

ACUTE NEWS

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healthcare™



A NOTE FROM TIM YEOH

Welcome to the first edition of Acute News for 2021. After a challenging year in 2020 for us all, many of our Health Care Acute sites finished with record numbers of patients and have continued a busy start in 2021.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we hope for a more stable and consistent environment, ensuring we can deliver on our plans, including the successful opening of some substantial developments that we have coming on-line this year.

In reflecting on 2020, I want to thank all of our staff for the enormous contribution they made in delivering positive experiences and exceptional care for our patients, in particularly trying circumstances. I also want to take a moment to recognise those staff who have been successful in winning the 2020 Luye Life Sciences Awards for their exceptional efforts - Love Your Work!

Tim Yeoh, CEO Acute Services



WOLLONGONG DAY SURGERY REOPENS

The \$23 million redevelopment of Wollongong Day Surgery was officially opened recently, an important addition to the Wollongong health precinct. The new additions provide patients and specialists with modern Consulting Suites, four operating theatres, an expanded recovery area, and importantly off-street parking for those with mobility issues.

Located right next door to Wollongong Hospital the Day Surgery offers a range of services including endoscopy, eye surgery, maxillofacial, gynaecology, orthopaedics, urology, dental, ENT, dermatology, and plastics and reconstructive surgery.

"There's clearly been demand here for a long time for additional day surgery services. The day surgery has been here for 30 years and the facility was at capacity. Now we have doubled the capacity in our operating theatres, and can see an additional 500 patients a month," said Wollongong Day Surgery CEO, Marc Monsell.

As pressure continues to mount on the public health sector, Wollongong Day Surgery's reopening comes at an ideal time to support the needs of patients locally.

"We've been assisting the public hospital with the backlog of elective surgery due to COVID restrictions, and we wouldn't have been able to offer that prior to the expansion," says Marc.

Learn more about the reopening and new facilities at <https://tinyurl.com/ct2hj5y4>



NEW CANCER SERVICE FOR NSW MID NORTH COAST AT FORSTER AND MAYO PRIVATE HOSPITALS



The teams at Forster and Mayo Private Hospitals on the NSW Mid North Coast will join with their counterparts at Manning Base Hospital, as part of a newly announced partnership to deliver radiation therapy services to more than 95,000 cancer sufferers in the region.

The new service will add to the oncology programs already on offer, and reduce the need for local patients to travel to Port Macquarie or Newcastle for their treatment.

"About one-third of people with cancer in Australia live outside our major cities and having better access to treatment will save lives and improve health outcomes for Australians living in regional areas," said Minister for Health and Aged Care, Greg Hunt.

"This new investment of up to \$5 million means cancer patients in the Manning-Great Lakes region can access treatment close to home and without incurring out of pocket expenses."

Learn more about the new program at <https://tinyurl.com/ahfve75c>

COUNTDOWN ON FOR \$32 MILLION DEVELOPMENT AT GOSFORD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

The countdown is well and truly on for the unveiling of Stage 1 of the new \$32 million Gosford Private Hospital redevelopment. In the coming weeks, the staff will start welcoming the first patients to the newly designed Day Surgery and Maternity Units.

The new Day Surgery Unit will feature 18 stage two recovery beds, 12 stage three recovery chairs, five infusion chairs, pre-admission consult rooms and reception area. Gosford Private Hospital's PACU/DSU Nurse Unit Manager, Rachel Vehikite, said she was excited to be leading her team into the new facility.

"The new Day Surgery Unit will allow us to continue to deliver an extraordinary patient experience for those receiving care from our surgical specialists."

Maternity Midwifery Unit Manager, Robyn Gasparotto, said the new Maternity Unit will offer families a birthing experience that combines the best of both worlds; a home-like birthing setting staffed by an experienced and skilled Midwifery and medical team.

"We recognise that this is a very important and special time in the lives of families and our entire team is honoured to be included in this treasured journey. Families deserve the best experience possible throughout their pregnancy and in the precious first days after birth," said Robyn.

Gosford Private Maternity Service is the region's sole private, purpose-built maternity unit and the state-of-the-art facilities will include a Level 2 Neonatal Special Care Nursery supported by Paediatricians and Neonatologists.

According to Gosford Private Hospital CEO Matt Kelly, the new development is part of a strategy to position the hospital to support the growing Central Coast region.

"Stage 1 of this development is the first step towards meeting the increased health care needs of our Central Coast Community. Patients deserve the best care and experience possible close to home, without having to travel to Sydney," said Matt.

For more information about this new state-of-the-art development, [follow Gosford Private Hospital and Gosford Private Maternity Services on Instagram or Facebook](#).



