



WE'RE GETTING READY FOR PASSOVER

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Wolper's success ultimately comes down to one thing..... the skill and commitment of our people. And so it was both an honour and a privilege to preside over the 60th Annual General Meeting of Wolper Jewish Hospital at which we not only acknowledged this milestone anniversary but also paid tribute to three talented individuals whose contribution to Wolper has been significant. Harry Aizenberg, Lynne Davies AM and Daniel Goulburn OAM have each left an indelible mark upon Wolper and have been an inspiration to many. I congratulate them on being so recognised.

We also acknowledged the outstanding performance of the Wolper team over what is now a number of challenging years 'complicated' by the pandemic. Unfortunately, COVID-19 also hindered our ability to celebrate our 60th Anniversary and, whilst we had intended to present it to you in person, by now you will have received by mail a copy of our encapsulated Wolper history entitled 'The First 60 Years'. If you have not yet received it, please advise our reception and we will send you a copy. It is a very interesting yet easy read.

The pandemic is regrettably far from over with a new and more contagious strain emerging as we approach the winter months. Whilst restrictions have been eased, we recommend that – particularly our over 65s (of which I am one) – err on the side of caution and not dismiss the benefit of mask-wearing in public when you can't socially distance. We continue to urge all to be vaccinated and boosted as there is evidence emerging now of long-term side-effects even for those who experience mild symptoms. It is also very important to have the flu shot as well, and – for those over 65 years – please discuss with your GP or pharmacy the stronger version which boosts the efficacy of the flu vaccine for older people.

We continue to take a conservative approach at Wolper with all staff being RAT-tested and we urge all visitors to do likewise before attending the Hospital as you could be asymptomatic yet contagious. I would like to thank all our patients and visitors for their support and patience given the regular changes in our visitation and Hospital

entry guidelines; this is necessary to counter the frequently changing health environment and minimise risk to all.

Wolper continues to focus on the mental and physical health of our patients and we have had extremely positive feedback on the appointment of Dr Louisa Norrie as our psycho-geriatrician, enabling us to provide this very important service to our older patients and their families. We also welcome Libby Love as our new social worker at Wolper, whose arrival has also been very well-received. You can read more about them on page 5.

We are, on a more subdued note, very aware of the impact of the war in Ukraine on many of our staff at Wolper and indeed many in our community. Our thoughts and prayers are for an immediate end to hostilities and a return to peace. If people are concerned about family or friends in Ukraine and need someone with whom to talk, JewishCare are providing support on 1300 133 660.

I wanted to personally advise you that our CEO, John Tucker, will be retiring at the end of June and relocating to sunny Queensland. John has made an enormous contribution to Wolper over his 8 years in the role. John leaves a great legacy and will be missed. I am however delighted to announce that our Director of Clinical Services, Tina Boger, has been appointed to lead the Hospital. Tina has surrounded herself with an outstanding and dedicated team and with a search commencing for a Business Manager to overview the non-clinical operations, Tina's main focus will continue to be clinical excellence at Wolper. An added bonus is that John will be available for a period of time to assist with the transition to this new structure. I am sure you will join myself, John and our Board in wishing Tina every success.

On a final note, I wish Friends of Wolper that are Jewish 'Chag Pesach Sameach', and a 'Happy Easter' to our Friends of the Christian faith. Stay safe and well.



Richard Glass
President, Wolper Jewish Hospital

ON THE COVER:

Kitchen staff are busy preparing the Hospital for Passover. This involves extensive cleaning of the kitchens and all food preparation areas throughout the building. Additionally, all surfaces where food is eaten or prepared are covered in plastic.

It also means the kitchen is restocked with kosher for Passover ingredients. No food with leaven (rising agent) is permitted during Passover.

Pictured here are Esther, Daniel, Judy and Ruth with chocolate macaroons, matza and matza meal (essential for matza balls).

Rehabilitation ward back in action

In response to the Omicron outbreak elective surgery was suspended on 10 January 2022. This impacted Wolper's rehabilitation ward which saw occupancy drop to 37% during January (Wolper's occupancy rates usually hover just under 100%).

We did not close the ward or redeploy staff as we did during the Delta outbreak but there were still many challenges that our staff faced.

