

HealthNews

NELSON MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD WWW.NMDHB.GOV.T.NZ NELSON (03) 546 1800 MARLBOROUGH (03) 520 9999 MAY 2016

Celebrating our nurses and midwives

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The theme for this year is 'Nurses: A Force for Change'. Director of Nursing

and Midwifery Pamela Kiesanowski says it's the biggest day on the calendar for nurses – and really a chance to thank them and recognise them for the work they do.

Nelson Marlborough Health acknowledges the tremendous work nurses throughout our health system do every day.

Uniforms of yesteryear

Deanna Rooney and Michelle May wear World War I uniforms on International Nurses Day. Nurses from this era would also have worn very sturdy leather shoes or boots and stockings. Hair would be tied back and make-up and jewellery would have either been very minimal or non-existent.

New Zealand nurses who served in the wars generally served under the auspices of the NZ Army Nursing Services (NZANS).



Deanna Rooney (left) and Michelle May from Wairau Hospital model the nursing uniform of yesteryear.

International Midwives Day

Graham Cross has been a midwife for more than 30 years and has seen plenty of changes to the service in that time.

The midwife community is pretty small and less than one percent are male but Graham says gender doesn't really come in to the work.

"Midwives need a certain skill set, they tend to be self-sufficient and they support each other," he says.

"We put the woman and her baby at the centre and then walk alongside and advocate for her."

Graham Cross is the Maternity Unit Charge Nurse Manager at Wairau Hospital.

International Day of the Midwife (held on 5 May) this year celebrated the many ways women and newborns are at the heart of midwifery.



Midwife Graham Cross celebrates International Midwives day with two-day old Frank Prescott.

Nurse Practitioner role well-accepted

Diane Williams reckons she's been around nursing long enough to reinvent herself a few times. She's worked in ED, theatre, ski patrol, schools and in industrial, rural and occupational nursing roles.

Late last year Diane became the first Nurse Practitioner (primary health care) or NP to work at the Marlborough After-Hours GP service.

Originally trained in Sydney, Diane moved to New Zealand over 25 years ago and has developed a wealth of experience looking after health needs in rural communities.

"It's cradle to grave and dealing with everything that walks in the door," she says.

Read more about Diane and other 'Tales of Nursing Heroes' on nursingreview.co.nz or in the April edition of Nursing Review.



Diane Williams at the Marlborough After-Hours GP service.

BOARD TALK



Once again the staff of Nelson Marlborough Health has proof they are up there amongst the best in the country. Last month, we hit our health targets and this month achieved a successful three yearly accreditation which looks into the detail of how we do things. There is always an 'i' to be dotted and a 't' to be crossed, but we are doing well and our patients receive great care. For the people that come to work in our system every day, this is a great acknowledgment - thank you. For those who use the system, its reassurance. When you need our support, our health system will respond. That support might be at your local health centre, a hospital, or at home.

Wherever you touch the system, people will be well trained, caring and supportive and will work with you to sort out a plan to meet your needs. I appreciate that sometimes it takes longer than you think it should, but bear with us, everyone at Nelson Marlborough Health comes to work to make a difference, that's why they work in health.

Keep warm as we head towards winter.

Jenny Black

Jenny Black, Board Chair