

WOLPER.COM.AU JULY 2025



Pictured left to right: Daniel Goldberg, Gladys Berejiklian, the Hon John Howard OM AC, Josephine Holland and Richard Glass

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#### WOLPER JEWISH HOSPITAL

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#### President's message

In our last Pulse, we brought news of the many exciting developments Wolper had experienced in the early parts of 2025. I'm pleased to report that the growth and positive developments have continued, and it has been a remarkable few months for the Hospital. I am truly grateful for the incredible generosity, meaningful connections, and significant recognition Wolper has experienced over these past few months.

As you'll read in this newsletter, against a continuing backdrop of global uncertainty and conflict, and testing times locally, we have worked hard to continue to build Wolper's service offering, maintain the high standards our patients expect from us, and nurture our relationships with the community here in Australia and abroad.

Our services at Beresford Hall continue to be extremely well received, by both residents of Beresford Hall and our MoveWell participants. Participants will also have noticed that our online booking facilities for MoveWell have gone live and are streamlining the process.

We have also opened consulting rooms for specialist services at Wolper. We are still building this offering, and hope to be able to offer patients a range of additional services and convenience.

Wolper's physical environment has been enhanced by the installation of two generously-donated sculptures by the late local artist, Dion Horstmans. Patients and visitors to the Hospital are greeted by one of these two marvellous artworks which has been installed adjacent to the Hospital's main entry. The other work can be seen in the stairs leading to the first floor. I've already seen patients pausing to admire these lovely additions to the Hospital.

We were recently able to hold further meetings with senior leadership from Hadassah Medical Organization visiting from Israel and the United States. The evening was an opportunity to progress the exchange of information and ideas between Wolper and Hadassah, and discuss plans for some exciting initiatives, including events we hope to bring to our Friends in coming months. Under the pressure of attacks from Iran and the continuing war in Gaza, the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem has been doing some extraordinary work to continue to provide muchneeded multidisciplinary services to its patients, and we are thrilled to support and collaborate with them.

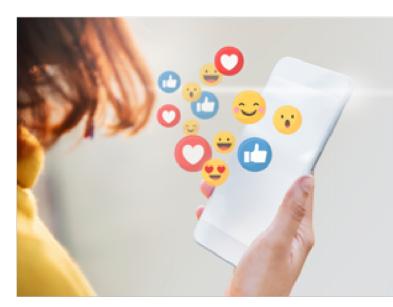
I was delighted to attend the unveiling of a commemorative plaque honouring Dr Fanny Reading MBE. Dr Reading founded the National Council of Jewish Women, which was instrumental in the creation of Wolper Jewish Hospital, including the Woollahra site on which Wolper stands. It was a privilege to meet members of Dr Reading's family and to honour the legacy of a truly extraordinary person.

Many of you will have attended the incredible Friends of Wolper evening held at Swifts in Darling Point, at which we were treated to a candid and fascinating conversation between Former Prime Minister the Hon. John Howard OM AC and Former Premier of NSW Gladys Berejiklian. Thanks to the generosity of Dr Shane and Penny Moran and their family, the venue was the perfect match for our two iconic guest speakers. It was truly a special evening.

Finally, while rightly celebrating these events, and the deep professionalism and care of our management and staff, I'd also like to acknowledge the danger and pressure that our brothers and sisters in Israel continue to endure. Our thoughts are with them: for their safety and security, for the end of hostilities and loss of innocent life, and for an enduring peace. Am Yisrael Chai!



Daniel Goldberg President, Wolper Jewish Hospital



Keep up to date with hospital news & events





## New sculptures enrich Wolper's environment



Next time you visit Wolper – to visit a patient, to attend a MoveWell class or a physiotherapy appointment – be sure to take a moment to admire the two striking new artworks on display.

One sculpture is located in the garden near the Hospital's front entrance, while the other is located in the stairwell leading to Level 1. Both pieces were created by celebrated Bondi artist, the late Dion Horstmans

**Motus mono. Series 1. #1**, found in the stairwell, was sponsored by Wolper Board member Eric Lowenstein, who shared his inspiration for the gift:

"Dion's works bring light, movement and energy to a space. I liked the idea of a dynamic piece that changes as you move past it. It felt right to have something that reflects motion and perspective. I hope it adds a moment of calm or reflection for people as they move through the building."

The second sculpture, *Motus Coloration – 01*, was donated by the artist himself and is located in the front garden, positioned on a custom-made plinth kindly contributed by the Dashing Group. As you walk around this vibrant, angular piece, it reveals shifting shapes and perspectives—almost as if it's in motion, responding to your steps.