During the Omicron outbreak, generally speaking, no visitors were allowed in the Hospital. A similar restriction was put in place during the Delta outbreak and it quite understandably caused some distress for patients at that time. This time around however patients were less surprised by the move. To support patients, staff members became very adept at setting up Zoom and FaceTime calls for them so that they could stay in touch with family and friends.

Staff rostering also proved to be a challenge during this time as staff members were impacted by Covid-19 themselves or had to isolate due to family members contracting the virus. And of course there was the need to stay up-to-date with the changing definition of 'close contact'.

Easing of restrictions started on 7th February and very quickly the rehabilitation ward was back to full capacity.

Happily, I can tell that the world is starting to return to normal due to several leave applications from staff members wanting to travel overseas to visit family – their first visits back home in 2 years. I was very pleased to approve these requests!



Marcelle Segal
Manager Rehabilitation Services

Getting back to it

We were thrilled to recommence MoveWell classes on 14th February after having a longer-than-expected summer break due to the Omicron outbreak.

We could really feel that our regular attendees were excited and relieved to get back to their usual exercise schedule. It was interesting to note the number of participants reporting that they were experiencing aches and pains as well as fatigue and generally feeling less mobile. Over the first couple of weeks, our physiotherapists and exercise physiologists also noticed this.

There is a tendency to believe that you need to make up for lost time when returning to exercise after a break – that you need to work hard straight off to catch up. This is not the case and could be damaging.



MoveWell classes at Wolper

HERE ARE MY TIPS FOR SUCCESS WHEN GETTING BACK TO IT:

- Come back to exercise in a manageable manner – there's no need to overdo it.
- Keep it manageable – start simple and build up from there.
- Establish a routine and stick to it.
- Do things you like to do.
- Over time, keep your exercise interesting by trying new things.
- Repetition over time – it's better to exercise twice a week for years than every day for a month.
- You're never too old to start!



Cody Kane
Physiotherapy and Day Services Manager

Wolper's historic Annual General Meeting

Wolper's 60th annual general meeting took place last December. It was a very special night where the Board, management and Members reflected on the Hospital's 60 year anniversary and honoured the significant contributions of three very special people – Harry Aizenberg, Lynne Davies AM and Daniel Goulburn OAM.

In his President's address, Richard Glass advised Members that the Hospital had once again delivered strong financial and occupancy results under challenging circumstances stating 'I sincerely thank and congratulate the Hospital's Executive, doctors, clinical team and general staff on their ability to provide outstanding care to our patients and each other whilst coping simultaneously with the impact of the pandemic and a major renovation of the Hospital'.

Andrew Cohen, Honorary Treasurer, advised the meeting that despite "a challenging time amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic....the Hospital was able to record an operating surplus of \$854,637 for the year before making a grant of \$750,000 to the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation."

The AGM saw the re-election of President Richard Glass, Vice-President Daniel Goldberg, Honorary Treasurer Andrew Cohen and Honorary Secretary Josephine Holland and Director Professor David Sonnabend AM.



Trudy Gilbert, Lynne Davies' daughter, Harry Aizenberg and Daniel Goulburn OAM with their honours

WOLPER HONOURS



Harry Aizenberg

Harry Aizenberg, CEO of Wolper for over 32 years from 1981 – 2014, was appointed a Life Member of Wolper. Harry oversaw a major re-development of the Hospital, the closure of its surgical theatres, its successful expansion into the provision of new medical services and the founding of Wolper's community genetics program. Speaking in support of the motion, Honorary Life Governor Dr David Golovsky AM noted that "Harry kept the Hospital on an even keel through its many changes over 32 years He put his heart and soul into the Hospital, engendered respect and loyalty and the legacy of his leadership is still present"



Lynne Davies AM

Lynne Davies AM was President of Wolper from 1986-1999. During this time she also held a number of senior community leadership roles including National President of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA).

Under Lynne's presidency Wolper initiated its successful and important entry into orthopaedic rehabilitation and palliative care, and Wolper's community outreach programs were expanded.

The Wolper Board acknowledged Lynne Davies' outstanding service with a plaque dedicated to her in the NCJWA (NSW) Lounge in the Hospital. Lynne passed away in 2004 at the age of 56 and her daughter Trudy Gilbert accepted a framed replica of the plaque and spoke eloquently of her mother as "....a truly remarkable woman. A woman of vision – committed and tenacious."



