

13 October, 2014

Sutherland Hospital unmasked at hospital open day

Have you ever wanted to see what goes on in an operating theatre? Or would you like to go behind the scenes for a sneak peek at a children's ward and hospital school room?

On Saturday 1 November, 2014 between 10am and 3pm Sutherland Hospital is opening its doors to give visitors a rare insight into clinical areas that are generally 'off limits' to the public.

Cath Whitehurst, Director of Operations, St George and Sutherland Hospitals, said due to the tremendous success of the Open Day and Fair held in 2012, the hospital is again inviting the public to see first-hand what goes on in a busy major metropolitan hospital.

"Hospital tours led by clinicians will take place at 10am, 12 midday and 2pm. Tours will include a walk through the operating theatres, children's ward, hospital school room and rehabilitation gymnasium," Ms Whitehurst said.

"A photographic exhibition, a video showcasing the history of Sutherland Hospital and a display of the hospital's redevelopment will also be on show."

Family entertainment will include face painting, balloon animals, pony rides, carnival rides, arm plastering, Assistance Dogs display and stalls. A Devonshire tea will be served by hospital volunteers and staff will be cooking up a traditional Aussie barbeque.

Ms Whitehurst said Sutherland Hospital has a proud history with the local community and the Open Day and Fair was a way to give back to a community that continues to support its hospital today.

"Sutherland Hospital is a community-based hospital in the true sense, with community support dating back to 1944 – 14 years before the hospital was officially opened – when the first Auxiliary was set up to raise funds towards the building of a new hospital," Ms Whitehurst said.

"More than 56 years on, Sutherland Hospital continues to benefit from strong community support with volunteering and community donations for the purchase of medical equipment, research and improved patient amenities.

"In 1958, Sutherland Hospital officially opened its doors. What brought the Sutherland Hospital to life was the conviction of its community, and the tradition continues today with 98 per cent of its patients living in the local Shire."

For details about the community Open Day and Fair contact the Community Relations Department on 9540 7252.