of abdominal pain, in a middle-aged man in the ward. Is it his gut or his kidney? The investigations set in place should solve the problem. I am ushered into a private ward to be shown an elderly lady with jaundice and a typical "shoulder tip" pain. The findings point to a common bile duct obstruction. I recommend a surgeon in Pietermaritzburg to her.

The housekeeper provides us with a tasty lunch and then we are off to the airstrip to wait for the aeroplane to take us to Kokstad. The optometrist contacts the pilot by cellphone for us. The optometrist will

be busy the whole day at Matatiele and we will have to come back for him later in the afternoon.

The Medical Manager at Kokstad's EG Usher Memorial Hospital was an intern in Pietermaritzburg about 3 years ago. He has settled well into his new position of influence. He has a complement of two more full time doctors, several part time doctors from the community and five Community Service doctors. We have told the pilot to wait for us at the airstrip, but in the event it takes us longer to get back than we expected because the doctors at the hospital have lined up a number of interesting problems for my attention. There are 9 patients who have been waiting most of the day in Outpatients and we also rush around a few difficult problems in the ward before we have to go.

Among the patients in Outpatients is another young woman with an intractable headache. Both she and the woman in Matatiele are living apart from their relatively young children. We wonder how much this contributes to their headache through stress/guilt/depression. There is also a boy in early teenage years with a congenital heart condition which I cannot diagnose, but whom I can recommend for semi-urgent cardiac consultation at Grey's Cardiac Clinic. There is an old man with disseminated prostate carcinoma. There is a man with advanced dilated cardiomyopathy whom the team are doing a good job of managing within their resource constraints. There is a young woman with a cardiomyopathy with a classical gallop rhythm. None of the staff present have heard of Roy Rogers, which dates me a bit.

In the ward I see a youngster with nephrosis awaiting the result of a renal biopsy at Inkosi Albert Luthuli (I suggest a referral to Renal Unit at Grey's). After the round I see him sitting with his friends outside the ward eating salted potato chips! He hasn't absorbed the message about salt and the kidneys yet. We also see a very obese middle aged woman with congestive heart failure and wheezing. I am able to offer some constructive advice, but the outlook remains poor.

Kokstad Hospital has been accredited for the ARV Rollout and the staff are busy building their capacity with the help of provincial training programs and visits to the clinic at Grey's. They hope to roll out their first treatment in the next month.

NEWS FROM EAP

It is time to go back to the airstrip and placate the pilot who has waited much longer than we expected him to. He is satisfied with our apologies. We have an extra passenger on the way back and we have to go via Matatiele to pick up our friendly optometrist. He has been busy the whole day and seen about 75 clients. In the end he has not had time to sort them all out properly, (refraction and prescription of spectacles), but he and the nurses have been able to do a fair number of them and to identify the patients who need referral to an ophthalmologist. He is employed full time by the Red Cross and goes around the province in the aeroplane, helping people to see well enough to read. I don't think his financial reward is substantial, but he obviously loves his work. He dishes out the refreshments (chips and Liquefruit) in the aeroplane.

There is not time or space to go into detail about impressions of the hospitals and the people working in them. Both hospitals are managed by women with a background in nursing and they seem to have engendered a warm, relaxing atmosphere in their hospitals. Both hospitals are in a reasonable state of repair, with the hospital in Kokstad having some excellent new facilities at its disposal. Without wishing to detract from the contribution of the nursing staff, the enthusiasm and dedication of the medical staff is very comforting and encouraging. Particularly the young Community Service doctors are full of youthful dreams for a better future, and this rubs off on everyone. Full marks to the politicians and administrators who initiated the Community Service program and to the doctors who make it happen on the ground.

As a parting thought, Kokstad Hospital should consider the daily activities of their driver and give him a new Condor as well. The current vehicle gives the impression always that it is about to gasp its last. Perhaps the Department of Health would also consider donating some funds to the Kokstad Aero Club so they can upgrade the road into the airstrip. It will soon be difficult to negotiate without a 4x4.

The Department of Medicine's Interactive Program is really up and running in 2004.

Dr Jim Muller

The Employee Assistance Programme was officially launched at Grey's on Tuesday, 20th July, 2004. We, the EAP committee, are proud to report that we were the first group to launch in our region – an indication of our commitment to the programme!

