Nursing an important untold war story

MOLLY BAXTER

Ms Mason has been nursing in the Territory since 1959 and teaching her trade to students at CDU since 1983. She is also curator at CDU’s Nursing Museum and has dedicated much of her time to writing the stories of the unsung hero nurses who served in Australia’s wars. She has just launched her book for the Historical Society of the NT, An Anzac Journey from Adelaide River to Lemnos, to coincide with International Nurses Day on Thursday. “It’s about celebrating nurses and keeping their intrinsic stories and culture alive,” she said. She hopes her work will be followed by an in-depth research book to keep the memory of military nurses alive, as they had only been properly recognised for the last decade. Ms Mason said two nurses killed in action are memorialised at Adelaide River. The book can be bought from CDU’s Nursing Museum at the Casuarina campus.

MORE than 10 years on from the Bali bombings, Indonesian officials have visited the Darwin trauma centre established following the acts of terror. The former chief investigator of the bombings and now Governor of Bali, I Made Mangku Pastika, was in the region last week on an official two-day visit at the invitation of the NT Government. Mr Pastika and Health Minister John Eferink toured the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre’s warehouse to view its potential disaster capability.

“The centre was established following the Bali bombings in 2002 and is a key element in the Australian Government’s disaster and emergency medical response to incidents of national and international significance,” Mr Eferink said. “Due to the NT’s proximity to South East Asia and Indonesia being our closest neighbour, it is important that we strengthen our cultural ties and friendships with Indonesia through health support.”

Royal Darwin Hospital was the forward receiving hospital for the injured in both the 2002 and 2005 Bali bombings treating more than 100 patients. Staff from the trauma response centre visited RSUP Sanglah Hospital in March where they worked with Indonesian health professionals and looked at areas their partnership could focus on. These areas included bringing four senior Sanglah clinical staff to RSNH to focus on emergency department patient flow.

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