



The benefits of inpatient rehabilitation

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AROUND THE HOSPITAL

President's Message.....	2
Graham Einfeld retires from Board	3
Patient Satisfaction Survey.....	3
Wolper's Annual General Meeting	4

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Foundation Grant Recipients Announced...	5
--	---

Foundation AGM	5
Cover Story: Benefits of Inpatient Rehabilitation	6 – 7

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

From The Kitchen	8
Meyerowitz gift	8
Wolper Staff Updates	9
Personal Perspectives: Fred Weissberger .	10
Covid-style concerts at Wolper	11



WOLPER

Editor: Michelle Stockley

8 Trelawney St Woollahra NSW 2025

P: +61 2 9328-6077

E: info@wolper.com.au

www.wolper.com.au



President's Message

Dear Friends,

At our recent Annual General Meeting I was delighted to publicly thank the entire Wolper team for their outstanding commitment during 2020. This was an unprecedented, ever-changing and very challenging year for everyone, particularly for healthcare workers and the older members of our community. We are so fortunate as a community to have such a capable, compassionate and dedicated team with strong leadership on which we can depend. And again I thank our patients and visitors for their understanding of the oft-changing restrictions imposed to protect them.

We enter 2021 on a much more positive note, pleased to leave 2020 in the rear view mirror. The pandemic in Australia is seemingly well under control, COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out, people are returning in greater numbers to their workplaces and hopefully complacency will be kept at bay. *We strongly recommend that all eligible members of our community be vaccinated* – whilst there are minor variations between the different vaccines there is no doubt that they all reduce very significantly the likelihood of serious illness, hospitalisation and death. In our view, the greater risk is to not be vaccinated.

We do have some concerns regarding moves by the private health funds to reduce patients' ability to access inpatient rehabilitation following orthopaedic surgery, particularly hip and knee procedures, and the general promotion of 'rehab in the home'. What is sometimes overlooked is that older people in particular often have multiple pre-existing medical conditions which in combination with surgery deem it difficult

for them to initially undertake rehabilitation on an outpatient basis or at home. Indeed, it could be unsafe for them to do so. Wolper offers an outstanding team of medical specialists in orthopaedic rehabilitation who offer comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation programs. Supported by our allied health and nursing teams, pharmacists, dietitians and discharge planners these specialists offer inpatients a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation in the comfort of our modern facilities and private suites. Should you wish to come to Wolper for inpatient rehabilitation post-surgery please let us know in advance. If you are told by another hospital that we have no available beds give us a call directly as bed availability continually changes. Please see page 6 for more information on this. And should you require outpatient rehabilitation, at Wolper or in your home, we are here to support you.

We are nearing the end of our extensive Wolper renovation and refurbishment program having last month completed the update of our ground floor and patient rooms with new carpet, paint and wallpaper and new furniture on order. This followed the refit of our two upper floors and café. Next on our agenda is the renovation of our stately sandstone fences and minor carpark works. This will bring to an end a project of over 2 years duration ensuring our patients are able to enjoy comfortable, modern rooms and facilities at Wolper in relaxing, leafy surroundings.

I would also like to congratulate Anupa Karki, Assistant in Nursing in our Medical Ward, who was chosen by vote of her peers as our Employee of the Year – congratulations Anupa, a well-earned honour!

As the festive season approaches, to those of you celebrating Passover I send our best wishes to you and your families for a joyful seder and 'Chag Pesach Samech', and for our friends observing Easter we wish you and your family very happy Easter celebrations.

Keep well and stay safe.



Richard Glass
President, Wolper Jewish Hospital



JOIN US AT THE

Friends of Wolper Golf Day

WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL, 2021

ST MICHAEL'S GOLF CLUB

[BOOK AT WOLPER.COM.AU/GOLFDAY/](https://www.wolper.com.au/golfday/)




Graham Einfeld retires from Wolper Board Roles

Richard Glass, President of Wolper Jewish Hospital, paid tribute to Graham Einfeld at the Annual General Meeting of the Hospital, noting his years of service and many achievements:

Graham Einfeld was elected to the Board of Wolper Jewish Hospital in November 1993 and held the position of Honorary Treasurer for 11 years. Graham not only ensured the Hospital ran efficiently and strengthened its financial base, he developed a clear vision for Wolper's involvement in community health. A number of programs were initiated during this time including the Tay Sachs program, Wolper Outreach and Wellbeing seminars. In 1998 Graham oversaw the transfer to Wolper of the services of the recently closed Scottish Hospital. Two years later, with President Murray Landis, the Rehabilitation Unit was expanded and a new hydrotherapy pool was built. Later he was instrumental in the difficult decision to close Wolper's unprofitable operating theatres and to sub-leased them.

