



Update from the Medical Director



Spring is well established and with all the lovely late rain, the place isn't crispy golden yellow yet. The newsletter is a great example of the amazing experiences of our staff providing such a participant centred service across such a large and diverse state.

We are now entering the busy end of the year with Pink Ribbon month, and the period up to the Christmas break.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed a number of staff, as well as farewelling Dr Anita Bourke after 25 years of faithful service to the program.

Dr Liz Wylie

Farewell to longterm staff member



Dr Anita Bourke at the Daffodil Day morning tea

Dr Anita Bourke has retired from BreastScreen WA and on Daffodil Day we had a morning tea to celebrate her contribution to the program. Anita has been reading for BSWA since 1995. Anita has been a tireless teacher, and is beloved by innumerable radiology trainees for her support and teaching. Anita was the first dual trained radiologist and nuclear medicine physician in WA. Anita is the whole package, highly competent specialist radiologist, loving wife and mum of 3 boys, adored grandmother, committed highly published researcher and academic, and to top off all these achievements, she successfully undertook a BA in Arts at UWA, in foreign languages, winning the Nisbett Prize in 2009. We all hope Anita lives long and truly prospers.

Women's Health Week 2021



BreastScreen WA and Jean Hailes partnered again this year to promote Women's Health Week. Each of the 2808 women who had a screening mammogram at one of BreastScreen WA permanent or mobile clinics were offered a Jean Hailes bag. Bags were also given to women who attended a BreastScreen event, presentation or display throughout Women's Health Week. Health Promotion activities kicked off with the Rockingham Ladies Night Out on Friday 3 September. This year the event was held after hours to give busy women the opportunity to take some time out for themselves. More than 250 participants enjoyed a variety of stall holders, entertainment and activities. Three guest speakers encouraged women to prioritise their health and wellbeing, they included Sarah Blake, a conflict specialist; Dr Christabel Sami, a passionate mental health advocate and Sonya Schultz from BreastScreen WA.



Mobile screening unit update



Child performers telling the story of the Bunuba people.

Mobile staff were lucky enough to be in Fitzroy Crossing while the Yajilarra Festival was being held at Danggu Geikie Gorge. The festival was held inside the Gorge on the land of the traditional owners, the Bunuba people. Radiographer Kath Knight said "It was an amazing

location. We took the boat up the river and settled in for a wonderful evening which started with the smoking ceremony, followed with traditional dance and story telling.”



Pictured above are women from Balgo who travelled many hours by bus to attend the mobile screening unit in Halls Creek. Staff enjoyed dinner with the women who stayed overnight in town. A total of 93 women were screened in Halls Creek, 22 were first-timers and 71 had been screened previously.

in Women’s Imaging and has worked extensively in Obstetrics/ Gynecology imaging prior to moving to Australia with her family. To pursue her interest in Women’s Imaging she obtained training in Breast Imaging. She completed her Fellowship at Royal Perth Hospital in Breast Radiology in 2012, Abdominal & Urological imaging in 2013 and Fellowship with the Royal Australian and New Zealand college of Radiologists (FRANZCR) in 2014. She has been working as a Consultant Radiologist in WA since then. Her previous appointments include Kalgoorlie Hospital, Peel health campus and Fiona Stanley Hospital. She currently works with Perth Radiological Clinic.



Welcome to Caroline Mellish who is joining BSWA as a clinic receptionist. Caroline is looking forward to a people facing role in the health sector, after a combined 20 years behind the scenes in government agencies including Department of Water, Mines Safety and Lotterywest. At home she enjoys jigsaws puzzles, cryptic crosswords, and DIY projects. She’s also an avid social cyclist who loves weekends rides and (not put off by helmet hair) takes every possible chance to commute to work.

Welcoming new staff



Welcome Dr Sebastian Buzynski who will be working for BSWA as a radiologist. Sebastian graduated from medicine at UWA in 2006 and went on to start basic physician training in SCGH before seeing the dark and swapping to radiology. After completing a year-long breast

fellowship in 2017 at FSH, he took up consultant positions at FSH and SKG, working a combined 4 days a week with an enjoyable mix of general and breast work. Sebastian has two children (aged 3 and 1) taking up the rest of his time and he dreams of the day they let him sleep past 6am. Sebastian says he very much looking forward to starting at BreastScreen and is grateful for the opportunity to work in such a dedicated and professional team!



Welcome to Simone Skinner who will be joining us as clinical liaison officer and clinic receptionist. Simone moved from South Africa to Australia in 2016. Her previous roles were with the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement in

Melbourne as the Customer Service Coordinator for 2.5 years. In this role, she took inbound calls from distressed people who have lost loved ones and were in need of bereavement counselling, amongst other duties. After moving to Perth in 2020, she took on a different role at Department of Education, managing the online short courses. Simone loves music and has been known to do a bit of singing. She says the ocean is her happy place and she loves a good cruise.



Welcome Dr Ansu Abraham who graduated from University of Mumbai in 1999. After completing her Radiology training from KEM hospital Mumbai in 2005 she also obtained her FRCR (UK) in 2008. She has special interest

Christmas and Cocos Island visit

BSWA radiographer Gaye Moffitt took up the fantastic opportunity to screen women in Christmas and Cocos Islands in September.

Gaye recounts her last day of the trip: “On the final day we were very fortunate to be able to get help from the Federal Police (AFP) on Cocos Island when we needed to urgently get 3 clients from West Island to Home Island to have more imaging. The ferry does not run between 9:00 -14:30 and I needed to catch the 14:00 ferry back to West Island to catch my flight home. That morning I had spoken to my neighbour who worked for the AFP and jokingly asked if they would help if I couldn’t get back because of the numbers allowed on the ferry, he said ‘Yeah! Give us a call’. I had just given him my left-over cheese and crackers. So then when we desperately needed someone to ferry our ladies over, I asked the receptionist to call the AFP to see if they would help. Bingo! They were available and so they brought 3 very grateful clients over. Another successful breast screening trip to the Islands has been completed.”

Approximately 300 women were screened across both Islands. Thank you to the Island’s Health Services which were an invaluable help by providing administrative/reception duties as well as language translation, as most women spoke Chinese or Malay as their first language.



Australian Federal Police boat



Red footed boobie, a bird common to the Islands.

Christmas and Cocos Island visit cont...



Cocos Island beach



Cocos Medical Centre

Daffodil Day fundraising

Well done to BSWA staff and participants who collectively raised \$244.50 this year for Cancer Council’s Daffodil Day appeal by selling daffodil pins in the clinics and at head office. Thank you to everyone who donated to help raise these vital funds.

Extra screening capacity



Mirrabooka is the most recent clinic to now have extra screening capacity with the addition of a new screening room and X-ray machine. The new machine will allow for Mirrabooka to offer 84 appointment slots per day, an increase from 56.

Kerri Bradford, our Senior Medical Imaging Technologist said “It’s incredible how a simple lick of white paint and removing a giant cupboard can make such a big difference to a space for both the staff and our women.”