

Media release

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Celebrating 50 years of nursing care

Sally Fahey has seen a lot of changes during her nursing career. The Charge Nurse Manager Rehabilitation at Wairarapa Hospital celebrated 50 years of nursing last week, an event that was marked in a quieter way than usual due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Sally trained in Lower Hutt as a community nurse and became a registered nurse in 1997. She has had a range of roles over her nursing career, including as a theatre nurse and in the emergency department, oncology, and burns and plastics areas of the hospitals where she has worked.

Sally said she has enjoyed the many different aspects to nursing she has experienced during her career, including as a nurse educator.

“I loved the education aspects of nursing, and being in a position to support young nurses starting out in their career.”

Sally said a lot has changed from the days when nurses had to curtsey to surgeons and made tea using a silver tea service for the charge nurse manager’s meeting with doctors.

“The advances in science, technology and medications have made a big difference in a patient’s journey. They have improved the care we can provide and shortened the length of time for surgical procedures and their time in hospital.”

From “not talking out of their station”, Sally said nurses now have more input into patient’s care.

“Nurses and doctors work better to provide more of a team approach to caring for people.”

What hasn’t changed for Sally over her nursing career is the satisfaction she gets from caring for patients and having a role in their recovery.

“Nurses have a great privilege to be able to do things for people that others can’t do.

“People don’t want to be unwell or in hospital. Seeing them get better and improve is really rewarding.”

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