MENTAL HEALTH EXPANSION AT NORTH WEST PRIVATE HOSPITAL

After the start, stop, start to building works brought on by COVID-19 the North West Private brownfield is now well under way with the project scheduled to be complete by the end of June this year.



The key focus of the project is to increase mental health inpatient capacity from six beds to twelve. This includes the construction of a new purpose built 80m² group room and lounge, a new patient dining room, two new patient rooms, four rooms converted from surgical to mental health and six existing rooms being fully renovated.

"The exciting part of this project is not only the expansion of the inpatient unit, but the modernising of all twelve rooms which will contribute positively to the overall patient experience," said Nurse Unit Manager, Lyn Young.

In addition to the Mental Health expansion, work is being done to improve the medical/surgical inpatient accommodation experience with two four bed wards being converted to three single rooms and seven new single rooms being constructed.

On completion the medical/surgical ward (Bass Ward) will have fifteen single rooms, plus a four bed High Dependency Unit; the Mental Health will become a twelve bed unit; and Maternity a twenty bed unit including a new Special Care Nursery isolation unit and new breast feeding lounge.

The final part of the redevelopment will see the front entrance, foyer and reception area renovated to give a fresh modern look and create a comfortable environment for patients on admission. Stay tuned for updates!

HEALTH FUTURES BEGIN FOR GRADUATE NURSES AT MULGRAVE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

In an uncertain and often challenging world the Mulgrave Private Hospital Graduate Nurse Program continues to go from strength to strength. The Hospital's recent Awards Ceremony saw nineteen excited graduates moving into fully-fledged nursing careers, eighteen of them choosing to take up employment at Mulgrave Private.

With retention rates of over 90% for the past three programs, it is clear these new staff members have felt well supported and embraced into the Mulgrave Private family. A new initiative this year was an advocacy award to recognise the graduate demonstrating the highest regard for patient-centred care. This perpetual award, generously sponsored by Medtronic, will become a key feature of all future graduation ceremonies.

"The ongoing appeal of our graduate curriculum is evidenced by over 700 applications received for the 2021 program. These came from all over Australia and across Asia with nurses wanting to join our progressive and rewarding program," said Mulgrave Private Hospital Education Manager, Kate Potter.

February 2021 saw twenty four eager faces ready and excited to start their nursing journey within an organisation centred on exceptional care and great customer service.

"It is satisfying to note that of the twenty four new starters, sixteen were known to us as undergraduate students who had completed placements within the organisation, seven of these coming from our Fellowship Program. This confirms the importance of sustainable and effective programs where nurses can commence their careers as undergraduates and articulate through graduate, transitional and post graduate programs within the one organisation," added Kate.

We wish all our graduates, new and old, every success in their nursing careers!



NEW CARDIOTHORACIC SERVICE INTRODUCED AT HURSTVILLE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Hurstville Private Hospital is set to send hearts racing with the announcement that they will now be offering a Cardiothoracic program at Hurstville Private Heart Centre in Sydney's south.



An extension of the established Cardiology program offered by the hospital, the new Cardiothoracic service will offer local patients best practice care and a range of treatments including coronary artery bypass grafting, aortic valve surgery, lymph node dissection, lobectomy and the removal of chest cavity tumours.

"I'm delighted to see our valuable cardiac and respiratory services extended at Hurstville Private Hospital. It is exciting to have a world leading Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr Arjun Iyer, join our team," said Dr Mark Sader, Director of Cardiology Services at Hurstville Private.

As pressure on the public hospital system continues to mount, the addition of new technology and a cutting edge services at Hurstville Private Hospital provide a welcome reprieve for those caught up in lengthy waitlists.

"The Cardiothoracic service is a significant asset for our local community. Having a specialist of Dr Iyer's standing and expertise join the Hurstville Private team is a wonderful achievement," said Associate Professor Ben Kwan, Director of Respiratory Services at Hurstville Private.

For more information on the new service, visit <https://hurstvilleprivate.com.au/specialties/heart-centre>

POP UP COVID CLINIC AT FORSTER PRIVATE HOSPITAL

It was a COVID Christmas in Forster/Tuncurry! The team at Forster Private Hospital finished 2020 by jumping into action as the region responded to the spread of the Northern Beaches COVID-19 outbreak in December.

The news of the outbreak on the NSW Mid North Coast was delivered to Regional CEO, Ben Uprichard, during the combined Mayo Private and Forster Private Hospital Christmas Party, with a plan to open a drive through COVID clinic hatched during the festivities and put into place by 7:00am the following morning.

Local pathology companies, Douglas Hanley Moir and Laverty Pathology provided PPE donned staff and Forster Private's ambulance bay became a perfect drive through testing site. Word spread quickly and there was soon a line around the building of people ready to be COVID tested. This went on all day until the site had tested close to 1000 people!

