

Howick Hospice

In support of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, Howick Hospice in the KZN Midlands held a morning of “*Celebrating Life with Flowers*” on Friday, 7th October. It was a sensory feast of themed floral arrangements, art and poetry from individuals, schools and businesses. Our fabulously floral display was a delight from start to finish. The public had to walk under a large cherry tree bursting with light pink blossoms before arriving at the hall. A two metre high “springy” balloon flower greeted visitors at the entrance, whilst the delicate perfume of fresh flowers enticed them in! There was a wide range of themed tables that were beautifully decorated. Visitors moved along from one floral fantasy to the next. Our hall looked vibrant and truly celebrated life displaying bunches of brightly coloured poppies at one table and a peaceful arrangement of white lilies and candles on another. *Local is Lekker* with its aloe and ethnic flavour contrasted with *Viva Italia*, sporting crimson magnolias and bottle brush, white lilies and greenery, not forgetting the pepper grinder and olive oil! *Vintage* with its bronze and deep purple irises vied for attention with the *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* table where intense colour emerged amidst newspaper and polystyrene containers. Sunflowers ‘n Sunshine, Crafty Days and Romance were a few of the many displays to be seen. Most of the items displayed on the tables had come from our charity shop and were up for sale – a great PR exercise as people suddenly become aware of how ordinary stuff can be used in extraordinary ways! Floral poetry adorned the walls and resulted in much reflection. Our guests summed up our display perfectly from “a magic display of what nature provides each day” and “flowers lift up one’s heart and soul” to “flowers are God’s gift to us”. Howick Hospice truly embraced the quality of life that day!

Some flowers... murmur in tones scarcely audible, but exquisitely soft and sweet, “I am little, but I am beloved”. George Sand



Verulam Regional Hospice Association

“A dying man is still alive” and in this spirit, our hospice observed the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on the 6 October 2011. The successful event was graced by our patients, staff, doctors, volunteers, management and members of the community.

Our caregivers, together with the patients sang a song on HIV/Aids. The highlight of the day was the presence of a patient who is diagnosed with HIV/TB of the spine and was previously bedridden on admission. With our Interdisciplinary team’s successful intervention i.e. doctors, caregivers, professional nurses, physiotherapist, social worker, our patient is a living testament to the success of “many voices, many diseases, many lives.”

Dr Julia Ambers from the Big Shoes Foundation our volunteer, in her keynote address highlighted the differences on curative and palliative care. There was laughter and joy all round during a ‘laughter therapy’ session presented by Dr Gita Surajnarain from the UKZN. Her demonstration and interactive participation was well received and enjoyed by all.

Our hospice star, an 8 year old patient enthralled all with a dramatized dance and her talk on Palliative Care. Dr Danny Chetty, our Chairperson challenged members of the community to promote the “Power of 10”, and highlighted the positive impact it would have on hospices.