

The Elms



Family Medical Centre

Quarterly Newsletter

Keeping you in touch with developments at our Medical Centre

www.theelms.com.au



Autumn 2016

The Elms was once again a proud sponsor of the annual David Calleja Memorial Car Show held recently in Bacchus Marsh. The event raises funds for the Djerriwarrh Health Services which goes toward the purchase of medical equipment, and showcases a wide variety of enthusiast's cars, motorcycles and trucks. It was great to see another big turnout in support of our local hospital.

Medical student news

We welcome our 2016 Deakin University medical student, Elisa Pruss, who is attached to The Elms and Bacchus Marsh Hospital for the entire year. Elisa is the sixth Deakin medical student we have mentored and she will be involved in consultations with patients under the supervision of Dr Rob Hosking and Dr Woody Wu. The Elms plays an important role in the training of future doctors and we thank our patients for giving Elisa the opportunity to participate in their care as part of her learning.

Our student from 2015, Russell Stanbrough, successfully passed his examinations and is now in his final year of medical school at Deakin University in Geelong.

Receptionist news

We are pleased that Lisa and Alana, both recent additions to our reception team, have settled into their new roles very quickly. Being a medical receptionist involves many different tasks, the most important of which is ensuring a positive patient experience through friendly and responsive service. Lisa and Alana, like all our reception staff, work hard to make this happen.

New Visiting General and Breast Surgeon

Ms Ruth Bollard, specialist general and breast surgeon, has commenced consulting at The Elms once a month on Monday afternoon. She is based in Ballarat and also operates at the Bacchus Marsh Hospital. She has expertise in breast cancer treatment and all forms of breast surgery, as well as general operations such as endoscopy, thyroid surgery, hernia repairs and excision of skin lesions.

A referral from your doctor is necessary before you can see Ms Bollard, with appointments made by calling her Ballarat rooms on (03) 5330-5900.

Change of name for pathology provider

Australian Clinical Labs is the new name for Healthscope Pathology. However, the range of services will remain unchanged, and we have the same experienced pathology collectors (Colleen, Di and Terri). Request forms on Healthscope-branded stationary will continue to be accepted whilst the transition to the new name occurs.

Australian Clinical Labs will maintain the same hours of availability, namely from 8.30am to 4.30pm on weekdays, and 8.30am to 11.30am on Saturdays. Pathology services are not available on Sunday and public holidays. More information can be found at www.clinicallabs.com.au

New name for women's ultrasound service

Siles Health is the new name for Melbourne Women's Imaging, our on-site pregnancy and women's ultrasound provider. Ken Taylor continues as the local ultrasonographer, and is at The Elms every Monday. Appointments can be made on (03) 9328-4403, with more details available at www.sileshealth.com.au

Childhood Immunisation Update

The Moorabool Shire Council has discontinued its childhood immunisation sessions as of 2016. However, parents can still book in at The Elms for their children's scheduled injections. These injections are supplied by the Government, with administration by our clinic nurses (bulk-billed). Make sure you bring in your child's immunisation record book so that it can be updated.

There are two different but similarly named Government policies relating to childhood immunisations. The "No Jab, No Pay" policy of the Australian (Federal) Government concerns eligibility for the Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate, and the Family Tax Benefit Part A. From 1st January 2016, parents can only receive these financial payments if all their children under 20 years of age are fully immunised.

The "No Jab, No Play" policy of the Victorian (State) Government relates to access to early childhood services such as long day care, occasional care, kindergarten and family day care. From 1st January 2016, only children who are fully immunised will be allowed to enrol in these services. However, "No Jab, No Play" does not apply to primary and secondary school enrolment, or to play groups.

Influenza immunisation for 2016

It has been announced that the Government-funded influenza immunisation for 2016 will cover four strains of the 'flu virus, as opposed to the three-strain vaccine used in 2015. It will be free for all people over 65 years of age, pregnant women, people with certain medical conditions, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are younger than 5 years or older than 15 years.

Patients eligible for the free influenza vaccine can receive it by booking in to see our clinic nurse via reception. Those not eligible for the Government-funded vaccine can see their doctor for a prescription. Once dispensed by a pharmacy, patients can book in to see our clinic nurse to have it administered (bulk-billed).

Iron infusion service

Patients with confirmed iron deficiency may be recommended to have extra iron in the form of oral supplements. However, sometimes this is inadequate, not tolerated or just too slow. An alternative is having an intravenous infusion of high dose iron. We now give intravenous iron in our treatment room. Please discuss with your doctor if you have iron deficiency and think an infusion might be appropriate for you.

Government My Health Record

Previously known as the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR), the Government My Health Record is a secure online summary of your health information. It is particularly useful for those with complex or chronic conditions as it allows the patient to share important medical details with treating doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers. Individuals retain control over their own My Health Record, including what it contains and who can access it. We encourage all our patients to consider registering for their own My Health Record, even if they do not have complex medical problems as it will ultimately lead to better coordination of health care.

Online registration is available at www.myhealthrecord.gov.au , or by speaking with your doctor or our reception staff.

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