Graham was elected President in 2004 and by 2008 the operating theatre leases were terminated and that space was used to accommodate a state of the art physiotherapy gym. The hydrotherapy pool was again enlarged and all wards were converted to private rooms with ensuites. During this period, Graham established the Community Partnership Committee and fostered such initiatives as Gift of Life Australia, and support of Hatzolah and Camp Sababa. It was a busy time.

Having fulfilled his 5 year term as President, Dr David Golovsky AM was elected the Hospital's President, and Graham served as Immediate Past President for two years from 2009. He was awarded an OAM in 2011 and in 2014 his outstanding service to Wolper was acknowledged with his appointment as Honorary Life Governor. That was the same year that the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation was established and Graham was invited to serve as a Trustee Director of the Foundation. He has since served three 2 year terms, a total of six years in that role.

In his address to Graham at the Wolper AGM, Wolper President Richard Glass said, "Graham you have served selflessly, with enormous commitment and integrity, and have made a truly meaningful contribution to both the Hospital and the Foundation. On behalf of the Hospital, the Board - and indeed our community - 'thank you' for all that you have done and we wish you only continued good health. Toda Raba (Thank you)."



Graham Einfeld OAM (centre) with his fellow Wolper Life Governors Dr David Golovsky AM (left) and Murray Landis (right)



Graham accepts a farewell gift from Wolper President Richard Glass at the Hospital's AGM

Patient Satisfaction Survey 2020

Our patients reported 98% satisfaction with Wolper's service in 2020 which was the same result as 2019. Despite the many changes we made to comply with NSW Health regulations related to management of COVID-19, and significant renovations taking place throughout the year, patients reported that overall the service met their expectations and they would recommend the Hospital 100% of the time. Some examples of ratings include patients reporting that they felt well-informed about their own hand hygiene and

observed staff and doctors performing hand hygiene prior to attending to them 100% of the time. Doctors and nurses were seen to have worked well and communicated together scoring 100%. Patients felt they were always treated with courtesy, empathy and respect by staff and doctors, a rating of 100%.

Wolper's results are benchmarked with other Private Hospitals in Sydney. The benchmark required is 85%. The average satisfaction scored for the group was 94%. Wolper performed well in all areas of service delivery.

Area of Service	Wolper	Bench- marking Group Average
Pre-admission	91%	91%
Admission	96%	89%
Care delivery	99%	94%
Accommodation	100%	96%
Discharge	95%	96%
General	100%	98%



L to R: Dr Allan Shell, Graham Einfeld OAM, Ian Sandler, Richard Glass, Dr David Golovsky AM, Murray Landis

Wolper's Annual General Meeting

Wolper's 59th Annual General meeting, held on 30th November 2020, was very much a product of its time. Our Directors gathered in the Hospital - appropriately socially distanced - while Members attended the meeting via Zoom. Much planning went into ensuring all health guidelines as well as the revised COVID-19 meeting and voting guidelines allowed for by the ACNC were adhered to and we're pleased to report it was a great success!

Richard Glass, in his first AGM as Wolper's President, updated Members on the Hospital's performance noting that, "In the first six months (of the reporting period 1 July 2019 – 30th June 2020) the Hospital continued its strong financial performance running at close to full occupancy. However, the second half of the financial year saw us having to deal with the distractions and uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic," and paid tribute to Wolper's staff saying that "without exception they excelled under very trying circumstances. It is a tribute to the strong leadership of our CEO, John Tucker, our Director of Clinical Services, Tina Boger, our senior managers and their teams that Wolper was able to manage these challenges whilst maintaining the highest standards of patient care."

Richard Glass also paid tribute to Daniel Goulburn OAM for his oversight of Wolper's renovations and Wolper Life Governor Dr Golovsky AM for his work on bringing Wolper's archives up to date in conjunction with the Australian Jewish Historical Society.



2021 Wolper Board Office Bearers Andrew Cohen, Richard Glass, Josephine Holland, Daniel Goldberg

Two important people were recognised for their extensive service to Wolper Jewish Hospital.