We were privileged to have Kirshnee Naidoo, from Natalia, as our guest speaker. Kirshnee emphasized the following important points about EAP:

- EAP is the first step to getting help with personal and/or work-related problems.
- It will not jeopardize the employee's work position in any way.
- It is a confidential service.
- EAP practitioners are volunteers from different categories of staff who are doing this as a service over and above their normal duties.
- Staff have the freedom to choose their own practitioner and may set up their own appointment or be referred.

A short video was shown (after a few technical hiccups! Sorry!) to demonstrate the benefits of EAP in practice. Dr Derek Magaqa introduced the Grey's EAP practitioners, highly visible in their canary-yellow tee shirts, to the staff. Tea and snacks followed and practitioners were available to answer any further queries. Each staff member who attended was given a brochure to keep for reference purposes.

Our launch was well attended so hopefully the message of who we are and what we are about has reached the far corners of this establishment.

We appeal to you not to suffer in silence. Remember that your working years take up about two thirds of your entire life and it is inevitable that a few curve balls will be thrown your way. Our work is also a place of fellowship with other human beings so let us bear one another's burdens to make our time here happy, healthy and productive.

LINDA NEL

SOCCER NEWS.

Grey's Hospital Soccer Team won the 2004 Provincial Soccer Tournament. They are Region B winners. The team is now representing the District in the Provincial Soccer Tournament that will be held on 26th August 2004 at Cato Manor Sports Field.

Well Done Soccer Team!!

MAIN REGISTRY : FAREWELL / RETIREMENT

31-5-2004

MRS HELEN ROSEMARY LASCELLES

On the 31st May 2004 the staff of Main Registry said a sad farewell to Mrs Lascelles who had been their Supervisor, friend and mother figure for the past 14 years.

Mrs Lascelles started in the Admitting Department 18 years ago (17-2-1986) where she remained for four years until she transferred to Main Registry as the Supervisor-in-Charge.

We will always remember her as a loyal staff member who was very compassionate and a caring friend.

On behalf of her colleagues and myself I would like to thank her for her friendship and for all her hard work over the many years, but most especially over the last 18 months, when the Main Registry was so critically short staffed.

Mrs Lascelles will be moving to Howick in September 2004 and we wish her good health, much prosperity and a very long and happy retirement.

B.M ALCOCK

**Some people enter our lives for just a short while -
others pause and plant flowers in our hearts.**

Words of Wisdom.

"A house becomes a home when you can write "I love you" on the furniture."

I can't tell you how many countless hours that I have spent CLEANING! I used to spend at least 8 hours every weekend making sure things were just perfect -"in case someone came over". Then I realised one day that no-one came over; they were all out living life and having fun!

Now, when people visit, I find no need to explain the "condition" of my home. They are more interested in hearing about the things I've been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, please heed this advice.

Life is short. Enjoy it!

Dust if you must,
but wouldn't it be better
to paint a picture or write a letter,
bake a cake or plant a seed,
ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must,
but there's not much time,
with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and
books to read,
friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must,
but the world's out there with the sun in your eyes,
the wind in your hair,
a flutter of snow, a shower of rain.
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must,
but bear in mind,

old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go - and go you must –
you, yourself will make more dust!

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind
of life you have lived.

Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory.

Wow, it's finally here.

The first in Pietermaritzburg. The Grey's Cardiac Catheterisation
Laboratory, which is situated next to CCU, is scheduled for full
operation on 4th October 2004.

Diagnostic procedures such as Coronary Angiogram, Permanent
and Temporary Pacemaker insertions, Intra-Aortic Balloon
Pumping, Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angiography
(PTCA) and stenting will be performed. The Cardiac
Catheterisation Laboratory follows the opening of our
Non-invasive Cardiac Laboratory in MOPD, which is already fully
operational. Services provided are Echocardiography, Exercise
stress testing, resting ECGs, 24hour holter monitoring and very
soon pacemaker check clinics. The team consists of highly
qualified cardiologists, radiographers, sisters and cardiac
technologists.

The aim of this new venture is to treat patients from all over
District 22, breaking down the workload of many leading hospitals
in Durban, providing the best treatment and patient care to the
public.

*P.S. Any donations for microwaves, kettles, fridges,…… mugs?
Will be greatly appreciated. (hehehee)*

Winnie Maphanga.

Laughter is the Best Medicine.

BASIC CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT ACT 2003

SICKDAYS:

We will no longer accept a doctors' statement as
proof of illness.