These sculptures not only enhance the physical space but also bring a sense of movement, energy and contemplation to all who pass by.

We are deeply grateful to Dion Horstmans, Eric Lowenstein, and the Dashing Group for their generous contributions.

Sadly, Dion Horstmans passed away in February this year at the age of 57. His legacy lives on through his inspiring works, two of which are now part of Wolper.

## Special visitors to Wolper

Since our last edition of Wolper Pulse, the Hospital has had the privilege of hosting several distinguished international guests.

We welcomed representatives from Hadassah International, including Jorge Diener (Executive Director, Mexico) and Carol Ann Schwartz (National President, USA). During their visit, they toured the Hospital and met with members of the Wolper Board and management team. Discussions focused on Hadassah's strategic priorities in expanding its brand, presence, and engagement with supporters, institutions, and professional networks throughout Australia.

In addition, we were pleased to host a delegation from the Israel Trade and Economic Commission, including Ohad Blumberg, Israel's Trade Commissioner to Australia. The group toured the Hospital to gain insight into Wolper's operations and explore potential areas of collaboration and shared interest with Israeli companies in the healthcare sector.



Left to right:
Richard Glass – Wolper Immediate Past
President, Dr Lesley Andrews – Wolper Director, Jorge DienerHadassah International Executive Director, Nathan Schlessinger
– Wolper Foundation Director, Tina Boger – Wolper General
Manager, Josephine Holland – Wolper Vice President,
Carol Ann Schwartz - National President, Hadassah
International, Daniel Goldberg – Wolper President,
Andrew Cohen – Wolper Director



Left to right: Ohad Blumberg - Israel Trade Commissioner, Tina Boger - Wolper General Manager, Dr Moran Dar - medtech consultant , Jeremy Unger - Senior Trade Officer, Israel Trade and Economic Commission



### Healthy Mind, Healthy Body

#### **WOLPER'S 12-WEEK HEALTHY AGEING PROGRAM**

Our next 12-week program starts on 20th August and runs till 12th November

#### LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE!

If you're over 65 and looking to stay sharp, strong and socially connected, this program is for you.

Join us every Wednesday from 11:30am - 2:30pm for a mix of gentle exercise, brain training and wellness education - all tailored to support healthy ageing.

#### What's included:

- Personalised exercise for all fitness levels
- Computer-based brain training to boost memory, focus and mental agility
- Wellness sessions including yoga, mindfulness, nutrition and more
- Workbook-guided home-based activities with personalised feedback



#### What past participants say:

- "The exercise was gentle but effective perfect for my level."
- "Helped me adjust to retirement with structure and purpose."
- "The brain training was a highlight I've kept it up since!"
- "The home-based activities were crucial to benefitting from the whole program."
- "I loved the small group size of the program. There were 6 of us and we still catch up regularly today."
- "I enjoyed it so much, I did it twice!"

TO BOOK OR LEARN MORE, CALL 8324 2261 OR EMAIL HEALTHY@WOLPER.COM.AU

#### Membership renewal time

Friends who have not yet renewed their annual membership should do so now. As a Friend of Wolper you will continue to receive this very informative Wolper Pulse magazine, invitations to Wolper's wellrespected and popular Wellbeing program and priority invitations to Friends of Wolper events at special Friends pricing.

You can renew your membership at wolper.com.au/membership/ or by calling Wolper on 8324 2233.

To those of you who have already renewed - thank you for your continued support.





#### **Honouring Our Palliative Care Team**

In May, Wolper proudly marked Palliative Care Week, recognising the vital role this specialised care plays in enhancing quality of life for patients and their families.

We are incredibly proud of our dedicated palliative care team, whose compassion, professionalism and resilience make a meaningful difference every single day. Their unwavering commitment provides comfort, dignity, and support to patients and their loved ones during some of life's most challenging moments.

Celebrating Palliative Care Week is an important opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary work of these professionals and to thank them for the care they so selflessly provide.

Here are just some of Wolper's palliative care heroes:



Andrew Driehuis - Deputy Director Clinical Services



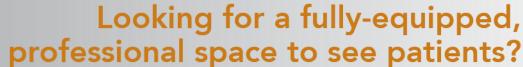
Ricky Lacsina - assistant in nursing



Karli Guilfoyle - registered nurse



Ally Taylor - registered nurse

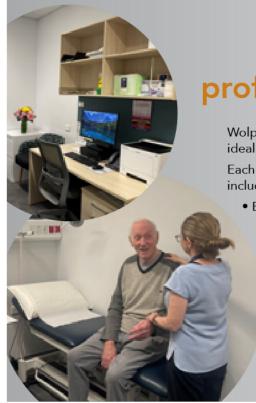


Wolper Jewish Hospital offers beautifully appointed consulting rooms for hire ideal for physicians, psychologists and other allied health professionals.