A big Love Your Work to the team for coming together and making this service available to the community for four days. Fortunately there were no positive cases and the site was able to return to the now 'COVID' normal.



CASUAL NURSING POOL TRIAL AT LINGARD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Lingard Private Hospital in Newcastle, is set to trial a new casual Nursing Pool program to help reduce costs and agency usage, while ensuring a ready supply of qualified, experienced nurses. The Hospital will partner with Litmus Workforce Solutions to attract and recruit eligible candidates both locally and around the country. Learn more about Lingard Private and the opportunities available at <https://lingardprivate.com.au/staff/careers>

FAMILY MATTERS

AT TUGGERAH LAKES PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Health Care is well and truly a family calling for the Mereau family, with 18-year-old Evan Mereau now following closely in his father's footsteps, Andrew.

Evan who is currently an Operations Assistant at Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital has high hopes of pursuing a career in health, with a view to become an Anaesthetist. He recently completed high school and said he couldn't imagine a better start to a health care career, with plans to start a Nursing degree later in the year.

"I've always had a passion for medicine and a curiosity about health in general, which I'm sure is in part due to my dad sharing his passion and insights with me," Evan said.

"Getting exposure to procedures and learning all the facets involved in the delivery of patient care, under the direction of nursing and medical staff has provided me with even more confirmation that this is the direction for me. It's been exciting to get the chance to work alongside the experienced and positive Tuggerah Lakes Private staff and learn in its state-of-the-art facilities."

Evan also coincidentally happens to be fulfilling the very position that his own father took on when starting his health care career at Brisbane Waters Private Hospital more than 21 years ago.

According to Evan's father, Andrew Mereau, who is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital, he couldn't be prouder of his son's ambitions and plans.

"I've had an incredibly varied and enjoyable career which has led me to where I am today, including the last 14 years with Health Care. I'm particularly proud that my son isn't shying away from the hard work that is required to get your start in the medical profession. It is incredibly satisfying to see Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital be a place for supporting and growing the next generation of innovative health professionals and to know my son will be one of these," said Andrew.



FACILITY UPGRADES IMPROVE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

AT MAYO PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Mayo Private Hospital has a number of significant hospital upgrade projects underway. These upgrades are an important part of delivering the best health outcomes for patients and to ensure the facilities are modern, safe and accessible to the community. Some of the projects recently completed have included upgrades to the Allied Health Hydrotherapy Pool including a new heating system, renovation of the bathrooms, replacement of the poolside flooring and installation of a new hoist.



Landscaping upgrades as part of a fire hazard management plan and to improve carpark accessibility, has led to a large overgrown bushland being cleared, with 60 cubic metres of woodchips laid down and 300 plants put in across the grounds.

A popular addition, the Village Brew café located in the foyer of Mayo Private Hospital officially opened late last year and was made possible by the Hospital's dedicated volunteers, the Friends of Mayo. Village Brew provides services for patients, visitors, staff and Taree and Wingham villagers, including serving all day breakfast, lunch and snacks, and specialty coffee supplied by Little Street Roasters.

"There are more upgrades in the pipeline with the development of an inpatient and outpatient Mental Health wing, which will bring all the Mental Health services into the one area and with that makes room for the much needed extension of the Rehabilitation facilities. We've worked closely with our local community and businesses to deliver these significant upgrades. They have been big projects and we'd like to thank everyone who helped to make it happen!" said Regional CEO, Ben Uprichard.

FRACTURE CLINIC PARTNERS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

AT SHELLHARBOUR PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Shellharbour Private Fracture Clinic and South Coast Football Association (SCFA) have teamed up to provide players with direct access to injury prevention and on field injury support.

Previously there was no easy way to escape the long public hospital waiting times when injuries occurred on field or during practice. Under the new partnership, all players will be able to access the private facility for rapid injury assessment, investigation, treatment and can expect to be discharged home within 1-2 hours.

Anne-Marie Balliana, CEO of SCFA, is excited to join forces with The Fracture Clinic this season to support the local football community.

"This new agreement will provide players with the support they need and the medical attention they require to get back on the field without further delays and to reduce the rates of re-injury."

As part of the partnership, The Fracture Clinic will be supporting the players and teams of the development program, Junior Grades, Senior and Community Grades as well as Semi-Professional Clubs throughout the 2021 season. To kick off the relationship The Fracture Clinic Team will support SCFA by holding an education series on common sports injuries including a Q&A with a Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICE AT GOSFORD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

The team at Gosford Private Hospital received national recognition recently for their ability to support patients to progress and improve through their Rehabilitation Centre.