If you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to
come to work.

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an
employee here, you

need all your organs. You should not consider
removing anything.

We hired you intact. To have something removed
constitutes a breach
of employment.

YOUR OWN DEATH:

This will be accepted as an excuse. However, we
require at least two weeks notice, as it is your duty
to train your replacement.

RESTROOM USE:

Entirely too much time is being spent in the
restroom. In future, we will follow the practice of
going in alphabetical order. For instance, employees
whose names begin with 'A' will go from 8:00 to 8:20,
employees whose names begin with 'B' will go from
8:20 to 8:40 and so on. If you're unable to go at
your allotted time, it will be necessary to wait
until the next day when your turn comes again. In
extreme emergencies, employees may swap their time
with a co-worker. Both employees' supervisors must
approve this exchange in writing. In
addition, there is now a strict 3-minute time limit
in the stalls.

At the end of three minutes, an alarm will sound, the
toilet paper roll will retract, and the toilet door
will open.

LUNCH BREAK:

Skinny people get an hour for lunch as they need to
eat more so that they can look healthy. Normal size

people get 30 minutes for lunch to get a balanced meal to maintain their average figure. Fat people get 5 minutes for lunch because that's all the time needed to drink a Slim Shake & take a diet pill.

DRESS CODE:

It is advisable that you come to work dressed according to your salary.

If we see you wearing Levi's, Soviet, Guess, Prada shoes & carrying a Gucci bag we will assume you are doing well financially and therefore you do not need any increment.

Thank you for your loyalty to our hospital. We are here to provide a positive employment experience. Therefore, all questions, comments, concerns, complaints, frustrations, irritations, aggravations, insinuations, allegations, accusations, contemplation's, consternation's or input should be directed elsewhere.

Have a nice week,

The Boss

N.B. The above item is meant as a joke, please do not go rushing off to your Union Representative to complain as he will not be able to help your with your lack of sense of humour.

Grey's Quality Day. 19th November 2004.

Objective: To celebrate World Quality Day by involving the staff and public in Grey's Hospital Quality activities.

Theme: Injecting Quality into Health Care.

Outcome: To increase awareness of Quality to staff and public.

To encourage participation amongst staff in Quality activities.

To recognise quality initiatives.



Gardening Getaway.

Sharpen your secateurs and harden your hearts- it's pruning time again!

Dr Muller's secretary, Adela, is an avid gardener. She woefully confided that she was heading off to her garden to lop off the heads of her roses. How, she asked, could she do this when they were still in bloom. Take heart Adela, little do your roses know what a favour you are doing for them. Please report back in the November issue of 'Greype-Vine' as to their response to your pruning. (Don't forget the 3:1:5 and the bonemeal!)

An extract from Sarah Ban Breathnach's book, "Simple Abundance" reads as follows:-

"As I look at the roses I realise that pruning is necessary for complete growth. So is, I have come to realise, a certain amount of pain in our lives. Pain prunes unessential emotions, ambitions and illusions, teaching us lessons we either consciously or unconsciously refuse to be taught by joy. Pain prunes the insignificant details that distract us from what is really important. Make no mistake, I think pain is a wretched gardener, but after pruning, we're able to discern what's real, what's important and what's essential for our happiness."

Gael Meter.

News Flash!

Ward D1 is open again, after a short two week closure for alterations. The new 'Stroke Unit' will be housed there and they will have a six-bedded ward for acute stroke patients only. (3 males and 3 females.) They will also accommodate cardiac patients and neurology patients in the rest of the ward.

Promotions and New Staff Members.

We would like to welcome Mrs K G Nzimande to the Matron's Office. She came to us from Edendale where she worked in their Paediatric Out Patients Department. Prior to this she worked at Ga-Rankuwa Hospital in Pretoria in the paediatric wards. In fact, she said she has worked in paediatrics since she qualified as a registered nurse. We will value her expertise at our hospital.

Senior Sister KT Mckenzie has thrown away her blue uniforms and is now wearing cream. She is now the Matron-in-charge of Out Patients and Casualty. Congratulations!

Mr Lindelani Sokhela is the new Principal Human Resource Officer. He started here on 1st August 2004 from Madadeni Hospital in Newcastle. His wife, Gugu and their three children plan to join him in Pietermaritzburg as soon as possible.