Each room has been thoughtfully designed to support your practice, with features including:

- Examination bed, blood pressure monitor and essential medical supplies
  - High-speed internet and modern IT equipment
  - Experienced Practice Coordinator
  - Integrated booking and billing software
  - Flexible booking options by the hour or in convenient half-day blocks Set within a welcoming and professional environment, Wolper's consulting rooms offer the perfect balance of comfort and clinical functionality.

Interested in a tour or more information? Contact Roslyn Adams at clinic@wolper.com.au or call 8324 2273.



## A memorable evening with THE HON. JOHN HOWARD and GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN

Friends of Wolper recently held an unforgettable evening, welcoming former Prime Minister the Hon. John Howard OM AC to a special gathering at the iconic Swifts residence in Darling Point.

The heritage-listed Swifts mansion - graciously made available by the Moran family – provided an elegant backdrop for the evening, which featured an engaging and wide-ranging discussion between Mr Howard and former NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

Mr Howard reflected on his years in office and shared candid insights into pressing contemporary issues, including the rise of antisemitism in Australia, the direction of the Liberal Party, and the implications of the recent U.S. election. Known for his wit and warmth, Mr Howard also spoke passionately about his love for cricket and his deep, enduring support for Israel.

Ms Berejiklian added a personal note to the evening, sharing her own connection to Israel – her mother's family hailing from Jerusalem. The conversation between the two leaders was both heartfelt and humorous, with Mr Howard affectionately referring to Ms Berejiklian as his "favourite Premier."

Thank you to all who joined us













#### Gift of Life update

Gift of Life Australia recently held another successful stem cell donor recruitment drive—this time at the Children's Cancer Institute in support of World Blood Cancer Day.

Thanks to this initiative, 20 new potential donors joined the Stem Cell Donors Australia registry, each one increasing the chances of finding a life-saving match for someone diagnosed with blood cancer.

Trained members of Wolper's staff played a key role, facilitating the swabbing sessions onsite at the Children's Cancer Institute ensuring the success of this special event.

If you're interested in receiving a registration kit at home or hosting a donor recruitment session at your workplace or community organisation, please email us at info@giftoflife. org.au. Every registration brings hope to those in urgent need of a stem cell transplant, and all it takes is a simple cheek swab. Find out more at giftoflife.org.au.



Right: Melanie Kanikevich, Dalia Goldberg and Ariella Cemal from Wolper. Amber Sawyer and Juliette Wilson from the Australian Tissue Donation Network.

## Support your community – become a member of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (NSWJBD) is the roof body of the NSW Jewish community, advocating for both its 55 community organisations and the broader Jewish community in NSW. It works closely with all levels of government, all major political parties and with other religious and ethnic communities.

In the current climate its presence and ongoing work is more important than ever. It is vital that the Jewish community continues to show their support by joining as a Member and – should you so choose after a 12 month initial membership period – nominating to be an elected Deputy.

As a Member you will have the opportunity to:

- Attend exclusive events to hear from highprofile leaders and guests on issues important to our community;
- Network with leaders of civic society, including communal, political and media leaders
- Participate in education and leadership programs
- · Join volunteer committees
- Meet, work with and support like-minded community Members



Michele Goldman (left) – CEO of the NSWJBD recently visited Wolper.

She is pictured here with Tina Boger – Wolper General Manager, Richard Glass – Wolper Immediate
Past President, Josephine Holland – Vice President and Daniel Goldberg – Wolper President

THE NSW JBD IS OUR VOICE - ADD YOUR VOICE TOO - BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER TODAY

Join the NSWJBD today at nswjbd.org.au/nswjbd-new-associate/



#### Woollahra Council commemorates Dr Fanny Reading MBE

Woollahra Council has officially honoured the legacy of Dr Fanny Reading MBE with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the NCJW Council House in Woollahra.

A true pioneer, Dr Reading founded the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in the 1920s. The NCJW went on to establish the Wolper Convalescent Home which later merged with the NSW Jewish Hospital to become today's Wolper Jewish Hospital. The enduring connection between NCJW and Wolper is a testament to Dr Reading's lasting impact.

The unveiling ceremony was a meaningful occasion attended by Councillor Julian Parmegiani, Federal MP Allegra Spender, Robyn Lenn OAM (former President of the International Council of Jewish Women), members of Dr Reading's family, and Wolper President Daniel Goldberg.

