

1 November, 2012

## 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 state-of-the-art birthing unit?

Visitors will be given a rare insight into clinical areas that are generally 'off limits' to the public when Sutherland Hospital opens its doors on Saturday 24 November, 2012 between 10am and 3pm.

Cath Whitehurst, Director of Operations, St George and Sutherland Hospitals said for the first time since 2008, the community will be given the opportunity to see first-hand the diverse range of healthcare services provided at Sutherland Hospital.

"Hospital tours, led by clinicians, and assisted by volunteers, will take place at 10am, 12 midday and 2pm. Tours will include a walk through the Operating Theatres, Birthing Unit, Children's Ward, Hospital School Room and Rehabilitation Gymnasium," Ms Whitehurst said.

"A photographic exhibition and a video showcasing the history of Sutherland Hospital will also be on show," she said.

Family entertainment will include performances by the NSW Ambulance band, community dance groups, boot scooting, face painting, balloon animals, pony rides, slippery slides, arm plastering, tai chi, stalls and even a petting zoo. A Devonshire tea will be served by Hospital volunteers, staff will be cooking up a traditional Aussie barbeque and there will be home-made cakes, jams and preserves for sale.

Rotary and Lions Clubs are supporting the day with Caringbah Rotary Club hosting an information display and Caringbah Lions Club selling Christmas cakes and puddings at their display stand.

Ms Whitehurst said Sutherland Hospital has a proud history with the local community and the Open Day 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 – some 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.

"More than 54 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.

"It's pleasing to see the volunteering spirit that inspired Sutherland Hospital's creation endures, with more than 700 active volunteers currently working within the Hospital and its associated caring centres," Ms Whitehurst said.

For details contact the Community Relations Department on 9540 7252.