Daniel Goulburn OAM

Daniel Goulburn OAM was appointed an Honorary Life Governor of Wolper. He served as President of Wolper from 2014–2019 and previously was Honorary Treasurer. As President, Daniel established a revised governance structure, initiated a review of the Constitution, and oversaw the 2020 Hospital renovation and refurbishment program as Immediate Past President.

Daniel is also the inaugural Chair of the Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation.

In seconding the motion to appoint Daniel Goulburn as an Honorary Life Governor, former President Graham Einfeld OAM acknowledged his "dedication, work ethic and ability to get things done."

All honours were met with great acclaim by those present.

Mental Health Care for Older People at Wolper Jewish Hospital

Wolper Jewish Hospital's medical ward is fully equipped to provide restorative care for older people with complex medical needs. The service is run by Drs Sandy Beveridge, Elizabeth Harper, Nicholas Mills and Taylor Scott – well known geriatricians who specialise in rehabilitation. They are supported by a full multidisciplinary team including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nursing staff, exercise physiologists, speech pathology, dietitians and discharge planner. Whilst in the Hospital, patients also benefit from a medications review conducted by Wolper's clinical pharmacist Dr Ben Basger.

Patients are assessed and a plan is developed specific to the patient's needs to maximise function and to promote independence.

New to Wolper's multidisciplinary team is Dr Louisa Norrie, a psychiatrist with a particular interest in the management of mental and cognitive disorders affecting older people.

Dr Norrie previously worked at St Vincent's Older People's Mental Health Service along-side Wolper's consulting geriatricians who see the provision of her services at Wolper as being of great benefit to patients.

Referrals are made to Dr Norrie by the geriatricians or rehabilitation physicians when they suspect a patient is experiencing anxiety, depression, cognitive impairment, distress, psychosis or other mental health issues.

Dr Norrie will carry out an assessment and conduct cognitive testing if appropriate. While admission to Wolper is relatively short, she can provide treatment while the patient is in the Hospital and will provide recommendations and referrals for ongoing treatment and support if needed after discharge.

Dr Norrie provides individualised care for all patients but does find it beneficial to know when a Holocaust survivor has been referred to her. Survivors have a high rate of PTSD and their experiences could have an impact on how they adjust to the challenges of aging such as retirement, bereavement, moving to residential care and illness. Simply being in hospital can be traumatic due to a lack of privacy, restricted access to family and friends, and other circumstances. Intrusive memories can be experienced which the patient may not be able to talk about. Dr Norrie works closely with patient's families to understand the patient's past as part of her treatment.

"Having Louisa Norrie consulting at Wolper has been a great addition to the team at Wolper," Dr Nicholas



Dr Louisa Norrie

Mill explains "Focussing on a patient's mental health, alongside the physical aspects of their rehabilitation, enables us to provide a more holistic service for older people."



Libby Love

Social worker Elizabeth (Libby) Love has also joined the Wolper team recently. Social workers provide counselling, information and referrals to other services. At Wolper, Libby is responsible for providing information and care to medical, rehabilitation and palliative care patients and their families. She has a passion for advocating for older people and people living with a disability, ensuring that all patients have equal access to holistic care and the support they need in order to return to their home safely following discharge from hospital. When a patient is unable to return to their home, and needs to go to residential care, Libby will provide the support necessary to adjust to this major change in circumstances.

Patient history and in some cases, past trauma, can very much impact a patient's mental health and therefore their recovery and needs in terms of their care. In these cases Libby works closely with Dr Norrie or the patient's referring physician to identify ongoing needs and support.

Libby also works closely with Joan Washer, Wolper's discharge planner, who co-ordinates ongoing care for patients needing further medical or other support post-discharge. Carefully planning the transition of care from hospital to home or other residential care facility can reduce hospital length of stay or unplanned readmission to hospital.

Admission to Wolper Jewish Hospital requires a referral from a general practitioner, specialist physician or referring hospital.

For more information, please see wolper.com.au

Quality Update

Day Rehabilitation Feedback

At the completion of their Rehabilitation program, Day Rehabilitation patients are asked to complete a survey so we can continue to provide the highest quality of care. Last year Day Rehabilitation patients reported a high 97% rate of satisfaction and 100% of patients said they would recommend Wolper Day Rehabilitation to family and friends.