Mrs Liz Durandt transferred to Grey's from Head Office-Labour Relations, on 1st March 2004 (sorry!) and is being kept busy with the labour issues at Grey's. We would like to welcome them both to Grey's.

Greype Vine Competition.

The winner of the May Greype-Vine competition was Staff Nurse X F Mbuli from CCU. She won herself a large Chocolate cake sponsored by **Chatters Coffee Shop**. The answer to the riddle was the "Model of the Hospital at the entrance to the Administration Block."

My new job as a Ward Clerk.

I was appointed on the 1st June 2001 as a Telcom operator here at Grey's Hospital. My main function was to answer incoming and outgoing calls on the switchboard. It also entailed interacting with all categories of staff and so making the lives of the patients better.

I enjoyed my job very much though it could be stressful. After some time, I felt I needed a challenge in my job so when the Ward Clerks posts were advertised I decided to apply. I was appointed on 1st June 2004 in Ward D1. I am basically doing the administrative work that was previously done by the nurses. This includes ordering medications for the ward from pharmacy, taking down urgent blood results from the laboratory, recording of admissions, booking appointments and the filing of documents and policies.

This job is relatively new and I am still learning. I feel that my work is challenging and interesting. I am now more hands-on in making the lives of the patients better. I miss my colleagues from switchboard and visit them often but I am hoping to give my best service at all times to maintain an efficient service delivery to the patients and the public, which will enhance the image of our institution.

Miss L.N. Khumalo. Ward Clerk. Ward D1.

SOME SPECIAL DAY'S IN THE CHILDREN'S WARDS

Grey's Hospital paediatric wards recently hosted a number of events in conjunction with the REACH FOR A DREAM FOUNDATION.

These events were held both for individual patients and the general ward and have brought a new dimension to our busy

wards. The excellent support from the nursing staff on ward E1 has enabled some really sick children to enjoy happy moments they would have otherwise been denied.

The joy associated with these activities is infectious and all, including the medical staff, have now decided to make this a permanent activity and to broaden the scope to all children's wards in the Grey's Hospital drainage area.



The individual dream concept started off with asking our chronic renal and liver failure patients what their dreams were. It was surprising what these dreams were: all some of the patients wanted was to see their homes, to see the beach, a packet of chips - simple requests which taught us all humility and simplicity. The Reach for a Dream Foundation

then took two of the children for a day visit to the beach and the new Ushaka Marine World. Both girls, who had never seen the sea, had a wonderful time and were visibly awestruck by the experience.



Following this a "Princess for a Day Party" was held. Here, with the volunteer help of beauticians,, the little girls in the wards were dressed up with pretty dresses and their faces done up with much excitement. The expressions on the children's faces once they saw themselves in the mirror with their tiaras made everyone's day.

To crown all the festivities our premier,s wife joined our children on her birthday and celebrated her special day with

them. First Lady Zama Ndebele brought gifts and goodies for all our kids. A great time was held by all.



The Reach for a Dream Foundation hopes to extend these activities to other children's wards. Grey's, however, will always be a special place for them as most children with terminal illnesses, in the western half of our province, come to or through our children's wards.

Dr K.L. Naidoo
Principle Specialist - Paediatrics

.....
**A man's true wealth is the good that
he does in this world.**

Competition.

This month's competition, is once again sponsored by **Chatters Coffee Shop** and the prize for the first correct entry drawn will be a large Chocolate Cake. Answers can be sent to Sr A Guise-Brown at The Nursing Campus. The competition closes on Friday 1st October 2004.....

From William O'Brien to Molly P
They're on the wall for all to see.
Take your time and spend a while
The aged goods will make you smile
Months of work and history too
It was put together for me and you.
Turn the key and step right in
Join us all, let the fun begin
Look left, look right
She's tucked in tight
So let's take a squizz
And tell us how old the cot is.....

**MINDS, LIKE PARACHUTES, FUNCTION BEST
WHEN OPEN.**

Life's Lessons.

A few years ago, at a Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-metre dash.

At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash but with a relish to run the race to finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the track, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back – every one of them.

One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better". Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story.

Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing course.

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle".

.....

**The happiest people do not have the best of everything,
they just make the most of everything that comes their
way.**

Choir News.

The annual choir competition was held at Grey's Hospital on the 1st and 2nd July 2004. 37 choirs took part with participants coming from as far as Newcastle and the North Coast. The two day competition was wonderful with the recreation hall filled with song. Grey's Hospital came first on 1st July and second overall. Well done Choir!!

