

Positively remote

Edith Cowan nursing student Tracey Haimes from Perth reflects on a clinical placement at Newman District Hospital late last year...

AFTER completing practical placements in Kununurra, Port Hedland and Paraburdoo I was given the opportunity to experience a real remote/rural setting for my last five-week clinical placement.

This experience was very rewarding. I learned much about the Martu culture and the role of the rural/remote nurse from the nurses and other health care staff and also the patients themselves as well as by borrowing relevant books on Martu culture from the local library.

I was also able to spend the day with East Pilbara Independence Support coordinator Julie Hughes and other EPIS staff members and spend time with the Aboriginal elders from Newman and Parnparjinya Community. I even managed to learn to speak a little of the Martu language, which was most satisfying.

I found that in every setting all the staff I worked alongside of were dedicated and enjoyed their jobs. They supported my learning requirements. I also



Recent graduate Tracey Haimes did some of her nursing training at Newman Hospital and found the experience a positive one.

furthered my professional development by participating in various study and in-service days provided by the hospital such as a plaster cast practical course run by Fremantle outpatients clinic, an Aboriginal Culture Awareness Workshop and working alongside the midwives in the antenatal clinic. I achieved competency with my basic life support and consolidated my clinical skills while at Newman Hospital. Under the direction of my clinical supervisor I became more competent with assessing patients in Emergency.

It was a thrill to see my first birth. I have gained valuable insight into the role of the rural nurse especially the diverse range of skills that these nurses use as opposed to their city-based counterparts. Undertaking a clinical placement at a rural/remote hospital was excellent experience and has broadened my knowledge and confidence.

I have now completed my bachelor of nursing and have commenced employment at St John of God Hospital on the postnatal ward and will begin postgraduate midwifery studies in July.

More places

WHEN the community talks, Newman YMCA tends to listen, particularly when such talk has been about the lack of childcare services in town.

It prompted YMCA executive director Jacqui Stutt and her team to have a go at meeting this need with new staff members who are passionate about providing quality childcare for local children.

"When we advertised for new staff to cater for our Wiggly Worms 3+ Kindy program we received 11 quality applicants!" Jacqui said. "After seeing a gap in the amount of childcare available in Newman we thought we would try to utilise those who applied to compliment existing child care facilities in an effort to close that gap."

Places are available for two-year-olds to school age, with licensing pending enrolments for younger children. Until Newman YMCA management have some idea of how many people need care for children younger than two they are currently unable to offer care for that age group. But that can change said Jacqui.

"What we need are expressions of interest. If we have your name on our list, that makes it much easier for us to commit to a program. If you have a child under two and you need childcare, please contact us and put your name down. Every name counts!" she said.

"We are trying to meet

community needs, but to do so, we need numbers, enrolments. We are not competing with day care. We offer longer hours but have a different fee schedule to reflect that. We aren't funded to run a day care centre so all the fees charged are to pay for running costs only. We may cost a bit more but we are willing to try to close the gap between what is and isn't available in town right now."

In addition, the YMCA has applied for longer opening hours and a more comprehensive after school care program for kids from kindergarten age to 10-year-olds.

"Again, we're not trying to compete with the Recreation Centre's After School Program, instead we are taking up the slack with more flexible hours but less flexible options," Jacqui said. "For example, we will not have a pick up or drop off system, this will remain the parents' responsibility. Basically, we're tailoring our programs to cover areas that existing care doesn't. The YMCA has great facilities, why not use them to benefit the community... which is what we are here for."

Full-time day care is now available Tuesdays through Fridays, with the possibility of Mondays depending on demand. All YMCA childcare programs will be supported by a new addition to the YMCA team, psychologist Kate McGill. For enrolments or for more information phone the YMCA on 91751020.

Rainie Luckie

Head start program

THE Newman YMCA's Wiggly Worms program prepares children aged three and over for kindergarten. It gives them a head start in social skills and activities they will need later on, especially those who missed out on kindergarten this year by a few weeks or months due to the Education Department's age restrictions.

This year will see Wiggly Worms progressing under the guidance of new coordinator and resident psychologist Kate McGill. Classes will be grouped according to age, with two new concepts: I Can Do It for those aged three and up; and Ready, Set, Go! for those closer to four years and over.

"The I Can Do It is aimed at allowing pre-kind children a chance to have a go while encouraging high self esteem by allowing them to be exposed to real life situations through dramatic, yet functional play," Kate said. "We will introduce them to the alphabet and numbers and teach them

the importance of playing together and helping one another.

"The Ready, Set, Go! is for 4 year olds; preparing them with all the knowledge they require for kindy next year, which will focus on concreting their knowledge of the alphabet and numbers, encouraging them to use their imagination through arts and crafts and story time," she said. "We are introducing the ideas of needs, wants and responsibilities, and encouraging children to participate in small as well as large groups."

Wiggly Worms starts Tuesday, February 12, and matches the school terms. Sessions are Tuesdays (I Can Do It class) and Wednesdays (Ready, Set, Go class) from 9-11am. If you want your child to attend both classes regardless of age or progress level you can enrol them in both. For enrolment or more information phone the Newman YMCA on 9175 1020.

Rainie Luckie

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