When asked about the most valuable aspect of their rehabilitation, patients advised:

“The personal support, professional guidance and uplifting spirit of the team”.

“I felt encouraged and respected and I was confident in the care”.

“The cohesiveness of the program. From doctors to nurses to physios, everyone works together and the program is completely tailored for me!”

“Hydrotherapy – I tended to try and push myself more in the H2O”.

“The lovely well equipped and serene surroundings”

“The commitment, good humour, knowledge and friendly helpfulness of the well trained physiotherapists”

Suggestions from patients resulted in the installation of a new fan and clock with second hand in the pool area and new bikes in the gym. Additionally staff education was developed and delivered to improve orientation for Day Rehabilitation patients as part of their admission process.

Safety & Quality

In a recent risk management processes audit, Wolper maintained 97% compliance for the second year in a row up from 95% compliance 5 years ago. Wolper management and all members of staff have always taken safety throughout the Hospital very seriously. Always striving to improve, during the past 12 months significant work has been undertaken to formalise the identification and remediation of hazards keeping patients, staff and visitors safe.

An external audit of Clinical Governance procedures earlier this year resulted in a 100% score, which is up from 97.6% last year. Clinical governance is the set of relationships and responsibilities established by a health service organisation between its state or territory department of health, governing body, executive, workforce, patients, consumers and other stakeholders to ensure good clinical outcomes.

Hand hygiene is the most effective method of preventing the spread of infection. All staff and medical consultants are observed to monitor their compliance with hand hygiene requirements. Our results are submitted to Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) and compared to the National Benchmark rate. Last year Wolper achieved a compliance rate of 89.4%, higher than the National rate of 87.3%.



The Omicron shutdown provided us with the perfect opportunity to totally rejuvenate our hydrotherapy pool



From the kitchen

Let's face it – lockdown meant that some of us relied more on fast food deliveries and spent less time being active.

Now is the time to get back to a healthier lifestyle.

A healthy diet involves embracing whole foods. These are foods that are either not processed at all, or processed minimally including:

- Grains – wheat, wholegrain rice, quinoa, bulgur wheat, rolled oats, faro and barley.
- Beans and legumes – lentils, kidney beans, lima beans, split peas, chick peas.
- Nuts and seeds (not salted) – peanuts, almonds, cashews, sunflower seeds, linseeds, pumpkin seeds.
- Fruits and vegetables – all of them!
- Lean protein can also be included such as chicken and fish.

Rely on these and you will have high levels of vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants which keep you feeling great and will provide support if recovering from illness.



Terri Maister
Kitchen Manager/Dietitian



Wolper private and semi-private physiotherapy and exercise physiology

Through Wolper's private physiotherapy and exercise physiology service individuals are now able to book private appointments with members of Wolper's physiotherapy and exercise physiology staff.

These services are suitable for patients who have completed Day Rehabilitation and need ongoing therapy to ensure an optimal recovery.

Similarly, for those with an injury or wanting to improve their mobility, strength or balance, these sessions deliver individualised care. Small groups sessions that deliver tailored care are also available.

Wolper's physiotherapists are highly trained in treating a wide variety of conditions from injury, post-surgical, illness or concerns related to ageing. The Hospital's accredited exercise physiologists prescribe specific exercises to patients with chronic diseases, illnesses or injuries with the aim of improving or managing their conditions.

For further information and to book an appointment contact Wolper on 02 8324 2261 or email dayrehab@wolper.com.au

Steps towards countering antisemitism

Wolper Jewish Hospital's Board has endorsed the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.

With persistent increases in antisemitic occurrences around the world in recent years, the Board wishes to lend its support to the adoption of the definition which facilitates efforts to combat antisemitism and advocacy.

The IHRA is an intergovernmental body currently representing 35 member countries, including Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA. Its Working Definition of Antisemitism includes examples of the ways in which antisemitism is manifested, such as:

- The targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.

At the same time, the definition recognises that criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot of itself be regarded as antisemitic.

The definition has widespread support amongst both Jewish and non-Jewish communal organisations in Australia and abroad, including the Jewish Communal Appeal, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. It has also been adopted by numerous countries, states, councils and educational institutions around the world.

By endorsing the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, the Board of Wolper Jewish Hospital hopes to contribute to ongoing efforts to counter antisemitism.

