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Getting the Jab Done

There was a flurry of activity in April as we opened the doors to the Kilmore District Health (KDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic.

The initial focus was making sure that our health care worker staff and every aged care resident was fully vaccinated. Since then, the clinic opened to people aged over 50, then over 40. The service has been kept busy.

The clinic - located within the outpatients building - is staffed by professionals who are all trained and credentialed to deliver vaccines. We also recruited additional administrative staff to support the process.

We know our local community members have been keen to get vaccinated. That has meant there were times at which people had difficulty accessing the clinic due to surges in demand.

“The vaccination clinic phones melted for a few days during the latest COVID outbreaks in Melbourne, with thousands of calls received. This happened at the same time that there was a dramatic increase in requests for COVID testing,” explains KDH CEO, David Naughton.

“On the busiest day we tested over 190 individuals in our drive through clinic. We worked through the calls to the vaccination clinic as best as we could. I apologise to anyone who was kept waiting. Thanks for your patience and for that decision you made to get vaccinated sooner rather than later.”

The KDH COVID-19 vaccination clinic has supplies of the AstraZenica and Pfizer vaccines. People aged 40- 59 years are now eligible for the Pfizer option.

Recent announcements have been made about anyone over 18 years now being eligible for the AstraZenica vaccine.

If this is something you are interested in It is recommended that you book into with your GP to discuss.

Since the clinic opened on 15 April we've been keeping track of the regulatory requirements. We've been reporting staff vaccination data to government authorities and working towards all Aged Care Workers being vaccinated by mid September in line with new requirements. We continue to implement visitor limits across KDH to ensure that we deliver care in the safest possible way.

The restrictions have been challenging for families and carers. The good news is that as of late June, regional health services have eased visitor restrictions for both acute services and Residential Aged Care. For now, this means that two visitors at a time are allowed, with a limit of five visitors per resident, per day.

The entire KDH team is grateful for your patience and flexibility. We look forward to welcoming you back!

In the meantime, the best chance we have to move beyond this global pandemic is our widespread uptake of vaccination, combined with virus screening, hand washing, social distancing, following restrictions and using QR codes.

If you are eligible for vaccination please call the clinic on 5734 2127 and get the job done.

The KDH COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic is accessible only by appointment. The process is quick, efficient, and we're running to schedule. Jump online for more information.

www.kilmoredistricthealth.org.au/covid-19-booking-vaccination.

CEO Update

Welcome to the winter edition of Community Connect. Since the last newsletter my family and I have settled in, and we're making the most of living in regional Victoria.

As always, there is a lot going on in a busy health service like Kilmore District Health.

We've continued to manage our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and varying restrictions as they apply to staff, patients, residents, volunteers and visitors.

As you'll have read on page 1, the launch of the on-site vaccination clinic has been a big task, not without trial and difficulties. But we've got the job done so you can get your jabs done.

There have been a few other changes at the hospital, including a new 28 bay staff car park. We're about to plant 250 trees in this area, thanks to the generosity of Landcare and Mitchell Shire.

Our local community fundraisers have also been generous. We send a big thank you to the Broadford Lions for their wonderful donation. Read more on page 3 about how this gift is making a difference.

While I'm thanking people, I'd like to send appreciation out to all our staff. You have continued to provide high quality clinical care and support services while meeting many COVID-19 demands.

The 'COVID layer' adds complications to clinical work. It's hard wearing PPE, being extra vigilant, asking the required questions of all visitors and patients, and maintaining your own health and wellbeing during uncertainty and never-ending change. The individual and collective efforts of this team are greatly appreciated by me and our community.

Take care, staff safe, get vaccinated.

Regards,

David



Take care of you



Structure your day and keep good habits



Breathing exercises can ease stress



Lean on each other for support



Play online with friends or start a hobby



Sunlight can improve your mood



Explore your local neighbourhood

Blooming Marvellous

Caladenia are commonly known as spider orchids, and there are varieties that bloom locally. The beautiful flowers inspired the name of our residential aged care facility, which opened in August, 1991.

