



## Update from the Medical Director



We are now in COVID-19 Red Alert. Community spread of COVID has brought with it our share of extra issues and problems.

I would like to say how proud I am of the staff, particularly staff working at the clinics and on the vans. Dealing with the complexity of clients having to change cloth masks into surgical masks, and other COVID safe initiatives has been challenging for staff. Most screening participants have been so cooperative; however, we acknowledge some clients are anxious and confused by the rapid change in restrictions and have not always shown the clinic staff the respect and courtesy owed to them. Community spread is bound to bring further challenges of staff sickness and staff shortages from quarantine furloughs.

The Department of Health has been reminding us to be kind to each other. I feel confident that while we will be challenged by our personal experiences with the pandemic over the next few months that BreastScreen will continue as a team to provide a high quality and caring service to the women of Western Australia.

*Dr Liz Wylie*

## A sneak peak of the new mobile clinic



BSWA mobile clinics are currently undergoing a makeover! Keep your eyes peeled in the next edition of the newsletter to see the transformation. The picture on the left gives a small preview of how magnificent the mobile clinics will look.

## Welcome to Matthew Shand



It is with great enthusiasm that I join the BreastScreen WA team in the newly created Operations Manager position.

I have worked in WA Health for 28 years commencing as a 19 year old back in 1994. Initially I commenced at Radiology Royal Perth Hospital and worked in varying roles, undertaking my Bachelor of Social Science, with a Double Major in Community and Welfare Studies whilst working full time. I was employed in the Business Manager role at Radiology for two years before moving to the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network in January 2014. In that role I was responsible for contract development and management, procurement, budgeting and finance activities, human resource management and other core business support tasks that assisted the state-wide service.

Moving to BreastScreen WA allows me to continue working in the field that assists in screening, prevention and early detection of cancer. I look forward to establishing relationships with the entire team of BreastScreen WA and am enthusiastic about re-engaging with Dr Liz Wylie, Carolyn Madeley, Julie Wilkes and others who I have previously worked with!

I balance my work life with a family of five, having been married for 25 years to my wife Alison, with whom I share two sons (Jordan – aged 23, & Tyler – aged 21) and our daughter Danielle, who is 16. Away from the office I enjoy keeping active by playing basketball and going to the gym. Over the coming months I look forward to meeting with staff, acquiring knowledge of the inner workings of the service, and establishing the Operations Manager position.

## Screening Services in-service day

Screening Services held their annual In-service day on Monday 20 December at Bruce Hunt Lecture theatre in Royal Perth Hospital. The clinic staff were welcomed by WNHS Co-Director, Nicole Flendt, who thanked them all for the work they do. The BSWA management team presented information to the team regarding what is being planned for the next twelve months. Thanks to Carol Pragnell who baked some delicious Christmas cupcakes for morning tea. Kerri Bradford disguised herself as the Christmas fairy at lunch time for the Recycled Secret Santa, where much fun was had by all involved.



Pictured above: Kerri Bradford BSWA Acting Senior Medical Imaging Technologist and the wonderful cupcakes made by Carol Pragnell Coordinator Support Services

Congratulations to Jan Maree Panton, Alison Adams, Karen Cardwell and Sandy Bruce-Smith on receiving their 10 years of service badge and certificate from Co-Director Nicole Flendt. A heartfelt congratulations also to Heather Boyle on her 20 years of service to BSWA. Thank you for your enormous commitment to the women of WA.



Pictured left to right: Alison Adams, Karen Cardwell, Sandy Bruce Smith and Nicole Flendt



Jan Maree Panton



Heather Boyle

## Farewell to longstanding CRG member



BreastScreen WA acknowledges and sincerely thanks Bettine Heathcote for her valuable contribution, tireless energy and fierce advocacy representing Council on the Ageing (COTA) during her active membership with

BSWA's Consumer Reference Group since 2005 until her resignation from the group in December 2021. Bettine graciously consented to lend her beautiful face to several BSWA photos and articles at new clinic launches, Pink Ribbon Breakfast events and publication resources. On behalf of BreastScreen WA and the CRG members, we wish Bettine a wonderful, healthy and happy future ahead in her new ventures!