This tribute not only honours Dr Reading's extraordinary contributions but also highlights the shared history and enduring partnership between the NCJW and Wolper.

Left to right: Barbara Shotland - NCJW NSW President, Robyn Lenn OAM former President of the International Council of Jewish Women, Daniel Goldberg – Wolper President





## Parkinson's NSW acknowledges Wolper's commitment

Last month, Wolper proudly welcomed Woollahra Mayor Sarah Swan, who visited Wolper to present a Community Hero Award on behalf of Parkinson's NSW to Tina Boger, Wolper's General Manager, recognising the Hospital's generous contribution over the past four years.

The Hospital has been providing a meeting space and refreshments to local Parkinson's support groups, offering a safe and welcoming environment for connection and mutual support. Members of the support groups were in attendance at the presentation.

"I'm so thankful to Wolper Jewish Hospital for providing a local space where people with Parkinson's can talk, share stories, listen to guest speakers and generally support one another to live better," said Mayor Swan.

The award is a testament to the Hospital's ongoing commitment to community wellbeing and the importance of supporting those living with chronic conditions.

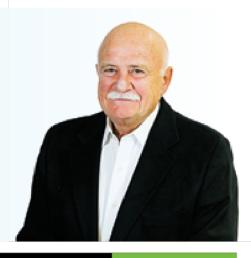
Pictured above: Mayor Sarah Swan (centre) presented Tina Boger with the Parkinson's NSW Community Hero Award. Members of the Wolper Board, Parkinsons's NSW management, allied health professionals and regular attendees of Parkinson's support groups at Wolper also attended

#### Dr Allan Shell OAM

Everyone at Wolper offers their best wishes to the Shell family on the posthumous recognition of their beloved Dr Allan Shell OAM in the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List.

Dr Shell's long and valuable association with Wolper began in the 1980s as a Visiting Medical Officer. In 1997, he joined the Hospital's Board of Directors and served full terms as Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Vice President. He served on the Hospital's Medical Advisory Committee for over 30 years.

Dr Shell's service and dedication to the community and its wellbeing is a shining light to us all.



#### **Personal Perspectives**

## From "G-d Forbid" to "Thank G-d"

#### How Hadassah Protected Patients Under Fire



15 June 2025 - Underground Emergency Hospital at the Gandel Rehabilitation Center - Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus

At Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, preparedness is more than a plan — it's part of the hospital's identity. For over a year, staff quietly referred to the emergency underground hospital beneath the Gandel Rehabilitation Center (GRC) at Mount Scopus as the "G-d Forbid Hospital," hoping it would never be needed.

That changed on 13th June, when Iranian ballistic missiles threatened Jerusalem. At 3:30 a.m., Hadassah's team sprang into action, evacuating 90 patients underground. Within hours, the space was fully operational — treating newborns, elderly patients, and everyone in between.

Among them was a 24-day-old baby girl with a high fever. Her father described the underground ward as "safe, heart-warming, and impressive." Thanks to the dedicated team, she's now recovering well

The GRC, partially opened in 2024, included a design for exactly this moment. Located in its reinforced parking garage, its emergency underground hospital is capable of treating more than 140 patients — including intensive care — even under missile attack. Advanced facilities include adaptive living spaces and cutting-edge technology, all part of Hadassah's commitment to providing continuous care, even in crisis.

Once dubbed the "G-d Forbid Hospital," staff now call it the "Thank G-d Hospital" — A place where resilience, compassion, and expertise came together to protect the most vulnerable.

With a ceasefire with Iran now in place, Hadassah is pushing ahead with further preparations: six underground operating rooms, expanded mental health support, and the completion of the GRC. During the current conflict, the hospital has treated over 1,500 wounded, relocated hundreds to safety, and continued its multidisciplinary care without pause.

Hadassah's team has shown unwavering professionalism and humanity — ensuring that even under fire, healing never stops. In the words shared by staff after those long hours underground: "For us, the place doesn't matter — what matters is caring for those who need us."

Now this subterranean haven stands silent again, ready for what may come next.

Learn more: https://www.hadassahaustralia.org/

## An interesting life: Vera Khedoori

Born in Slovakia in 1937—then part of Czechoslovakia—Vera Khedoori has lived a life shaped by resilience, love, and community.

During World War II, Vera's family survived thanks to an extraordinary act of bravery. Her father had studied at university with a Catholic priest, who gave him documents identifying him as the priest's brother. This enabled the family to live as Christians, even attending church every Sunday.