An article in the Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) January 2021 newsletter, showed the top rankings out of all 209 Rehabilitation hospitals across Australia and New Zealand for Functional Independence Measures (FIM) examination scores. Gosford Private Hospital ranked the sixth highest overall with an average score of 90.73%.

A FIM score is an indicator of a patient's functional status which helps to track their progress and improvements at the beginning compared to the end of their Rehabilitation stay.

Gosford Private Allied Health Manager Blake Downes explains in order to assess FIM scores, staff need to be credentialed, which requires a training day, followed by an examination.

"This recognition is a significant highlight for our team as it has meant that our 19 credentialed FIM staff in 2020 have been able to deliver exceptional care to the 472 patients who attended the Rehabilitation Centre during 2020."

Blake spoke very highly of the Hospital's FIM trainer Nicole Turnbull, saying "It wouldn't have been possible without Nicole's hard work, dedication and support she has provided for the staff in order to achieve these results. All this training and best practice is all done with the patient's experience front of mind and we look forward to continuing to deliver exceptional care to our patients."



TEAM BOULCOTT BEATS THE BAYS AT BOULCOTT HOSPITAL, NEW ZEALAND



On Sunday 21st February 53 staff and family members from Boulcott Hospital were able to join almost 14,000 other locals and enter the annual Wellington Round the Bays fun run. Being in the relative safety of COVID-free New Zealand, the team were privileged to attend a mass gathering with Wellington being downgraded to Alert Level 1 the week prior to the race.

The 10km and 6.5km courses wound their way from central Wellington, around the harbour and bays, and ended up at Kilbirnie Park where a BBQ lunch was awaiting the hungry team at the Boulcott Hospital picnic site.

If the races themselves weren't entertaining enough, there were plenty of other items around the course to keep spectators occupied, including Chinese dragons, aerial dancers, Taiko drummers, Star Wars characters and a DJ – plenty of variety for everyone.

This was the second year that the Boulcott team have participated in this event, and staff are already training and looking forward to next year's race.

CONGRATULATIONS: 2020 LUYE AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners who were recognised for their outstanding contribution at the recent Luye Awards!

Carolyn Mottley

Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital

Carolyn was recognised for her involvement in the successful pilot and rollout of the Health Care Digital Online Admission system, including implementing procedural changes to the patient admission process, providing feedback, monitoring progress, troubleshooting issues and providing patient and customer support.

Iris Freeman

Wollongong Day Surgery

Iris was recognised for answering the call and volunteering to move inter-state to support the successful delivery of the Victorian COVID-19 response at Epping Private Hospital. At Epping, Iris was a valuable resource from a Quality & Education background, providing support with re-commissioning, onboarding and training staff.

Martina Goddard

Hurstville Private Hospital

Martina was recognised for her contribution to Hurstville Private's COVID-19 response, including leading a multidisciplinary team to plan preventive actions; establishing a Patient Care Review team to guide Surgeons on elective surgery priorities in line with government regulations; and ensuring clear communication with all relevant stakeholders. Martina was also instrumental in the successful certification and launch of Hurstville Private's Cardiothoracic program.

Dean Palmby, Aaran Stent, Adam Thompson, Eddy Joyce, Anita Woods and James Christadoulou

Epping Private Hospital Commissioning Team

The team were recognised for their efficient re-commissioning of Epping Private Hospital in July 2020, in response to urgent demand for Aged Care accommodation as a result of Victoria's COVID-19 outbreak. The team worked day and night to ensure that the hospital was fully functional and ready to receive patients in under three weeks.

Penny Inder

Dubbo Private Hospital

Penny was recognised for taking over the busy Surgical, Medical/ Rehabilitation Wards at Dubbo Private in 2020; empowering staff to provide holistic care for patients; and the delivery of exceptional patient-centered care and experiences for all patients.

Regan Mitchell

Health Care Acute Services

Regan was recognised for his role in the delivery and successful rollout of the Basware (electronic accounts payable system) across all of Health Care's Australian sites. The project has already delivered significant savings to the group, while reducing the risk of human error, and ensuring approvals in line with authorised delegation.



HEALTHE HEARTS DAY

Sunday 14th February



Throughout the month of February, our Healthe Care Acute sites came together to raise awareness for heart health as part of Healthe Hearts Day and Red Feb.

With recent statistics showing that heart disease kills one Australian every 28 minutes and one New Zealander every 90 minutes, 'Healthe Hearts Day' provides an opportunity for healthcare professionals and communities to consider the steps they can take to improve their overall heart health.

With COVID-19 restrictions firmly in place this year, Healthe Hearts activities looked slightly different to previous years, with many sites opting to raise awareness on-site through fun activities and healthy nutrition.

Check out some of the highlights below!



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*Hearty thanks to everyone
that participated and
supported this worthy cause!*

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