

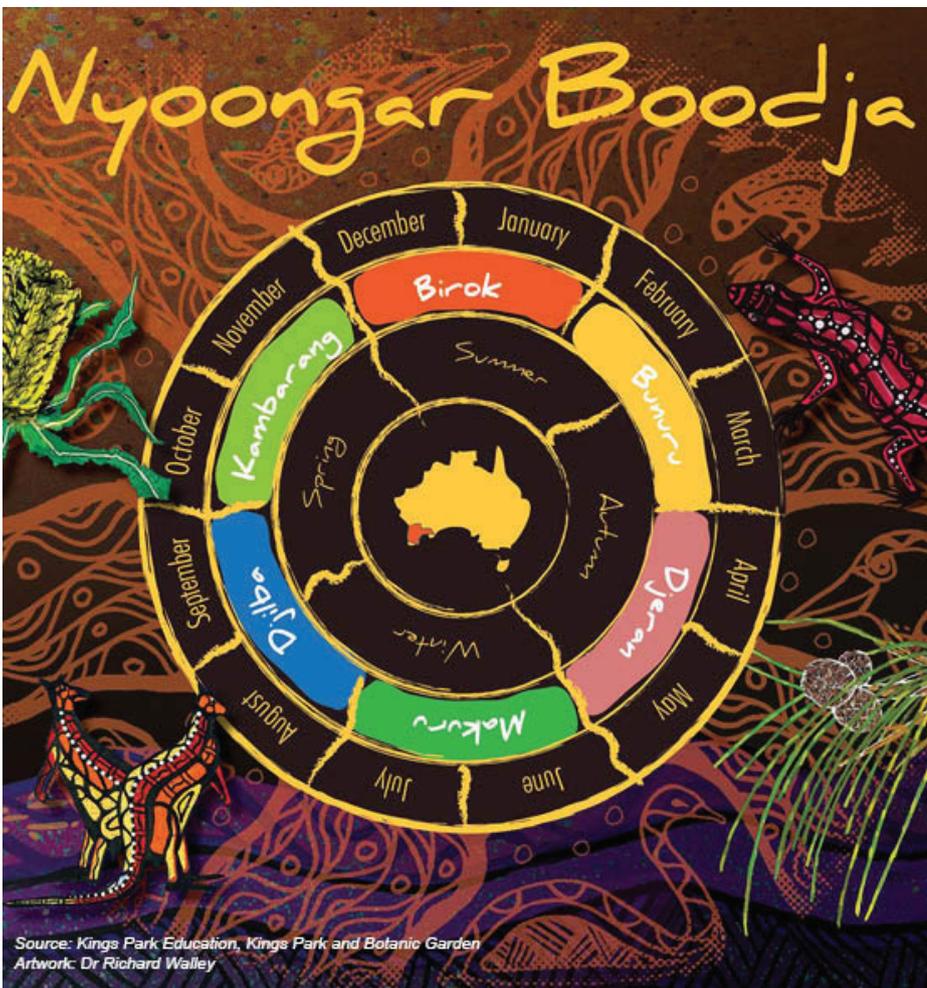


Update from the Medical Director

Since the previous newsletter BreastScreen WA (BSWA) closed the service down on 30 March 2020 to protect our clients and staff. We just as dramatically recommenced screening less than a month later on 29 April 2020. While this was a tumultuous time that took a huge toll on the staff, I feel proud to work with a service that is so client centred and can work with such agility and vigour. BSWA used the down time to work on facility and IT upgrades to the mobile vans and the metropolitan clinic sites. Sadly, the COVID closure and the service reductions at the end of last year due to assessment capacity issues, have meant we will screen 15,500 less women than in the 2018/2019 financial year. Last year BSWA undertook a 10-year service planning exercise to map future population growth and the strategic location and expansion of clinical services to meet current and future demand for mammography screening services. The 10-year Future Service Development for Mammography Screening 2030 document was developed in collaboration with NMHS Clinical Planning and contribution from Spatial Service Unit, Epidemiology Branch WA Department of Health.