Dr Allan Shell has been involved with Wolper for over 40 years in numerous roles including visiting medical officer, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Vice President, member of various Board sub-committees and the Medical Advisory Committee. Dr Shell retired from his role on the Medical Advisory Committee in February having served thereon for over 30 years.

We are pleased to note that Dr Shell is continuing in his role as Convenor of the Wolper Wellbeing program and helping with the organisation of our Friends of Wolper Golf Day. You can read about both of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

Under the Wolper Constitution, our Life Governors receive Board papers and are eligible to attend Board meetings for 6 years from the date of their appointment. At this AGM, our Life Governor Graham Einfeld OAM completed those 6 years. Graham also stood down from his role on the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation Board. This means that Graham's 26-year formal association with Wolper has come to an end. See page 3 for more information on Graham's invaluable contribution to the Hospital.



Daniel Goulburn OAM meets with representatives of the Waverley Community Men's Shed:
L to R: Rodger Jamieson - Waverley Community Men's Shed Treasurer, Daniel Goulburn OAM - Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation Chair,
Graham Ely - Waverley Community Men's Shed Secretary, Tom Wolf - Waverley Community Men's Shed President

Foundation Grant Recipients Announced

The Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation is pleased to announce its latest grant recipients.

A new grant was awarded to:

Waverley Community Men's Shed – first aid training for supervisors as well as repairs to their defibrillator.

The Foundation's Chair, Daniel Goulburn OAM, visited the Shed to see their good work and to deliver their grant cheque and certificate. He commented, "It was enlightening to not only see how well the Waverley Men's Shed is set up but also the Shed's wonderful work in supporting the mental health of isolated men in our community. The Foundation is pleased to financially assist the Shed with the cost of first aid training and much needed repairs to their defibrillator."

Grant extensions were awarded to:

CSG – First Aid equipment and training

NSW Friendship Circle – Medical staff at their Adventure Getaways

Parkinson's NSW – funding and facilities for their counselling service at Wolper Jewish Hospital

Shalom Gamarada – a residential scholarship for an indigenous medical student

Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation – support for a research associate undertaking Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia clinical trials

Foundation AGM

The Foundation also held its AGM last November. Daniel Goulburn OAM, Foundation Chair updated Members on the latest Foundation grant recipients and advised that Graham Einfield OAM and Ronald Solomon have served their maximum term on the Foundation Board. They have been replaced by Dr Vivienne Milch and Nathan Shlesinger.

- Dr Milch is Medical Director of Cancer Australia, where she provides clinical policy oversight to Cancer Australia's initiatives, contributing to efforts to minimise the impact of cancer, address disparities and improve the health outcomes of people affected by cancer in Australia. She is also the Medical Advisor to the Commonwealth Department of Health on cancer screening policy.
- Nathan Shlesinger is the National Health Consulting Leader for PwC Australia and provides advisory services across the health and wellbeing industry.



Nathan Shlesinger



Dr Vivienne Milch



Benefits of Inpatient Rehabilitation

Joint replacement often involves rehabilitation following discharge from the surgical hospital. Currently there is some discussion in the media about where patients should undergo their rehabilitation – at home or as an inpatient in a specialised rehabilitation Hospital.

Wolper Jewish Hospital is a leader in rehabilitation and can help you understand the benefits of inpatient rehabilitation.

As an inpatient in Wolper's rehabilitation unit, patients will receive comprehensive 24 hour care and support from nursing and other clinical staff. We're here to get our patients mobile again. Pain management, wound care and personal care are all taken care of, reducing the risk of complications and leaving the patient free to focus entirely on their recovery.

Wolper's team of rehabilitation physicians, physiotherapists, nursing staff, occupational therapists and other allied health staff including dietitian and pharmacist take a collaborative approach to provide a personalised treatment plan for all patients.

Our specialised rehabilitation gym is fully equipped with all the equipment needed for patients to reach their rehabilitation goals in a safe, secure and comfortable environment.

Hydrotherapy is one of the most popular and most effective aspects of rehabilitation at Wolper. Its benefits can include reduced pain and faster post operative recovery. The buoyancy and warmth of the water allows the muscles to relax and eases the pain in the joints, allowing for more effective exercise. Wolper's chlorine-free heated hydro pool is one of Sydney's largest and is integral to its rehabilitation program.