Wolper staff update

Graduate nurses

Two of our nursing staff have completed Wolper's registered nurse graduate program. Vanessa and Courtney started working at Wolper as Assistants in Nursing. During the practical element of their nursing studies, they both completed 6-month rotations in the medical and rehabilitation wards of the Hospital. Now as newly graduated Registered Nurses and key members of our nursing team, Courtney Tanner and Vanessa Cachola have accepted permanent roles at Wolper.

Wolper is now supporting early-career nurses to complete the Grad@MUH program through Macquarie University Hospital. The program supports newly qualified nurses to develop confidence and competence during their transition from graduate to accomplished nurse.

Erina Ume and Angela Aguilos are our first Assistants in Nursing to undertake the program which will include rostered face-to-face study days, work-based learning activities and online learning packages. They'll also benefit from the networking opportunities of studying with nurses from across Sydney's healthcare system.

We wish them all the best!

Staff recognition

Last quarter's staff recognition awards were handed out to nursing, cleaning, kitchen and admin team members. Well done to all!



Erina Ume and Angela Aguilos



Tina Boger – Director Clinical Services, Marcelle Segal – Manager Rehabilitation Services, Vanessa Cachola & Courtney Tanner – new graduate nurses, Andrew Driehuis – Deputy Director Clinical Services



Staff Recognition Awards

Foundation grant recipients announced



Having a ball at Friendship Circle's trip to Melbourne

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

The Foundation chose to support an additional not for profit organisation, **Mood Active**, providing funding for one of their 4-week Wellbeing Workout exercise programs which are designed for participants with mental health conditions.

Mood Active's vision is to see more Australians using exercise to improve their mental health. Participants in this program learn practical tips and tricks on how to get motivated to start and sustain an exercise routine. Each 2-hour, psychologist-designed session combines education with exercise to help improve mood and fitness. The program is free for participants.

Other new grants were provided to:

- **Sydney Friendship Circle** – supporting its getaways and day camps
- **Camp Sababa** – funding for nursing care and medical supplies for their camps

Continued funding was also provided to:

- **Parkinson's NSW** – funding and facilities for their counselling service at Wolper Jewish Hospital
- **Shalom Gamarada** – completing a 6 year residential scholarship for an indigenous medical student who is graduating in 2022
- **CSG** – First Aid equipment and training

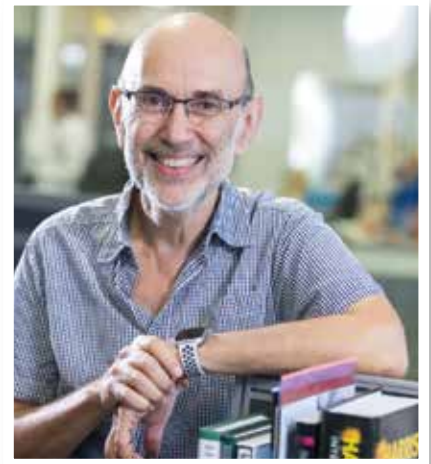
Australia Day Honours for a long-time friend of Wolper

Professor Leslie Burnett has been recognised as a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours list. He was awarded the AM for significant service to pathology, to medical research, and to professional societies.

He pioneered the development of a number of pathology and genetics initiatives, which are today mainstream clinical services. These include founding Australia's first Community Genetics program, being Medical Director of Australasia's first Whole Genome Sequencing laboratory and developing the world's first pre- and post-analytical quality assurance programs in pathology. He has served as Ministerial appointee, Chairman, or President of a number of National and International bodies in pathology and genetics.

Professor Burnett has been involved with the Hospital since 1985 when he was instrumental in establishing Wolper's Community Genetics program. Available to NSW residents, the program aims to reduce the incidence of genetic conditions that particularly affect the Jewish community including Tay Sachs disease. In fact, since its inception, no Tay Sachs affected child has been born to a couple that have undertaken genetic screening through the program.

Wolper wishes a hearty mazal tov to Professor Leslie Burnett AM.



Professor Leslie Burnett AM



Wellbeing 2022 Calendar of upcoming seminars

We kicked off the Wellbeing year with the highly successful webinar 'Perimenopause and menopause: survive or thrive'.

Our speakers included

- Associate Professor John Eden – Gynaecologist and Reproductive Endocrinologist;
- Vicky Graham – accredited exercise physiologist
- Professor Lauren Williams – academic dietitian

If you missed the session you can watch the recording at wolper.com.au/videos/

There are many other recordings to browse through while you are there!

