

Medical matters

The Shepparton Private Hospital Newsletter



Shepparton Private Hospital
20 Fitzgerald Street, Shepparton Vic 3630

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www.ramsayhealth.com.au/spp

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SHEPPARTON
PRIVATE HOSPITAL

A message from the CEO



Dear All

Welcome to the third edition of Shepparton Private Hospital Medical Matters newsletter. As with our first two editions the purpose of this newsletter is to keep Visiting Medical Practitioners and General Practitioners alike up to date with the latest happenings at Shepparton Private Hospital and to communicate what new services and specialists the hospital has available.

There has been a number of developments since our last newsletter including the arrival of Mr Muhammad Abdullah (General Surgeon), the approval of a new consulting room complex at the front of the hospital and the recognition of a further 4 years accreditation from the Australian Council of HealthCare Standards.

Another Specialist soon to join Shepparton Private Hospital is Dr Ramesh Arora (Rheumatologist and Consultant Physician). It is anticipated that he will begin consulting from the hospital from

November 2008. Dr Arora will have permanent rooms at the hospital and we will communicate in the very near future a firm starting date.

Visits to our hospital website www.ramsayhealth.com.au/spp continue to increase with over 1,000 hits per month now. The website details the services available at the hospital, provides information for prospective patients and a listing of those specialists credentialed at the hospital including their practice contacts. We hope to build on the information provided in this website and so any feedback would be welcomed.

Developing and improving the services of the hospital continues to be a major focus of both Ramsay Healthcare and the Hospital Executive. Part of the improvement process is obtaining feedback and in the next few weeks a survey will be distributed. I encourage all General Practitioners to take the time and complete as it is an important component of improving our services and we welcome constructive and honest feedback.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming GP CPD evenings or around the corridors.

Kind Regards,
Chris Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

Did you know?

That Shepparton Private Hospital:

- Has 6% of inpatients self funding
- Is a Tier 1 DVA contracted hospital so no approval required for DVA gold card
- Has a 4 bed High Dependency Area with fully monitored beds for post surgical and cardiac monitoring.
- Performs Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding
- Is part of Ramsay Healthcare, the largest private hospital operator in Australia
- Offers comprehensive pre admission and discharge planning services.
- Has a 5 bed post natal unit.

Services Overview

The hospital provides both inpatient and day patient services covering the following specialities:

- Non Interventional Cardiology
- Bariatric Surgery
- Dentistry
- Ear Nose and Throat
- Gastroenterology
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology/ Post Natal / Elective LUSCS
- Ophthalmology
- Oral / Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Urology

For a listing of our visiting medical practitioners and their contact details please visit www.ramsayhealth.com.au/spp/doctors/specialists.

Shepparton Private Hospital obtains 4 years accreditation

Following an Organisational Wide Survey in March this year, Shepparton Private Hospital has been awarded 4 years accreditation by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

The award is recognition of the high quality of patient care and the quality systems in place at Shepparton Private Hospital.

Director of Clinical Services, Marg Watts, said that the hospital's staff and Visiting Medical Practitioners are very proud of gaining the four years accreditation status..



(From left) Finance Manager Dominic Mellino, Director of Clinical Services Marg Watts and CEO Chris Thompson with the Accreditation certificate.

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Staff Profiles:

Tony Neilly- Assistant Director of Nursing – After Hours Coordinator

Tony migrated from the United Kingdom in early 1997 and soon after arriving in Australia commenced employment at Shepparton Private Hospital in April 1997 as After Hours Hospital Coordinator.

Prior to arriving in Australia Tony was a Ward Manager at St Thomas' Hospital in London a major teaching hospital.

Tony brought with him to Shepparton Private Hospital a broad range of experience and qualifications including Critical Care, Advanced Life Support and Management. He has continued to enhance his knowledge and nursing expertise and has the confidence of all the Visiting Medical Practitioners who recognise that if they hear his Scottish accent after hours he is contacting them regarding their patients with good reason.

When on duty Tony is responsible for all aspects of the after hours operations of the hospital. He is also actively involved in providing on-going education to his nursing colleagues and mentoring nursing students.

Tony is married to Natal (also a Registered Nurse whom he met in London) and has three young children. His position at Shepparton Private Hospital as one of a number of After Hours Coordinators provides him the flexibility required in a working family with young children.

When asked about his time at SPH Tony said "The friendly relaxed working atmosphere at SPH and the opportunity to provide quality nursing care is what has kept me at SPH for the past 11 years."



Tony Neilly

Sarah Tarnay – Assistant Director of Nursing – After Hours Coordinator.

After a false start in Optometry Sarah commenced her nursing career at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1980, the days of starched caps and red capes.