At just eight years old, Vera had a chilling encounter. While travelling on a train, an SS officer sat beside her and said, "I know you're Jewish, but I want you to remember—not every SS man is mad." Just before the war ended, the family was hiding in the mountains with 20 other families, sleeping on straw with no food.

Vera's father, a solicitor, was later imprisoned by the Russians in 1948. Her mother's brother had a friend in Sydney who had migrated before the war. When asked for help, he arranged immigration papers for the family. These papers ultimately secured Vera's father's release from prison.

The family arrived in Sydney in 1948 and at just 14 years old, Vera met Henry Khedoori, who was six years her senior. They married when Vera was 16.

Together, Vera and Henry built a successful business: Henry's Shoes, with locations in Leichhardt, Rockdale, and Wynyard Arcade. Vera fondly recalls the time a blind man with a guide dog walked in and bought shoes "because his dog told him to!"

For over 20 years, Vera volunteered with B'nai B'rith and served as a volunteer social worker at the Montefiore Home. She hosted many community fundraisers in her home and supported countless causes. As she grew older, she stepped back from her communal work but remained deeply connected to her community.

Vera cared for her parents at Montefiore and shared a long, happy life with Henry. They were married for 73 years until Henry's passing 18 months ago.

Today, Vera continues to live fully, surrounded by love, stories and laughter.

Vera recovered from her hip surgery at Wolper and we wish her all the best.



#### Marking the Festivals at Wolper



Above: Delicious hamantaschen for our staff Right: Mt Zion Early Learning Centre parents delivering amazing mishloach manot

#### Purim

As happens every year, the children from Mt Zion Early Learning Centre in Bondi Road created beautiful, generous mishloach manot (delicious gifts of food). Every patient received one, and they were all overcome by the gesture.

All patients and staff members enjoyed delicious hamantaschen, Jewish triangular filled pocket pastries associated with the holiday of

Purim. Patients enjoyed a fun Purim concert that was broadcast on their televisions.

Dovid Ezagui came to Wolper to read the Megillat Esther, or the Book of Esther, for our Jewish patients and staff. Megillat Esther is the story of Esther, which is the story of Purim, and Jewish people are required to hear this story on Purim.

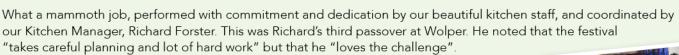


#### **Passover**

There was so much activity at Wolper for Passover!

It's a huge job for our kitchen staff to prepare the Hospital for this important festival, working well into the night. All utensils, cutlery, crockery and other cookware is removed from the kitchen and replaced with special Passover utensils.

A blowtorch is used to make sinks and benchtops kosher for Passover. The Hospital's ovens and stovetops are also made kosher for Passover and all food preparation surfaces and tables in the Hospital are covered so they can continue to be used.



Each of our Jewish patients received a Seder 2 Go kit for use on the Seder nights. These were sourced from JEMS in Bondi.



Staff and patients enjoyed cheesecake, as is the custom, and a beautiful concert was broadcast on the patients' televisions.



#### Bringing the light of Shabbat to Wolper

Every week we have a casual Shabbat dinner at Wolper, where a patient will read the abbreviated blessings and patients sit together and enjoy their beautiful Shabbat dinners.

Six times a year we have a Special Shabbat dinner, where Rabbi Kaiserblueth comes to sing, talk and spread joy to our patients and guests. During school terms student volunteers from Ascham School assist with the set up and smooth running of our Shabbat dinners.

Recently we have had Special Shabbat Dinners in February and May, and the latest one in June. They are always extremely successful, with the non-Jewish patients experiencing the beauty and meaning of Shabbat, and Jewish patients grateful to celebrate Shabbat while in Hospital.

Shabbat dinner - photo taken before Shabbat came in



# Become part of OUT future 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

For more information please contact
Tina Boger, General Manager
Wolper Jewish Hospital
on on 02 9328 6077 or email gm@wolper.com.au



Whether you're observant or secular, deeply engaged with our work or newly connected, your voice matters.

This survey is part of a broader effort to gain a deeper understanding of the needs, experiences, and priorities of our diverse community.

It only takes a few minutes, and your input will directly inform how we plan, advocate and connect in the years ahead.



SCAN TO ACCESS THE SURVEY

Or access:

www.nswjbd.org.au/communitysurvey



CO

Individual kosher catered meals from \$10, home delivered by community volunteers, 3 days per week.



>>> FIND OUT MORE

02 9389 0035 coasydney.org/kosher meals@coasydney.org



Over 33 options.

No lock in contracts.