As 2020 continues to unfurl in this unpredictable and dare I say unprecedented fashion, I feel confident BSWA will continue to provide the best service it can within its current screening and assessment resource envelope.

Dr Liz Wylie



Makuru season of fertility

Winter: June-July

Time to move inland
More food available.

Makuru sees the coldest and wettest time of the year come into full swing. Traditionally, this was a good time of the year to move back inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south bringing the cold weather, rains and occasionally snow on the peaks of the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges.

As the waterways and catchments started to fill, people were able to move about their country with ease and thus their food sources changed from sea, estuarine and lake foods to those of the lands in particular the grazing animals. As well as a food source, animals provided people with many other things. For example, 'Yongar' or kangaroos not only provided meat but also 'bookas' (animal skin cloaks that were used as the nights became much cooler).

Makuru is also a time for a lot of animals to be pairing up in preparation for breeding in the coming season. If you look carefully, you might now see pairs of 'Wardongs' (ravens) flying together. Upon the lakes and rivers of the Southwest, you'll also start to see a large influx of the Black Swan or 'Mali' as they too prepare to nest and breed.

Flowers that will start to emerge include the blues and purples of the Blueberry Lilly (*Dianella revoluta*) and the Purple Flags (*Patersonia occidentalis*). As the season comes to a close, you should also start to notice the white flowers of the weeping peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) as the blues start to make way for the white and cream flowers of Djilba.

BSWA - nominated for Stars of COVID-19 awards

For the first time since opening in 1990, BSWA suspended breast cancer screening services.

Twenty-five BSWA staff members were deployed elsewhere to assist with the COVID-19 response.

Services at BSWA's 11 fixed clinics and 4 mobile clinics were suspended temporarily from March 30, to safeguard clients and staff. Screening at metropolitan clinics resumed on 29 April and mobile screening units resumed rural and remote screening in the first week of June.

BSWA was the first service nationwide to reinstate screening. Women who had their appointments cancelled were contacted to reschedule their mammogram and within the first week of reopening 3,000 women made their appointment online.

As a result BSWA's management team have been nominated for the Australasian College of Health Service Management - Stars of COVID-19 campaign. The campaign acknowledges individuals or teams who showed the characteristics of compassionate and excellent leadership during the pandemic. It reflects the collaborative effort taken to address the pandemic.

BSWA staff nominated for two GEM awards

BSWA is pleased to announce that staff on the Mobile Screening Units have been selected as finalists for the Inaugural "Going the Extra Mile" awards for the category of "Excellence in Customer Service".

The staff have been recognised for outstanding service to women in rural and remote Western Australia.



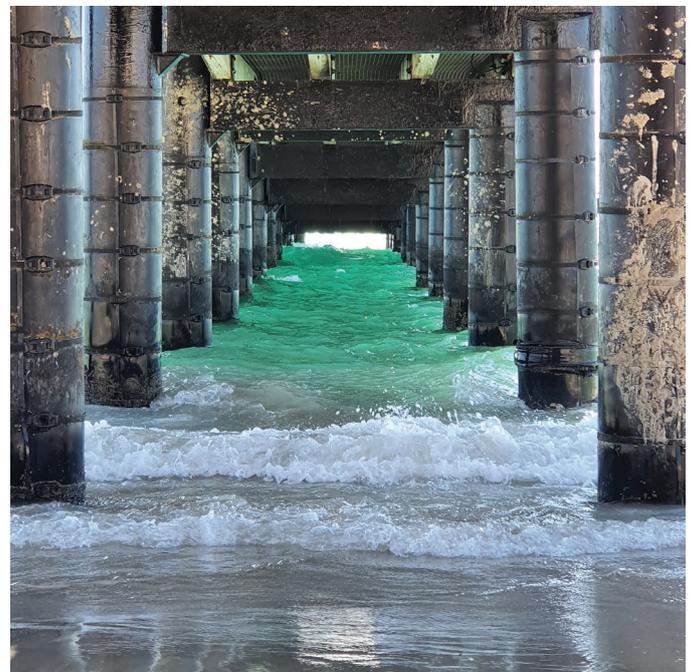
Support Services staff member Shanelle Hodgson (pictured left) was also nominated for a GEM award in the same category. Shanelle started working at BSWA in 2013 through our Aboriginal Employment Program.