The rehabilitation team keeps patients motivated and focussed on their recovery – something that can be tough to do when patients are isolated at home. Being surrounded by the rehabilitation team, as well as fellow patients who have experienced similar surgeries, provides a social and supportive environment which is so important for patient morale. Cody Kane, Physiotherapy and Day Services Manager, commented "It's always gratifying to see our patients support and encourage each other as they do the hard work of recovering."

Inpatients at Wolper enjoy delicious meals that are nutritiously balanced to maximise healing. Patients don't need to worry about anything other than themselves and their recovery as all other day-to-day tasks are taken care of for them. Additionally, rehabilitating in a recently-refurbished purpose-built hospital, rather than at home, provides the safest place to recover from joint replacement surgery.

Throughout a patient's admission, Wolper's occupational therapists and discharge planner work with each patient to ensure they experience the transition back to home life as smoothly as possible. Any special needs or concerns on being able to manage at home will be discussed with strategies and advice provided in order to cope.

I'm so glad I chose inpatient rehab

When Wolper patient Katrina Riesel scheduled her knee replacement she had two options for her post-operative rehabilitation. She could enrol in her health fund's 'rehab at home' program or she could undergo inpatient rehabilitation ie. rehabilitation in a specialised hospital like Wolper.

"Here at Wolper everything is taken care of for me and I don't need to worry about day-to-day tasks or pouring my energy into anything other than recovering. The nursing and physio staff here are the best and make sure I am working hard on my recovery in the safest, most effective way possible."

This is Katrina's second knee replacement and she knows the integral part hydrotherapy plays in rehab. "At home I wouldn't be able to do hydro and this was the most important part of my treatment the last time around."

"I'm so glad I chose to come into hospital for rehabilitation. Here at Wolper, the care is on tap! I couldn't imagine going through this on my own at home," said Katrina.



Katrina and her physio Jessica enjoy a laugh in Wolper's gym



Cody Kane with one of his patients in Wolper's rehab gym

"People often underestimate the extent and impact of their surgery"

Cody Kane, Wolper's Physiotherapy Manager, says that he finds people often underestimate the extent and impact of their surgery.

"Joint surgery is major surgery," he says "and everybody recovers from it differently. Some people need more time and more assistance."

Apart from the direct effects of the joint replacement (pain and wound issues) patients may also experience side effects from the surgery in general, especially the anaesthetic. These could include nausea and vomiting, dizziness, agitation, low blood pressure, feelings of grogginess or even confusion.

"Patients could also experience bladder issues and a drop in appetite," Kane continues.

"These patients are best suited to inpatient rehabilitation as they are supported through all aspects of their recovery."

So that his physio staff better empathise with their patients and their experience, Cody arranges for them to observe an actual joint replacement procedure. "Our physios and exercise physiologists get to see what our patients have gone through. After watching the process, they better understand patients' level of pain and the sometimes long road to recovery."

Individuals may have heard that it is tough to get into Wolper Jewish Hospital. It is highly likely that this is not the case.

"I urge all private health insurance holders to ensure they are getting the full benefit of their premiums by querying their funds and making sure they get the services for which they are eligible," recommends John Tucker, CEO Wolper Jewish Hospital.

Before surgery people wanting to undergo rehabilitation at Wolper should take these steps:

1. Contact their health fund and confirm they are covered for inpatient rehabilitation specifically at Wolper Jewish Hospital.
2. Contact Wolper's Rehabilitation Services Manager to discuss the date of surgery.
3. At pre-admission or on the day of surgery, let the surgical hospital and the surgeon know that arrangements have been made with Wolper.

Following surgery, people who are advised that there are no beds available at Wolper should confirm this with the Hospital directly and inform their surgeon.

Marcelle Segal is the Rehabilitation Services Manager at Wolper and will coordinate patient admission to Wolper Jewish Hospital's rehabilitation unit.

"I look forward to welcoming you to Wolper and helping you to have the best and safest recovery possible," she says.

Marcelle can be contacted on 8324 2221 or marcellesegal@wolper.com.au



From The Kitchen

Pesach Bagels, the ultimate oxymoron.

Struggling to think of a Pesach meal menu for your guests or fussy eaters? I bet bagels are not the first things that pop to mind. But why should we limit ourselves to plain matza, when we can indulge in a soft bagel?