Sarah worked in Intensive Care at Westmead Hospital and still recalls the aftermath of the Milperra Bike Massacre. She completed her Midwifery Certificate at Ryde Hospital.

Following marriage (to Nick for 20years) Sarah travelled, had children and worked at GV Health before moving to Shepparton Private Hospital where she has been a valued employee since 1990.

Since commencing at SPH Sarah has continued to enhance her qualifications by completing a Post Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing and a Nursing Degree from Deakin University. She has also completed numerous short courses including Advanced and Basic Life Support and coordinates and conducts the hospital's Medical Emergency Training and Competency Assessments.

As After Hours Coordinator Sarah is responsible for the overall management of the hospital in the absence of the Executive including staffing, provision of care and organisation of admissions.

Nursing still retains its appeal for Sarah who enjoys caring for people and using her expert clinical skills as well as enjoying the social aspect of the nursing role.

When asked to provide some information about her self for this publication Sarah concluded by saying "Shepparton Private has a great team of staff and as it is not too large staff know one another. I know I am lucky to be able to say I enjoy my job".



Sarah Tarnay

Building Development at Shepparton Private Hospital

CEO of Shepparton Private Hospital, Mr Chris Thompson, has just announced a \$450,000 building project for the construction of new consulting rooms at the front of the Hospital.

The building will provide both permanent and 3 additional sessional consulting rooms and will be built by local builders with an expected opening in November 2008.

"The hospital is extremely pleased to receive the funding for the construction from Ramsay Healthcare. These new rooms will increase the capacity for sessional specialists and will provide a basis for future growth and development" Mr Thompson said.

The hospital is also well under way in planning for new services including a new day surgery centre and operating theatre.



How to Admit

For a General Practitioner to have a patient admitted to Shepparton Private Hospital they must either refer to a specialist or obtain admitting rights with the hospital.

In order to obtain admitting rights at Shepparton Private Hospital please contact the Executive Office on 03 5832 1270 to obtain an application form and a copy of the hospital's By-laws.

Shepparton Private Hospital has a large number of credentialed General Practitioners with admitting and/or surgical assisting privileges at the hospital. Of recent times there has been increasing requests from our Surgeons for surgical assistants. These are generally in the area of General Surgery, Orthopaedics and Gynaecology. If you are interested please contact CEO Chris Thompson to register that interest.

Shepparton Private Hospital Supports Timorese Doctor

Through the joint support of Ophthalmologist Dr Simon Permezel, Anaesthetist Dr Roger Picone, Freemasons, Shepparton Private Hospital and Goulburn Valley Health, the sight of a West Timor Doctor has been restored through cataract surgery at Shepparton Private Hospital.

Dr Leo Mengngi, a doctor in the small village of Kupantg in West Timor, received cataract surgery on his first eye in late March. Dr Mengngi cares for around 2000 families in difficult conditions which had become worse with his limited eyesight.

Upon visiting the Goulburn Valley with his wife to visit his daughter, Dr Permezel became aware of his situation and assisted in bringing all groups together.

Shepparton Private Hospital CEO Mr Chris Thompson said that he was proud to

be involved in such a fantastic gesture of community goodwill. "This surgery will not only benefit Dr Mengngi but all of the villages who rely on his medical services".



Dr Mengngi with from left Jan Phillips (Goulburn Valley Health), Dr Simon Permezel and Chris Thompson (CEO Shepparton Private Hospital)

Shepparton Private Hospital staff support World's Greatest Shave

Alison Scholl, a Division 1 Night Duty Nurse at Shepparton Private Hospital recently participated in the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave. Alison chose to loose her locks to support her niece who is currently undergoing treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. On 14 March, Alison supplied morning tea for staff who snipped away at her hair prior to a hairdresser completing the transformation. Almost \$200 was raised and Alison is continuing her fund raising efforts.



20 Fitzgerald Street Shepparton

(at Shepparton Private Hospital)

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Doctor Profile: NEW PERMANENT GENERAL SURGEON FOR SHEPPARTON MR MUHUMMAD ABDULLAD

Mr Abdullah did his internship in Southern Africa followed by 5 years of surgical training and two surgical Fellowships from United Kingdom (England and Glasgow). Subsequently he worked as General Surgeon in Pakistan before moving to Malaysia. In Kuala Lumpur, he taught surgery at the University of Malaya Medical School as a senior lecturer while working as General Surgeon (with Gastro-intestinal interest) & Endoscopist in the attached University Hospital. During this time he wrote papers on his topics of interests including one on Thyroid Cancer published in the ANZ journal of surgery.

He migrated with his wife and two children to Australia in 2004 when he was offered a

Fellowship position in Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology at the Peter McCallum Cancer Institute in Melbourne. This was followed up by a period of Advanced Surgical Training through the St Vincent's hospital in Melbourne and passing of the Australian FRACS examination.