## Farewell to Gagan

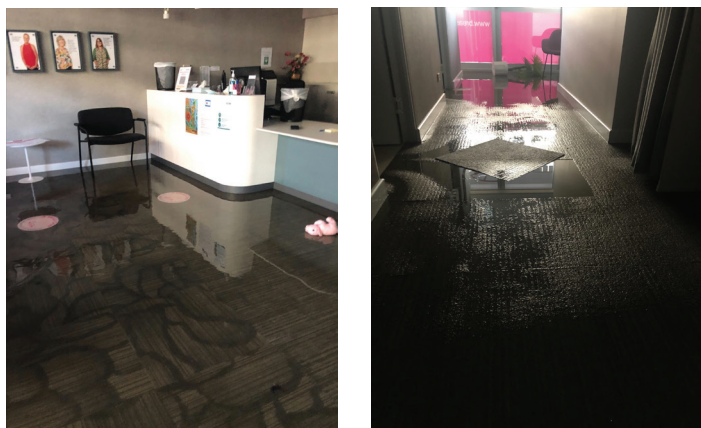
Gagan Randhawa was a vital part of the BSWA IT development team. He simplified many of the daily tasks to streamline the effort required in mailing out over 250 000 letters a year. During his time with BreastScreen WA, Gagan was responsible for many of the crucial reports that are used to track IT performance and was instrumental in the development of the automated daily digest of KPI's. When Gagan left he was finishing off the last stages of one of BreastScreen WA's core applications "Data Management". We wish him luck with his future endeavours.



Pictured left to right: Jeetendra Puntambekar, Gagan Randhawa, Andrew Waddell, Jacek Gonsalves and Preethi Sivasubramanian



## Flood destroys East Perth - Mardalup



The damage caused by the flood at East Perth - Mardalup clinic

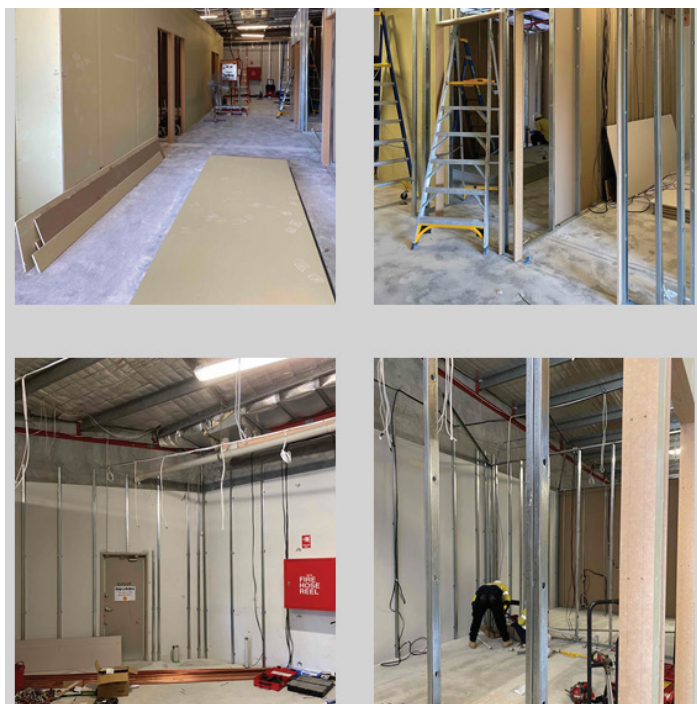
In the afternoon of Boxing Day 2021, notification was received of a flood event at the East Perth - Mardalup Clinic, with 0.5 meters of flood water. The building water sprinkler system had burst a 150mm main just outside the back door resulting in a massive deluge of water flooding our tenancy, the carpark and the reception.

The clinic back door had to be forced open by the Fire Department to release most of the water. However, there was still standing water to the height of about 2cm on all floors. Cleaners were employed to help remove water, an electrician was called out to make the area safe and water extractors were hired in an attempt to salvage the clinic. A big thank you to BreastScreen WA staff Susan Greenwood, Kerri Bradford and Carolyn Madeley who worked tirelessly to help with the mammoth task of making the premises safe and secure.

We are currently in the process of seeking quotes for the building repairs and are hoping to have the clinic back up and operational later in the year.

## Joondalup clinic update

The construction of the new Joondalup clinic is progressing well and is currently scheduled to be completed in April 2022. From the photographs, you will notice the concrete has been repaired following installation of the clinic hydraulics and the wall sheeting has commenced. We look forward to bringing you more updates in the next newsletter.



## National funding to improve participation



CRG Member Associate Professor Jennifer Stone from the School of Population and Global Health at the University of Western Australia has been awarded more than \$800,000 to support new research investigating obesity-related barriers to mammographic screening.

In collaboration with BreastScreen WA, the BreastScreenPlus project will focus on improving the mammogram experience, particularly for women in larger bodies, with the aim of increasing breast cancer screening participation.

Regular mammographic screening increases early-detection and thereby, improves breast cancer outcomes. By directly addressing barriers to screening participation, particularly for women with obesity who are at increased risk, the study has the potential to improve breast cancer survival. The study may also benefit the additional 30 per cent of the screening population who are overweight.