Looking back to Pesach in 2020 leaves me with a pit in my stomach, remembering how we were confined to our own homes and unable to share a meal and tell the Pesach story in person with our family and friends. This is one of my favourite recipes that my aunty makes for our Pesach BBQ lunch. To me, this simple recipe is an opportunity to bring the family together. It reminds me of sitting around the table, sharing lunch and just enjoying each other's company. It also reminds me of just how lucky we are to be in Australia and how different our Pesach 2021 will be, having found a way to live somewhat normally in a pandemic world.

We hope you enjoy this recipe, as you reflect on the difficulties of the year that passed and also the exciting times we see ahead. Impress your guests this Pesach with an indulgent Passover bagel, sit back and watch their surprised expression as they enjoy these gluten free, kosher for pesach treats.

Whatever you choose to cook this year, we wish you all a safe and healthy yom tov - from our Wolper Kitchen to yours.



Aunty's Pesach Bagels

Ingredients

- 3 cups blanched almond flour (3 1/2 if including the apple cider vinegar)
- 1 cup tapioca starch
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher or sea salt
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar (optional)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2/3 cup warm water

For Boiling

- Medium pot of water 2/3 full

For the Finishing

- 1 large egg beaten
- dried toasted onions or garlic (optional)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 180°. Line a baking sheet with a silicone mat or baking paper. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, blend together the dry ingredients, ensuring there are no lumps. Make a well in the center.

3. Add the vinegar (if using), honey and warm water. Stir together until completely blended and smooth. Allow the dough to rest for 2-3 minutes.
4. Divide the dough into 6 even pieces.

For Boiling

1. Bring the pot of water to a simmer over medium heat.
2. Roll a piece of dough between your hands (wet hands or vinyl gloves work best) until a ball forms. Pat the dough down slightly to make a disk. Using your index finger, make a hole in the center of the disk.
3. Carefully place the bagel in the simmering water. Allow it to cook until it floats to the top. Using a slotted spoon or spatula remove the bagel from the water and place on the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough.
4. Bake the bagels for 10 minutes.

For Finishing

1. Remove the bagels from the oven and brush with the beaten egg. Top with the dried onion and/or garlic if using.
2. Return the bagels to the oven and bake for an additional 20-25 minutes until golden brown. Remove the bagels from the oven and allow them to rest for 10-15 minutes (this allows the center to firm up a bit).

Notes

- For a more golden finish to the bagels, for the egg wash use egg yolks only instead of whole eggs.
- For a more chewy, bagel like exterior add 4 tablespoons of KLP baking soda to the boiling water.



Terri Maister
Kitchen Manager &
Clinical Dietitian

A lasting gift from the Meyerowitz family

The Meyerowitz family has donated an Air Chair to Wolper in honour of their husband and father Lawrence Meyerowitz.

This pressure relieving chair, known as "Lollie's Chair", will be used for medical and palliative care patients, aiding their comfort and support.

Wolper staff and management thank the Meyerowitz family for their generosity.



WOLPER STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Anupa Karki

Wolper revealed its Staff Member of the year for 2020 at its quarterly staff recognition awards ceremony. This very special award went to Anupa Karki, who is an assistant in nursing (AIN) working in Wolper's ground floor Medical Ward.

An AIN is a health care worker who supports the delivery of nursing care by assisting people with personal care and activities of daily living.

Wolper's quarterly Staff Recognition Awards are a great way to say thank-you to our wonderful and dedicated staff. Recipients are nominated by their peers, managers and patients making this a great way to acknowledge and share exceptional service.

Anupa is regularly nominated for a staff recognition award and in the latest nomination forms, people noted that "her compassion shines through naturally", that she is "kind and caring to all staff and to patients", that "her patients enjoy the way she approaches them with a wonderful smile every day" and that she is "just a wonderful person and so special with all the patients."

Tina Boger, Director Clinical Services, commented on how difficult a task it is to choose one staff member of the year from all the staff nominated for recognition awards during the previous year, but feels that Anupa is a very worthy recipient. She went on to say that "we always receive amazing feedback from patients about Anupa. She is always calm, always smiling and consistently delivers a job well done. She is in short, a beautiful nurse."