The choir is singing at this years Nurse's Graduation Ceremony. If anyone would like to join the choir please contact: Ignatia on 3167 or Sister Caldecott on pager 351.

We are looking for a pianist. If there is anyone out there who can play the piano and who is willing to help the choir, please contact us.

Izindaba ze-Choir.

Ngomhlaka 1 and 2 July 2004 bekunomncitiswano omkhulu wamakwaya eGreys Hospital. Lomncintiswano wenziwa kanye ngonyaka.

Bekukhona ama kwaya awu 37 esuka ezindaweni eziningi. Abanye babesuka kude njengako Newcastle na ko North Coast.

Lomncintiswano wezinsuku ezimbili wawumuhle kakhulu ihholo laseGreys Hospital laligcwele mfi. Injabulo yachichima lapho iGreys Hospital iphuma phambili ngomhlaka 01 July yathatha isibili sekuhlanganisiwe ngosuku lwesibili.

NENZE KAHLE GREYS HOSPITAL CHOIR!!!

iChoir izobe icula kwigraduation yalonyaka e City Hall.

Uma kukhona ofisa ukuyijoyina sicela athintane no Ignatia kulenombolo: 3167 noma u Sr Caldecott kupager no: 351.

Ikwaya lifuna ne pianist (umuntu oshaya I-piano.)Uma kukhona umuntu ongasisiza asishaye le piano sicela nisithinte kulezinombolo ezingenhla.

Sister T Caldecott.

Ode to K T Mckenzie.

Big blue eyes and a ready smile
She always goes the extra mile.

She can be likened to an elastic band
Pulled hither and thither, she's forced to expand.

Indispensable she is to Grey's
In every department, a role she plays.

Diplomacy is the name of her game
The most difficult staff, she will tame.

A sense of humour keeps her sane
For life can be tough in her fast lane.

A willing horse who never says no
For the sake of Grey's she remains on "go".

From procurement to being a bug in a play
From QI to art, she finds a way.

Calm and collected she addresses all tasks
Recognition and glory – she never asks.

All of Grey's rejoice today
Promotion has finally come KT's way!

Senior Sister Gael Meter.

Sometimes you do not know what is missing
until it arrives.

Paediatric ICU is a year old!

It is difficult to believe that a year has passed since the long awaited Paediatric Intensive Care Unit was opened. Much has happened since July 2003, including the expected 'teething' pains, but generally the overall environment has been a happy one. Not a day has gone by without each staff member learning something new and sharing new knowledge with others. I think the secret to our happiness and success is a cheerful and inquisitive attitude and a willingness to work as a team – doctors, nurses, cleaners and administrative staff. Without you, the unit would be a completely different place. Thank you all!

Sister C.J.Steyn.

Fare well to Nathi Kuseni.

We are sad to bid farewell to a good friend and librarian, Nathi Kuseni. He has moved on promotion to Chief Nkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital as Library Services Manager. We would like to thank him for the improvements he has made to our Medical Library such as: creating more shelf space for all the extra books and journals, motivating for the installation of an air conditioner and organizing a TV and video machine for viewing of educational videos. He has responded to the hospital staff's requests for additional books, which has helped the hospital to provide excellent and efficient medical and nursing care to the community.

Sister Xoli Mtunzi.

A loving heart is always young.

Farewell to Senior Sister Gill Platt.

Senior Sister Gill Platt will take early retirement at the end of August and Grey's will certainly miss her.

She has worked as a sister in Grey's Theatre since 1977 but that wasn't her first contact with our hospital. Gill left Zambia, after completing her schooling there, to enter the Convent. While studying to become a nun she was allowed to do the Enrolled Nursing Course at St Anne's Hospital in Loop Street. During her training she left the Convent but completed the Staff Nurse Course. Thereafter she came to Grey's and did the 3 Year Course to become a Registered Nurse and she studied midwifery. After this she went to Johannesburg for a year, overseas for a year and then to King Williams Town where she worked in Gray Hospital for another year. In 1977 she returned to Pietermaritzburg where she has been ever since. She has some lovely stories to tell about things she has done over the years. While doing her training at St Anne's Hospital, one of the plumbers in the hospital had a tandem bicycle which he altered to have three seats. She and two of her friends used to ride this bicycle all over town. One day they decided to ride to Durban on it. It took them about 9 hours but they got there eventually. The return trip was made on the train, as they would never have got back again on their bicycle. Dr Cromme was a godsend to them as each time the bicycle's chain came off he put it back for them.