Now we're getting set to celebrate the 30th birthday of Caladenia Nursing Home, which recently benefitted from a refurbishment and upgrade. This fit-for-purpose building has become a great hub for local people.

Over three decades we've welcomed staff, residents, and families into this caring community. We're waiting to see what happens with restrictions, but keep an eye on social media to see how we plan to celebrate these connections. Stay tuned.

Parks for Trees

Since 2015, when the KDH site was redeveloped, Renae Gibaud from our finance department has been hoping that new trees would be planted to replace those that were removed.

Earlier this year, Renae took the initiative to see what community grants were available to help us to restore life and greenery to the place.

Her detective work and conversations resulted in a collaboration with Mitchell Shire Council for National Tree Planting Day. This community activity began in 1996, and it's a call to action for Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

The shire has come up with the goods, and on Wednesday 14 July our staff will be planting 250 trees around the main entrance and new car park.

We recently opened this 28 space staff car park near the main entrance. This makes accessibility easier and enables KDH to meet the increased traffic demands of visitors to the vaccination clinic and other services.



Unfortunately we lost a large elm tree in the big June storm. But the tree will be transformed by local wood turner, Greg Stute, who will lathe bowls and other items.

As an organisation that's been serving the community since the 1860s we recognise that life comes with change and cycles. And we're looking forward to the growth of the new trees we'll be planting together for the generations to come.

Putting a Name to the Face

From early July, you'll notice our staff wearing KDH name badges. This new initiative highlights the value of consumer engagement in enabling us to respond to feedback and make improvements.

To be sure that name badges would be a useful form of communication we surveyed consumers and staff to check that we needed to act. The result from 72 respondents was a unanimous 'yes'.

This project has had the biggest level of consumer participation to date. Community Members and staff have since been active in the co-design of the badges, to make sure they support good accessibility and communication.

"We know from the research that how a person is welcomed into a place influences how comfortable they feel to communicate. We also know that health outcomes improve with good communication. The feedback showed us that people also like to know who it is they are communicating with," says Leanne Houston, KDH Manager of Consumer Experience.

"It was clear that we needed to show someone's name and what their job is, so you're not telling the cleaner what you should be sharing with a nurse! So, now when you're here you can put a name and a place to the face."

All Heart

Lisa Carlyon and the Urgent Care Centre team are getting ready to receive five new cardiac monitors, thanks to the generosity of the Broadford Lions Club (BLC).

The \$26,650 donation will deliver upgraded functions and capabilities for clinicians to monitor and support patients.

The gift comes from a community fundraising effort back in the 1980s. BLC and two other groups raised money for local woman Karen Lonsdale to travel to Sydney for a heart transplant. Unfortunately Karen

died before the operation could happen.

The subsequent trust fund was co-managed by the groups before BLC administered the trust and donation disbursement.

BLC recently decided that one significant donation to the hospital for heart-related equipment would be an appropriate legacy for Karen and the local community that supported her. Our team and patients send our heartfelt thanks.



Who Are You?

Renae Gibaud

Accounts Payable Officer

What does your typical day look like?

I have an accounts payable role within the finance department. My days mostly consist of managing invoices and payments to suppliers and doctors.

How did you find yourself at KDH?

I grew up around Diamond Valley and about 17 years ago I moved to Kilmore for a tree change and to be closer to family. I started here as the receptionist.

What is the best thing about working at KDH?

I worked at the main reception for about ten years before I moved across the finance department. So I've been here at KDH for a long time, which means I know most staff. I feel very supported and lucky to have a local job that allows me to walk to work!

What activities do you enjoy on your days off?

I love to get away camping and exploring. I get creative by upcycling unwanted furniture. I'm also learning to ride a trail bike, which is a new skill that's challenging and fun.

What have we been up to?

New Staff Members



42

COVID-19 swabs administered



2,060

Procedures Performed



533

COVID-19 Vaccines administered



980

District Nurse Home Visits



713

Babies Born



60

Outpatient Appointments



1,675

Urgent Care Presentations



4,748

Data from 1 March to 31 May 2021
included in these figures

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