Anupa is actually leaving her permanent role at Wolper as she is returning to her nursing studies so that she can qualify as a registered nurse. She said that "it's a wonderful feeling to be awarded Wolper's Staff Member of the year award. It's a very big thing and it will give me the confidence I need as I progress and take on more responsibilities."

Anupa will still take on casual shifts and says "she'll always look forward to working at Wolper."



Staff Announcements

Congratulations to **Pariyachat Richards** who has been promoted to Kitchen Team Leader. Par is an invaluable member of staff and a driving force in the kitchen, ensuring efficient operations at all times. "Par has an incredible work ethic and is passionate about her work at Wolper, which encourages those around her to meet her high standards," says Wolper's Kitchen Manager, Terri Maister. Par has worked at Wolper since 2010 and we congratulate her on her promotion.

Wolper's Multiskilled Workforce

Many former Wolper patients will recognise **Tracey Stevens** as the physiotherapist on the medical ward. After 15 years working in this capacity, Tracey has elected to make a change. She is now working as one of Wolper's medical records coders. This role is crucial to ensuring that all admissions are coded accurately for submission to health funds and various government bodies.

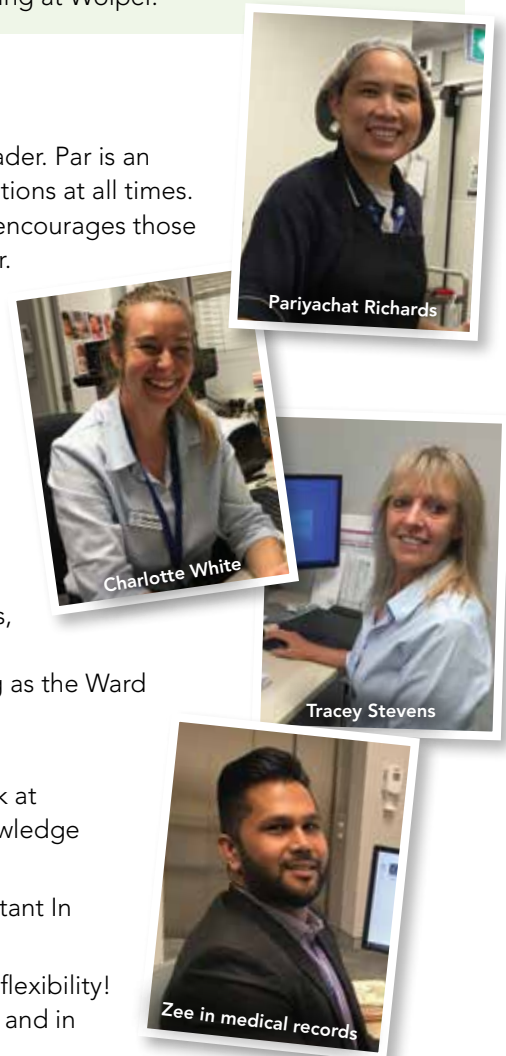
You might also recognise **Charlotte White**, who has worked at reception for 8 months, welcoming and directing patients and visitors, and managing admissions. Seizing an opportunity to gain exposure to other areas of the Hospital, Charlotte is now working as the Ward Clerk in the Rehabilitation Ward managing all of its administration.

Wolper boasts many members of staff that demonstrate versatility and flexibility.

Marilyn Magnayon, Margaret Kaganov, Meryl Demasuay and **Christine Vales** all work at reception and also in the accounts department. Their customer service skills and knowledge of all aspects of the Hospital are crucial to their success in both these roles.

Tenzin Sherpa started working in our kitchen and now works on the wards as an Assistant In Nursing (having completed her Certificate III) whilst completing her studies.

But staff-member **Abdul Kahn**, also known as Zee, has to be the ultimate example of flexibility! We rely on him for his roles in the cleaning department, on reception, as a ward clerk and in medical records! We couldn't do without him!





Fred Weissberger, the talented tailor

Alfred Weissberger, known as Fred, has been a patient at Wolper many times, starting almost 60 years ago when the Hospital was in its infancy. He has also, sadly, said goodbye to many friends at Wolper, and remembers them all very fondly.