A few years back Sister Platt was a patient in Ward M5 when a prisoner, who was a patient in M4, escaped. The prisoner was able to wrestle the guards gun away from him and ran into M5 waving the firearm. Sister Platt and Mr. Hellberg, who was also a patient at the time, hid behind the door in Sister Platt's ward. They were both on a soft diet but Sister Platt offered Mr Hellberg a 'Love Bite'. What Mr Hellberg didn't realize was that, 'Love Bite' was the name of the biscuits she had in her room. Being the gentleman that

he is, he answered "No thankyou, I don't think my wife would approve". For a long time after they had a private joke between themselves about Sister Platt giving him a 'love bite'.

We will miss Gill at Grey's, but no more so than the staff in Operating Theatre, where her bubbly sense of humour has often kept them sane.

Good luck, we hope you enjoy your trip to Zanzibar and that you have a happy and healthy retirement.

The Editor.

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Grey's Hospital Museum.

Did you know that as you walk into the hospital building at the Montgomery Drive entrance, on your right hand side is a brown door, behind which is the Hospital's Museum. It contains photographs, stories, models and equipment from a bygone era.

At the request of the Hospital Board, the museum was put together by Mrs Jenny Duckworth (wife of Dr Bill Duckworth) ably assisted by Miss Roslyn Devereux. Mrs Duckworth trained at Grey's and has always had an interest in Grey's and it's history. She compiled the Hospital Brochure, which was printed in 1985, soon after the 'Big Walk' up the hill from The Old Grey' to the New Grey's.. As a result she had a lot of information at her fingertips and she had collected old photographs, which with the help of staff from Museum Services, she was able to use. Every matron since 1878, most of the Medical Superintendents and a large number of doctors and nurses are represented in the displays.

The Museum is named after Edward Hodson, a man whose generous bequest to the Hospital was used to finance the

museum. It was officially opened by Mr. Peter Miller MEC (Hospital Services) on the evening of 16th October 1992.

Everything on display is authentic. Most of the equipment came from The Old Grey's, some of which had been in storage for a number of years. The museum took about 2 years to complete and the amount of work involved is obvious.

A reconstruction of the first Children's ward, dedicated to Matron Macdonald, is an interesting feature. She was the Matron of Grey's for 27 years and died tragically in 1907, two years after her retirement, when she intervened in an argument between two of her servants. The present children's ward (A1) is named after her.

The museum has been visited by people from all over the world including Mr. Bernard Dwyer from Cheshire in England. He wrote the following in the visitor's book: 'My father was treated for war injuries sustained in the Sahara Desert from 1941-1945. Thank you for putting him back together again.'

Anyone wishing to visit the Museum can do so by obtaining the keys from the security guard at Montgomery Drive entrance, near the escalators. But make sure you have time to spare as there is so much to see it will take you a while.

Sr A Guise-Brown.

Ward of the Month.

The Group 1/99 Trophy for **Ward of the Month** has been awarded to ICU, for August 2004.
Congratulations!

Appreciate the accomplishments of others.

STIMELA (TRAIN) 2004.

Firstly, many thanks to the editorial committee for giving me this opportunity to share some words with everyone.

This is about the train we have joined at Grey's at the beginning of June 2004.

Thank-you for the warm welcome we received from all the Grey's staff members, who treated us with respect and dignity. Mrs Smith and Mrs Dlomo, your words of wisdom have not been forgotten.

We need to: **Share** what we have got with one another. Our knowledge is very helpful to others and the sharing of this knowledge will be appreciated by the rest of the team.

We need to: **Trust** one another as well as ourselves. Trust yourself to achieve the goals that will take you further in life.

We need to: **Improve** our quality of work, our behaviour and our life-styles because improvement makes a big difference to our lives and the life of others.

We need to be: **Measured** enough to take up our responsibilities and ensure our decisions enable us to have a firm established family.

We need to: **Educate** ourselves and one another. We won't always make the right decisions, but your words of advice will be appreciated.

We need to: **Lead** by example. South Africa has had a good leader, who played an important role in our country, and we have seen how it has been enriched by good leadership.

