



The Mooring

Caring for families of patients in Intensive Care

Farewell to Hetty

In February we farewelled our Team Leader, Hetty Laning. Hetty has done an outstanding job leading The Mooring over the last 6 years. We remember some of the amazing achievements Hetty oversaw during her time with us:

- Caring for over 500 clients in their greatest times of need
- Fostering crucial relationships with GCUH staff
- Growing the team from 4 to 24

We are so grateful to Hetty and the love, commitment and time she invested into The Mooring. We wish her all the best in retirement and endeavour to carry on the amazing legacy she left with The Mooring.

A big thanks to Judy Lee (pictured with Hetty) for taking on the role as Mooring Team Leader. Judy has seamlessly transitioned The Mooring in what has been another challenging year with COVID-19.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MOORING!
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift. 2 Corinthians 9:15

2021 in a nutshell

2021 brought change, challenge and opportunities. We were privileged to provide support and care for around 45 families of patients in GCUH. A big thank you to the whole Mooring team, many more than those pictured above: carers, cooks, laundry, supplies, maintenance, gardens, lawns etc. Without the selfless work of these volunteers The Mooring would not function.

The year began with the resignation of Team Leader Hetty Laning for health reasons, with Judy Lee filling the position. Health issues also caused Founding Director Bruce Murray to step back, now assisting in an advisory capacity, with SCC Ministry Team Leader Steve Peach taking overall responsibility for The Mooring.

We enjoyed working closely with GCUH Social Workers who refer families to The Mooring and were pleased to support them in a practical way by providing morning tea for their RUOK training day.

Covid impacted on the number of referrals, with some NSW families going into hotel quarantine instead of our units. Despite case numbers being about half of previous non-covid years, our two units maintained an occupancy of 70%, with more than 500 nights' accommodation provided to families. Funding subsidies enabled many to stay at little or no cost.

Thank you to all our supporters for the many generous donations which enabled the work of The Mooring to continue in 2021.

The Mooring Team wish you a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year.

Reflections from a Mooring volunteer

I am Margaret and this year I joined The Mooring team as a carer.

After orientation, training, and a tour of The Mooring unit, I was excited to meet my first client! A family needed support while Mum was about to give birth to a very premature baby. Baby would be looked after in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Fast forward three months and a happy Mum, Dad and tiny, healthy baby left to go home, 1100 kilometres away!

During those months I appreciated the work of so many Mooring volunteers. A freshly mown lawn, a beautifully cleaned unit, clean sheets on the beds, amazing homemade meals and care packs full of goodies all provided by volunteers. This blew me away. Every time clients receive help it blows them away too! Often people marvelled they were having their first good night's sleep since the trauma to their loved one had begun.

This year I have seen first hand that the support provided in practical ways by The Mooring gives comfort and peace to those in very tough situations as they continue to be available for their loved ones so far from home.



NEDS Program at GCUH

Gold Coast families who have experienced pre-term births are being reunited earlier thanks to a new Gold Coast Health service which aims to get premature babies home earlier.

Babies who are admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are then moved to the Special Care Nursery. Thanks to the new Neonatal Early Discharge Service (NEDS), babies can head home earlier. Babies discharged from the Special Care Nursery first need to be taken off tube feeding. With NEDS, babies who still have their nasogastric tube in situ can go home. Their parents are taught how to do their feeds by tube so they can establish breastfeeding or bottle feeding at home. The service plays an important role in bringing families back together after difficult times.

We were so delighted to care for a family who were able to transition their precious daughter (pictured) to The Mooring unit under the NEDS program. This is the first time NEDS have discharged a baby to accommodation other than their home. Without the Mooring unit this baby would have stayed in hospital much longer.

GCUH is the first hospital in Queensland to offer this service and it was a privilege to help unite this family earlier than predicted. We look forward to partnering with the NEDS program again.

NEDS information from goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au

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