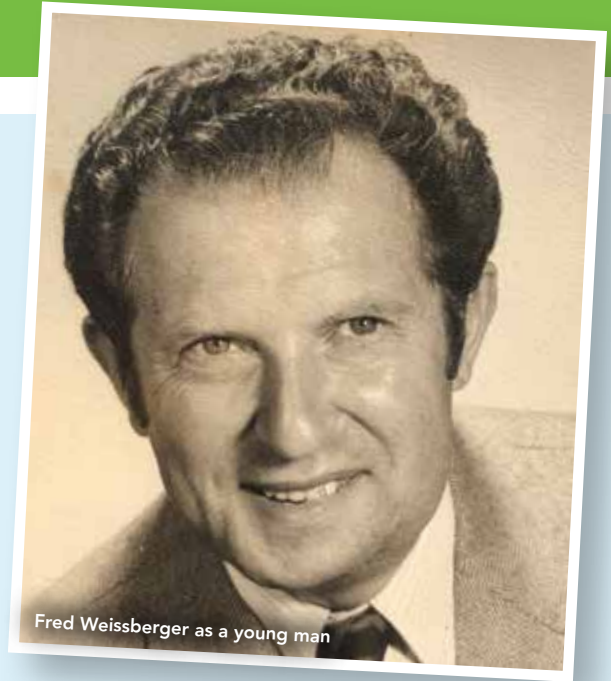
Fred was born in 1925 to Hungarian parents in the Bratislava region of south-western Slovakia in a town called Senec. Senec had a population of 6,000, including 69 Jewish families. The area became part of Hungary from 1938 till 1945, when it was recovered by Czechoslovakia. It is now part of Slovakia. The majority of the once-prosperous Jewish community, which previously formed an integral part of the local society, perished during the Holocaust.

Fred came from a close-knit family. His mother was a "Princess", beautiful, educated and smart. His father was a true gentleman. The Nazis tore to pieces a wonderful family. At the start of the war, his family consisted of his mother, who was 47; his father, 56; his older brother, 24, his sister, 23; Fred who was 19; and his younger brother who was 12. They were called middle-class, but really they were poor. If they didn't work, there was no food on the table.

At 13 years old, Fred could no longer attend school because he was a Jew. He started to work with his father, who was a respected tailor. Fred finished his apprenticeship when he was 16, but his work ended at 19 when the Hungarians occupied Slovakia and they were all sent to the ghetto in 1944. From there most of his family were sent to Auschwitz where his parents and younger brother perished on arrival. Fred was sent to a forced labour camp. His father told him that as he was a "talented young man, maybe it will save your life". His sister, older brother and most of his neighbours did not survive the war.

The tailoring skills he learnt from his beloved father were to stand him in good stead and did save his life, as his father had hoped. His talents as a tailor were recognised, and he was sent to Hungary to make dress uniforms for high ranking German officers going on holidays. In 1944 he was transported to work in the Austrian forests with his fellow Jewish co-workers. After the fall of Vienna he was sent to Mauthausen concentration camp, from where he was liberated in 1945.

Fred returned to Senec to find his family home occupied by Gypsies. He had placed family photos and letters in a box in the roof of his house when he left Senec, so on his return after the war he was happy to find them intact. He has now donated them to the Sydney Jewish Museum.



Fred Weissberger as a young man

Fred was afraid to stay in Europe. Senec, his hometown, was no longer his home. So at 22 he left to go to Hungary, where he had 2 cousins who had invited him to stay with them.

As Israel was not yet established, he looked on the map and saw that Australia was far enough away from Europe for him to go. He had hoped to maybe move to America, as his mother's sister and his cousin Ziggy went there.

In 1950, Fred came to Australia for £10, as a 26 year old. He went to Bathurst migrant camp where he met Magda, his future wife. He had originally met her in Vienna, before he came to Australia. He worked in a timber mill for a short time but then returned to his love, tailoring, and quickly built up a following.

During this time, Fred was diagnosed with bone cancer in his jaw. This may have been a direct result of a blow to his jaw in the camp during the war. His jaw was wired closed for 2 years, but Magda stood by him and married him after that.

Fred's first shop was in Darlinghurst, then Elizabeth Bay, and Double Bay, as his clientele grew. In 1970, he bought premises in Queen Street, Woollahra, where he stayed until he retired, and where he still lives today.

His clients at FW Boutique came from all over the world, including London, America and Japan. They would come just to see Fred and have him tailor their clothes – men's and lady's wear. Fred frequently travelled the world to buy beautiful fabrics suited to the Australian climate. His clients included the Duchess of Gloucester, the Fairfax and Packer families, Gordon Samuels (then Governor of NSW), and the daughter of the Japanese Emperor, Mrs Shimazu. Fred never advertised, his success was all word of mouth.