We need to: **Align** our lives and put things accordingly. The younger generation is looking up to us and if we are not aligned properly we won't have a better younger generation in the future.

We have decided to join this STIMELA (TRAIN) at Grey's to serve the mission of care. We hope to have many years at Grey's and that this train goes a long way.

I would like to steal some of Mrs. Gee's words: "Keep the light burning, The Spirit of Grey's is the Nursing Staff who must stay proud to work here. We must all continue working towards unity."

Mr VJ Mkhize. Ward C2. Clinical Orderly.

Graduation Prizes.

The following people have won prizes which will be awarded to them at this year's Graduation Ceremony.

Matron's Prize for Leadership: S. L. Summerton.

Mavis Nash Trophy for Devotion to duty:

K. P. Nhl abathi

Merit Award for Student of The Year: T. N. Mqokozo

Robert Webb Memorial Trophy for Enrolled Nurse of the Year: L-A Gengan

Group 1/88 Fellowship Award for Bridging Course

Nurse of the Year: T. N. Mqokozo

Henrietta Stockdale Floating Trophy for Best

Professional Image: MCE De Wet

Dr RE Stevenson Award for Perseverance and Achievement: J. S. Shezi

Dr W O'Brien Prize for the Highest Aggregate in Theory in Training: S Bowen

Medical staff Trophy for the Highest Aggregate in

Oral and Clinical: J-A Hi tchcock

Blair Turton Award for Best Practical Second Year

Nurse: CYP Pi I I ay

Group 4/75 Award for Best Practical First Year

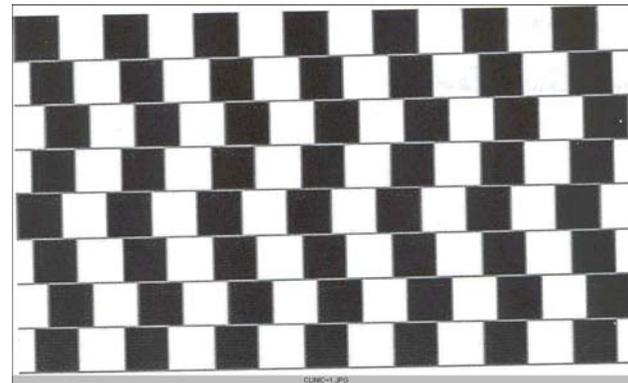
Nurse: W Ndl ovu

Group 1/86 Trophy for the best Psychiatric Nurse:

SL Summerton

David Canning Memorial Trophy for Highest

Theory and Clinical Marks in Midwifery: S Bowen



Are the horizontal lines parallel or do they slope?

We cannot discover the oceans until we have the courage to lose sight of the shore.

THE TIDE HAS TURNED FOR GREY'S HOSPITAL.

It is perhaps the right time to write this article and say “Grey's Hospital is yet again on the verge of making history, as the first hospital in the Pietermaritzburg area to be short-listed among the top-ten public-service organisations, participating in the Premier's PriceWaterHouse-Coopers' Good Governance Awards Scheme and also perhaps the first hospital in the area, in line to clinch the Gold Award” .

It is also worthy to note that our participation in the scheme is largely due to the dedication and determination of our staff. It is due to their selfless endeavor to ensure that the mere existence of Grey's Hospital proves to impact positively in the Department's campaign to create a healthy province, thus meeting the needs and expectations of our customers.

The time is therefore opportune for me to thank all of our staff members in their respective areas of work, for supporting the hospital's participation in the Good Governance Scheme, through various efforts.

As mentioned earlier in the article, Grey's Hospital is right up there with the best. The challenge, therefore, becomes the need for us to stay up there and to continuously improve on our efforts. For that reason it is important for us to maintain the momentum, give the best possible service to our customers, and prepare to sweep the panel of judges off their feet, when they arrive at Grey's Hospital this week, to assess our level of service to customers.

Let us ensure that we raise our performance levels with respect to meeting the demands and the needs of our clients, let us offer our customers the best value for their money.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every department (including all staff) the very best of luck in their respective efforts to improve patient care and I also urge all our staff members (starting from

the entrance of the hospital and right to the back) to practice and to live the spirit of Batho Pele.

Thanking you
Simphiwe Mthembu. PRO.



**Telephone 033-8973274 or
phone us on extension 3274 and
we will have your order ready
for you to collect.**

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Monday – Friday
07h00 – 17h00
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