His last appointment prior to moving to Shepparton was a year of Upper Gastrointestinal Fellowship at the Western and Sunshine Hospitals in Melbourne.

Mr Abdullah's main interests apart from the general surgical work is Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal surgery. This includes Laparoscopic hernias and Laparoscopic Gastric Banding procedures. He undertakes both

Colonoscopic and Gastroscopic endoscopy and also has a keen interest in Thyroid surgery.

Mr Abdullah has joined the practice at Shepparton Surgical and Endoscopy Group, 20 Fitzgerald St Shepparton.



Caring for Mothers & Babies (& Fathers too) at Shepparton Private

A team of experienced and caring midwives working in the 5 bed Post Natal Unit at the hospital strive to provide excellent care to privately or self insured mothers and babies.

The hospital does not have a delivery suite but accepts post natal patients following delivery at Goulburn Valley Health.

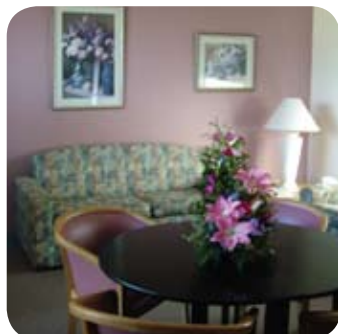
Elective Caesarean deliveries may be undertaken by the Specialist Obstetricians.

The hospital's Post Natal Unit is located in Kingfisher Ward and provides the following care and facilities:

- Experienced Midwives
- Breastfeeding advice and assistance by qualified Lactation Consultants
- Personalised education and support for parents
- Physiotherapy and Dietetics consultation and advice
- A welcoming atmosphere for fathers who can stay overnight if they wish – double bed available.
- Large private rooms in a separate wing with its own lounge area.
- A well equipped nursery
- Television, Newspaper and freshly cooked meals which are available for the father as well.

Post natal patients are provided with expert personalised care and are able to remain in hospital until they are fully rested and confident with feeding and mothercraft.

Margot McGrath -Nurse Unit Manger is available on 58321210 if you or any of your patients would like further information on post- natal services at Shepparton Private Hospital.



refurbished post natal sitting room

Dr Mark Renehan to be Ophthalmologists' Censor-in-Chief

Well-known local ophthalmologist, Dr Mark Renehan has been appointed by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) to be its next Censor-in-Chief.

Dr Renehan will officially take over the role during the College's Annual Scientific Congress in Melbourne in November.

As Censor-in-Chief, Dr Renehan will be responsible for the College's education and training activities, including the training of new ophthalmologists, the continuing professional development program for the 900 specialist ophthalmologists at present in Australia and New Zealand and the assessment of overseas trained ophthalmologists seeking to practise in Australia.

Dr Renehan, who is in private practice in Shepparton and Mornington, and has public appointments as a Visiting Medical Officer at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and Goulburn Valley Health, has been involved in a wide range of RANZCO activities and will bring considerable experience to the role of Censor-in-Chief.

He has been a College Board Director and Councillor since 2005, Chair of the College's Ophthalmic Sciences Examiners since 2006 and is an ex-officio member of its Qualification and Education Committee. He has also been a physiology and pharmacology examiner.

Dr Renehan is a member of RANZCO's Overseas Trained Specialists Committee and Chair of its recently established Scope of Practice Committee. He has also been involved in training post inspections.

Outside the College, he has also been involved in undergraduate medical teaching at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Renehan will succeed Dr David Kaufman, also of Victoria, who decided to retire from the role – one that he has held for the past six years.



Palliative Care at Shepparton Private Hospital

While acknowledging that contemporary Palliative Care practice aims to assist terminally patients to remain to home where it is desirable and medically appropriate, this is not always possible .

To ensure patients who are admitted to Shepparton Private Hospital for end of life care are provided with the most appropriate care the hospital works in close liaison with Goulburn Valley Hospice Care Service Inc. (Hospice Care).

A formal contract between the hospital and Hospice Care ensures that in- patients, their families and staff have access to the expertise of the Hospice nurses where necessary.

The hospital also has on staff a Clinical Nurse Specialist - Palliative Care and a number staff who have undertaken Hospice Care's Syringe Driver Competency Program.

Nursing staff with a special interest in palliative care are members of the Rural Palliative Care Special Interest Group facilitated by Hospice Care and the Director of Clinical Services is a member of the Hospice Care Committee of Management. These memberships also assist in ensuring that hospital staff are up to date with all aspects of palliative care such as symptom relief, pain management and availability of support services such as pastoral care.



Jan Griffin Nurse Unit Manager – Banksia Ward is currently undertaking a Palliative Care Nursing Course which will further assist the hospital to provide a high standard of care to patients and the families of patients admitted for palliative care.