Old Darwin Hospital brought back to life with old memories

More than 30 years after it closed, old Darwin Hospital is being remembered by more than 340 ex-staff and their partners gathering in Darwin for a reunion.

The former hospital staff will reunite at Darwin’s Trailer Boat Club tonight with almost half of the guests coming from interstate.

Health Minister, Kon Vatskalis, paid tribute to those who wandered the wards of the health facility that preceded Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH).

“I’d like to acknowledge the staff who worked at the old Darwin Hospital and whose hard work, dedication, and compassion improved the lives of countless thousands of Territorians and contributed to the development of our region,” he said.

“I’m very happy to ‘welcome back’ those ex-staff returning to Darwin for this reunion. Old Darwin Hospital holds an important place in the history of the NT, especially for the many thousands of Territorians born under its roof.”

The Minister said the Territory Government was proud to support the event with $5,000 and congratulated the organisers, particularly Lynne and Terry Sullivan, for pulling it all together.

Those attending tonight’s reunion include surgeons and surgical teams, nurses, medical specialists, and staff from paediatrics, geriatrics, community health, aero medical, rural health, engineering, maintenance, kitchen, and laundry.

The reunion, originally planned as a one-night affair, has expanded into a week-long celebration to include a reception at Government House, an evening at Mindil Markets, and charter bus tours of the sights of ‘modern’ Darwin.

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