Colleagues describe Shanelle as "incredibly good natured, friendly and always happy to provide assistance to other BreastScreen WA staff members and clients".

BreastScreen WA staff photo competition

In March staff were invited to submit entries into a photographic competition. More than 90 entries were received. The images received ranged from the pristine white sands of the WA coastline, spectacular inland waterways, to the red earth of rural WA. A few furry and feathered friends appeared as well. The pictures showcase the beauty and diversity of this amazing state. A selection of the photos will be displayed in the permanent and mobile clinics for staff and clients to enjoy.

Thankyou to all BSWA staff members who submitted photos, it was too hard to pick just one... so congratulations to joint winners Sally McKeown and Kate Stevenson.



Coogee Beach Jetty | Photographer: Sally McKeown



Windjana Gorge | Photographer: Kate Stevenson

New GP Advisory Group members

Dr Sarah Paton works at RPH Breast Clinic as a Breast Physician, she is a passionate advocate for women's health, screening programmes and the early detection of cancer. She is an avid participant



Dr Sarah Paton

and fundraiser for cancer research, and in particular for The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research here in Perth.

Sarah trained in Perth as a doctor working at RPH with studies taking her and her husband for many years to Melbourne and Boston. She has also worked in General Practice, Paediatrics, and done postgraduate studies in Dermatology, continuing to work part-time, as she has done for 22 years, as a skin laser physician.



Dr Sarah Smith

Dr Sarah Smith is a local graduate who completed Rural GP training and worked in both WA and the UK. She has a strong interest in Women's Health, and has worked at SHQ (formerly Family Planning

WA) as both a clinician and educator since 2002.

In February she commenced as the KEMH Liaison GP, which involves promoting clear and effective communication between the hospital and primary care providers, particularly in the areas of GP referral, inpatient discharge, shared care, outpatient and Emergency Department visits. Outside of work her family, running, reading and music keep her entertained.

New breast physician in Bunbury

BSWA welcomes Dr Linda Sutanto to the team. Linda works as a GP in Busselton and achieved her FRACGP as well as the Diploma of Woman's health in 2013. She has an interest in Geriatrics, Skin Cancer Medicine and Nutrition. Linda loves running, reading, learning new languages and spending quality time with her family.



Dr Linda Sutanto

BSWA radiographers in training

BSWA's Screening Services team have welcomed Natasha O'Sullivan and Kim Finegan into their clinical training. Natasha and Kim are enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Mammography, developed by BreastScreen Australia and delivered by Charles Sturt University in NSW. All of their hands on skills training will be conducted in the BSWA clinics by qualified trainers.



Natasha O'Sullivan



Kim Finegan

Farewell to Nurse Barbara

A morning tea was held to bid nurse Barbara Hasenoehrl a fond farewell. Barbara started working with BSWA as a breast assessment nurse in 2016. In her new role Barbara will be caring for women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. During her farewell speech she encouraged staff to "keep up the invaluable work they do for the early detection of breast cancer". We wish Barbara all the very best for the future, she will be missed by her colleagues and clients.



BreastScreen WA first time client survey results

Almost 500 clients attending BreastScreen WA clinics for their first screening mammogram have taken the time to complete a satisfaction survey about their experience. Clients were asked to rate their level of satisfaction about different aspects of their clinic appointment. The results from the survey (shown below) indicate a high level of client satisfaction related to all aspects of their clinic appointment.