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY	Deafness, Ménière's Disease and Tinnitus: Can they be prevented, can they be managed?
WEDNESDAY 6 JULY	Boys to Men: Teaching and learning about Masculinity in an age of change
WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER	Preventative Cardiology: easing the suffering of those with cardiovascular disease
WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER	Male Menopause or Andropause: Fact or fiction? Overview, symptoms and treatment interventions

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

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

Leo Berkelouw: a link in the family dynasty

Leo Berkelouw recently underwent inpatient rehabilitation at Wolper following surgery to repair a broken hip. He made sure he came to Wolper for his rehab as he had been in the Hospital previously and knew he'd receive excellent treatment and care.

Leo is patriarch of a bookselling dynasty that started in Rotterdam, Holland, in 1812. Solomon Berkelouw, the founder of Berkelouw Books, used to carry theology books on his back to sell to boat owners in Rotterdam port. Theology books were in vogue at this time. One wintry afternoon, Solomon slipped on an icy gangplank and drowned in the freezing water, along with his books.

Carel, his son, opened up a market stall at Rotterdam markets to carry on his father's tradition of selling books. At the start of World War II, with theology books still a focus, Berkelouw's had the biggest collection of bibles in Europe – some were even diamond studded. Sadly, the bombing of Rotterdam decimated the entire stock of Berkelouw's overnight. Amongst the lost books was a collection of antique bibles thought to be the most valuable in all of Europe. Isidoor, Carel's grandson, had married a non-Jewish woman which proved to be a blessing in disguise. During the occupation of Holland, when he was hiding from the Nazis, she could go out and sell some possessions for food. This kept the family going.

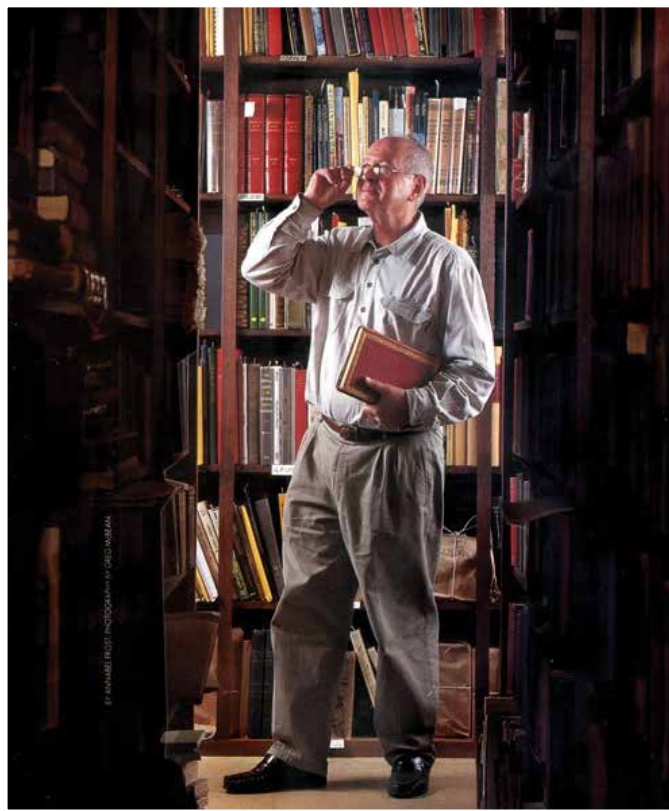
In 1938, due to the deteriorating situation in Europe, Isidoor sent his wife to England to give birth to their son Leo. Six weeks after birth, they returned to Holland. The family survived the war but the situation in Holland after the occupation remained bleak. In 1945 aged 6, Leo was able to fly to England and go to a boarding school due to his English citizenship. His father had an older brother in England who became his guardian. After the atrocities of the war, Leo's uncle and father decided the family should leave Europe.

In Sydney, Isidoor found second hand books that contained the history of Australia in foreign languages. He bought these books and sold them to dealers in Europe. From there he established a bookshop at the lower end of King Street.

Leo finished his education in Sydney at age 18, when his father needed another pair of hands in his new bookshop. At that stage, he didn't have a love or knowledge of books. He started working for his father, and was paid £1 per week.