Fred's aims in life were to educate his children, provide well for his family and to enjoy his life. He and Magda have two sons and four grandchildren. Fred's dear wife Magda passed away in 2012 after a long and loving marriage of 48 years.

Covid-style concerts at Wolper

Succot

How to have a concert to celebrate the festival of Succot in COVID-19 times? That was the challenge.

The last concert held at Wolper to celebrate the Jewish festivals was for Chanukah in 2019 so it became imperative to find another way to bring the spirit of the festival to our patients.

And so it happened!

Rabbis Yehoshua and Yehuda Niasoff, cantors at Kehillat Kadimah and Central Synagogue respectively, met the challenge. After many long hours put in by Rabbi Yehoshua, negotiating the technical aspects of being recorded at his home to ensure the best sound, Harry Guth filmed a moving, beautiful, uplifting concert. It was even more special when Yehuda's son Avi joined them with Rabbi Yehoshua's wife, Nissa, playing the piano.

The next step was to be able to show it on the patients' TVs, on a designated channel, at a designated time. Grateful thanks go to our Simon Weeks and John Stockley for working out a way to do it. That was a feat in itself!

So at 3.30pm on a Tuesday afternoon, our patients sat back in bed or relaxed on a chair in their rooms, enjoying the amazing concert on their television screen. The delight and joy on their faces made all the effort worthwhile.

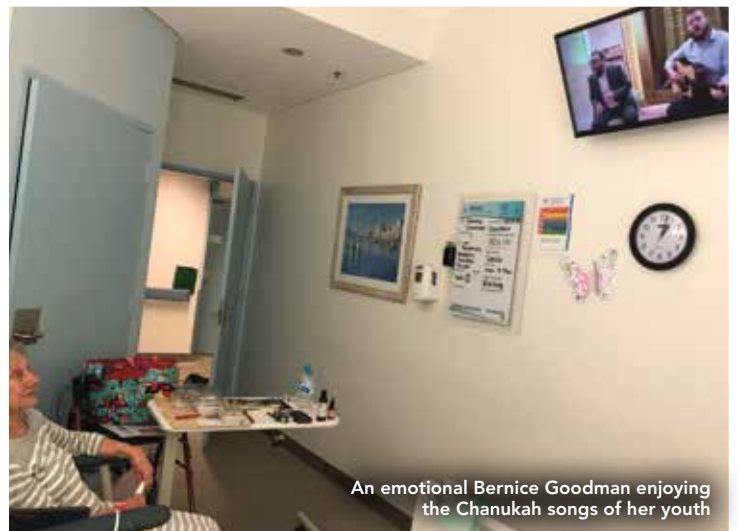


Rabbi Yehoshua, Avi, and Rabbi Yehuda Niasoff during their Succot Zoom concert

Chanukah

Now experienced at the new Covid-style concert, Chanukah was easy!

Our videographer, Harry Guth, filmed Rabbis Motti and Menachem Feldman performing in their synagogue, Dover Heights Shule. They sang, and talked, and our patients enjoyed it all later on their TVs in their rooms.



An emotional Bernice Goodman enjoying the Chanukah songs of her youth

This quarter, our Staff Recognition Awards saw 6 employees recognised for their outstanding initiative, achievement or service to the Hospital and our patients.

We congratulate the following staff, pictured left to right – Sarah Courtney, Lisa Logan, Victoria Thomson, Anupa Karki, Tracey Stevens, Jessica Trim



WOLPER



Wellbeing

PROGRAM

2021 Schedule

All programs via Zoom at 7.30pm
Register at wolper.com.au/wellbeing

Wednesday 5 MAY

Vaccine hesitancy

Wednesday 14 JULY

Mental health (and COVID)

Wednesday 1 SEPTEMBER

Exercise and diet as medicine

Wednesday 3 NOVEMBER

Healthy retirement:
mental and physical

Wednesday 8 DECEMBER

Microbiome medicine

The order of topics may change.

For more information call 9328 6077 or visit www.wolper.com.au



Wolper Jewish Hospital is a member of the
JCA Family of Communal Organisations

8 Trelawney Street Woollahra NSW 2025 • Telephone: +61 2 9328-6077 • www.wolper.com.au