

The Elms



Family Medical Centre

Quarterly Newsletter

Keeping you in touch with developments at our Medical Centre

www.theelms.com.au



Summer 2015/2016

After 25 years of delivering babies at the Bacchus Marsh Hospital, Dr Rob Hosking has retired from providing intra-partum obstetrics. The combination of many a night of on-call (with the associated disturbed sleep), and the increasing commitment to various committees within Government and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners led Rob to make the difficult but considered decision to “hang up the forceps”. His exemplary obstetric practice spanned two generations, with many of the couples from earlier in his career now proud grandparents! Rob continues to perform pregnancy (antenatal) care at The Elms.

Dr Hosking was also recently acknowledged for his longstanding contribution to general practice training with an award from General Practice Supervisors Australia (GPSA). The Recognition of Service Award reflects Rob’s role in the post-graduate training of future general practitioners, as a supervisor of over twenty years. Congratulations to Rob for being part of the successful training of over sixty doctors into becoming specialist general practitioners!

More doctor news

Dr Amanda Gibbons has been enthusiastically received after starting at The Elms as a general practice registrar in August this year. She has been very popular with our patients and is an integral member of our team of doctors.

Dr Ayesha Munir remains on maternity leave, and patients will be delighted to know that she will be resuming at The Elms in August 2016. We are looking forward to her return next year.

Medical student news

Russell Stanbrough, our Deakin University medical student, has just completed his year-long placement with us. We would like to thank all our patients who have contributed to Russell’s learning by involving him during consultations. He will now progress to his fourth (and final year) of medical school in 2016, with rotations in various hospital specialties. We know that he will make a fantastic doctor and wish him the best for the future.

Receptionist news

Leonie Rousch has recently reached the milestone of 15 years as a receptionist at The Elms. Along with her reception duties at the front desk, Leonie is also responsible for many “behind the scenes” roles. One of these is coordinating and collating the referral documentation required to help patients access allied health services through General Practice Management Plans and Team Care Arrangements. Thank you to Leonie, and congratulations!

One of our other longstanding receptionists, Vicki Rowan, has recently decided to give work a break. She will be missed for her sense of humour and her ability to handle even the toughest situations with a smile. In Vicki’s place we have two new receptionists starting soon. Lisa Sullivan and Alana Madigan have extensive client service experience, although both will be new to general practice reception. They will be mentored by our established front desk staff and we are confident that they will settle in well to their new role.

Nurse news

With the increasing input of nurses in patient care, we are pleased to welcome Catherine Dickson, registered nurse, who has joined our team. She will work alongside our other registered nurses, Judy, Vicki H and Therese. Catherine will initially perform duties such as immunisations, wound care and surgical assisting, but will gradually expand her involvement to cover chronic disease management, health assessments, and diagnostic testing. All our nurses can also assist with the initial triaging and care of walk-in patients who are feeling unwell.

Dietitian news

We have dietitian, Leeanne Azzopardi, consulting monthly on Tuesday at The Elms. She provides children and adults with practical advice about nutrition to help promote good health. Leeanne has expertise in weight management (both over- and under-weight), diabetes (type 1, 2 and gestational), coeliac disease, nutritional deficiencies, food intolerances and irritable bowel syndrome. Further information can be found on her website, www.nutritionhealthandwellbeing.com.au and appointments to see Leeanne can be made by speaking with our receptionists.

Psychologist news

We recently said farewell to Eloise O'Reilly, who has moved her psychology practice to be closer to Melbourne. In her place, we have Olivia Walker who consults every Friday. Olivia is part of the Ranges Psychological Services group, and provides counselling for children, adolescents and adults. She manages conditions such as depression, anxiety, trauma, chronic pain, relationship issues, occupational stress, and autism spectrum disorder. For more detailed information see www.rangespsychologicalservices.com.au and appointments can be booked by calling 0425-240-021.

Occupational medical examinations

The Elms has recently entered an arrangement with Western Water and also Hanson to provide their workers with pre-employment medical examinations, immunisations and also periodic vocational re-certification. We have always conducted pre-employment and licence medicals, however this is the first time that we have been engaged in a formal program with specific employers. As part of this, we also provide lung function checking (spirometry) and conduct the required blood and urine testing. Other examinations we frequently perform include motor vehicle licence medicals, commercial licence medicals and motor sports medicals.

The Bacchus Marsh Hospital

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the recent difficulties and negative publicity faced by the Bacchus Marsh Hospital. Due to chronic under-funding by successive State Governments and the increasing demands placed on facilities and staff by the massive population growth in the region, there have been a number of cases identified of adverse obstetric outcomes, including stillbirths. Unfortunately, specific members of staff were singled out by the media, even though investigations showed that none of the cases shared any common cause. Regardless, it remains a distressing situation for the families involved and one consolation is that the hospital has now received much needed top-up Government funding. This has gone toward the purchase of essential medical equipment, improvements to staff education, and the establishment of additional performance surveillance.

We would encourage the community to continue supporting its own hospital so that all services, including maternity, medical, surgical, palliative care and emergency, remain local; otherwise the nearest facilities to provide all these services will be Ballarat or Sunshine Hospitals.

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