Since then, Leo's knowledge of, and love for books has grown. In fact he has done no other work than work with books. He finds it exciting to find rare books, but laments that he can't keep all of the ones he'd like to.

At 50 years of age, whilst on a trip in New Zealand, Leo found a collection of Persian love poems by Turkish poet Omar Khayyam. It had been translated into English in 1859. He was captivated by the volume and this started his passion for collecting books by Omar Khayyam. He now has over



1300. At one stage Leo came across a first edition which had a price tag of £15,000. He told himself he couldn't afford it but when his father encouraged him to buy it, he did. Today it's worth between \$70,000 – \$100,000. "Collecting is a madness," says Leo, who's collection is carefully catalogued and packed away.

Leo met his wife Noeleen, an avid skier, at Falls Creek in 1971. She sadly passed away 12 years ago at the young age of 62.

Leo's 3 sons all work in the business and have been responsible for its growth.

The headquarters of Berkelouw is now in Berrima at Bendooley Estate. Paul, his eldest son, lives on the property as does Leo in his own cottage.

Leo's other sons live in Sydney and look after the Sydney stores. They visit Bendooley Estate often and they are a close family.

A real legacy has been handed down. Berkelouw's stock was lost in the war but Isidoor re-established the business on the other side of the world.

Contrary to what people may expect from Leo, he is not a big reader but he does enjoy historical novels. When planning to come to Wolper he asked his son Robert to choose a book for him to read. He chose Ken Follett's "Never" and he is really enjoying it.

A joyous Purim

Quoting a patient at Wolper, "This was the best Purim I have ever had".

On erev Purim (the eve of the start of Purim) all patients and staff received hamantaschen baked by volunteers at Our Big Kitchen. Hamantaschen are triangular filled-pocket pastry, associated with the Jewish holiday of Purim. The name refers to Haman, the villain in the Purim story.

The next day, the actual day of Purim, saw dozens of mishloach manot (Purim gifts of food and sweet delights) delivered to Wolper from the children and parents from Mt Zion Early Learning Centre in Bondi Road. Each patient at Wolper received one of these beautiful gifts and were so touched and moved by the generosity of the children. Each patient also received another hamantaschen from Wolper.

A concert specially performed by Rabbi Menachem Feldman had been filmed a few days before Purim, and was shown on the patients' TVs. Several patients were singing along with the Rabbi with gusto.

Later in the afternoon, the Megillah (The Book of Esther) was read from a scroll. This is the story of Purim. Rabbi Dan Goldhirsch read the story beautifully, for a small group of patients and staff.



Patients watched the pre-recorded Purim concert in the comfort of their room.



A parent from Mt Zion Early Learning Centre dropping off these amazing mishloach manot. Our patients loved them.



Rescue update

You may recall from our previous newsletter that Wolper rescued a pair of homeless kittens. We are pleased to report that they have now been adopted by staff members and they are living their best lives! Simon Weeks, Wolper's Maintenance Officer rehomed one of the kittens and inspired by his favourite visiting Rabbi, has called him Rafi!

Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth with Rafi the kitten

Become part of our future

Since opening its doors on its present site in 1961, Wolper Jewish Hospital has become one of Sydney's leading private hospitals providing high-quality care to all members of the general community, within the framework of our Jewish ethos.

We are Australia's only Jewish hospital and do not receive funds from government sources. Whilst we are a dedicated JCA member organisation, we do not seek an allocation of funds from JCA. We are a not-for-profit organisation and our revenue from our patients is to a large extent dictated by the major health funds. The health funds do not take account of the additional costs we experience, such as providing fully kosher food and our higher patient/staff ratios.

So, your support is very important to us.

There are a number of ways in which your support can be acknowledged, or the memory of a loved one honoured, within the Hospital:

- Sponsor a panel in our magnificent stained glass mural, Bereishit – In the Beginning, located in the Hospital foyer and designed by leading stained glass artist, Marc Grunseit.
- Endow a room. Your name or that of a loved one will be honoured with an elegant door plaque appropriately worded.
- Sponsor, or make a donation towards, a specific piece of Hospital equipment. All donations are gratefully received irrespective of their size.
- Make a bequest to Wolper in your will



For more information please contact
John Tucker, CEO Wolper Jewish Hospital
on 02 9328 6077.