

Auricle

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF BARWON HEALTH | EDITION 3 2017



Barwon
Health



**RAISING
AWARENESS
FOR HEAD AND
NECK CANCER**

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Gala ball marks 10 years
at Blakiston Lodge

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Maternity refurbishment
underway

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Foundation launches
Kids Appeal



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INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TEAM



2 team members

Supports 107 staff building new SharePoint2013 sites

Handles 100 monthly requests from site owners

Manages 26 business process maps showing how data is created in Barwon Health information systems

Provisioned 45 SharePoint2013 sites so far



www.facebook.com/barwonhealth



www.twitter.com/barwonhealth



www.instagram.com/barwon_health



www.linkedin.com/company/barwon-health



Message from the CEO

In August, I had the pleasure of joining Barwon Health and I would like to thank everyone who has made me feel welcome in my first months as CEO.

It is an exciting time to join Barwon Health and I am pleased to say it has been a positive learning experience so far.

I believe our new organisational structure, announced at September's University Hospital Geelong staff forum, will position the organisation well to deliver on the current strategic plan, enabling a robust leadership team with a focus on quality and excellence.

It is encouraging to see all departments of Barwon Health work with such great collaboration to create a healthier Geelong community. I would particularly like to commend the Emergency Department responding to an intense flu season and all the challenges this has presented over winter.

Looking ahead, I am excited to see preparations underway for Run Geelong in November and remind staff that 100 per cent of registration fees and donations will support the Barwon Health Foundation.

If you would like your registration to come directly out of your pay, staff at various locations will help you register at work.

This year's event will focus on the foundation's newest campaign - the Kids Appeal, funding a brand new rehabilitation centre for Geelong children and youth.

This exciting \$3 million project will only be possible with local support and will be fully funded by the community.

The state-of-the-art centre includes plans for a gym, consulting rooms, a therapy kitchen, therapy playground and private treatment rooms.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted constructive responses through our Message in a Bottle initiative. I find it incredibly valuable to gauge what is important to our staff and hearing directly from you will help improve our healthcare delivery to make Barwon Health an even better place to work.

Professor Ruth Salom
CEO



Save the date

On Thursday, 30 November, Barwon Health's combined Annual Meeting and Open Access Board Meeting, focusing on end-of-life care, will take place at St Mary's Hall from 5.30pm.



Gala ball marks 10 years at Blakiston Lodge

In July, residents and staff at Blakiston Lodge celebrated the aged care facility's 10th anniversary with a ballroom dancing party.

The Geelong Ballroom Dance Group entertained about 80 people, while a photo booth and party food added to the festive celebration.

Aged Care Director Ben Maw said staff and residents brought a great atmosphere to the Blakiston Lodge celebration.

"It was amazing to see the energy, the colour and the pure fun that all residents, staff and family brought to the day's celebrations.

"It was amazing to see the energy, the colour and the pure fun that all residents, staff and family brought to the day's celebrations."

Aged Care Director Ben Maw

"Our intent was to create something unique, something more in line with a celebration and party, rather than a formal function, which I think we managed to do very successfully.

"The facility provides an amazing service to the Barwon region and it was certainly a great opportunity to show how close and supportive the Blakiston Lodge community is in supporting the residents and families that access the site's high quality care services.

"The day was planned to provide some entertainment, an opportunity to thank those who make the site special, and to celebrate the community that calls Blakiston Lodge home.

"We were treated to some amazing local dancing, support from local car clubs and the opportunity to take a unique souvenir home from our onsite photo booth." ♦

Pictured: Blakiston Lodge staff and residents celebrated the facility's 10th birthday in July.

RESEARCH HONOUR FOR NURSE CHAIR

Barwon Health and Deakin University Chair of Nursing Professor Trisha Dunning AM has been inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurses Society Researcher Hall of Fame.

A ceremony was held in Dublin on 29 July to recognise nurse researchers who have achieved significant and sustained national or international recognition for their work, with research impacting their profession and the people it serves.

Professor Dunning was also named Educator of the Year in the "Top Women of 2017" edition of International Top 100 Magazine.

Her research focuses on older people with diabetes and end-of-life care.

She is regularly invited to speak at national and international conferences and has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, 10 books, and several diabetes-related guidelines—including the McKellar Guidelines for Managing Older People with Diabetes, which won two safety awards and has been implemented in many aged care facilities in Australia. ♦

Pictured: Professor Trisha Dunning has received several accolades for her work in diabetes research.



Discussing death and end-of-life care

Dying To Know Day (D2KDay) on 8 August is an annual day of action dedicated to promoting conversations and community actions around death, dying and bereavement.

Events organised around this campaign encourage conversations and curiosity, build death literacy and help grow the capacity of individuals and community groups to take action toward end-of-life planning.

On D2KDay, Barwon Health hosted a Death Over Dinner-style event with the Geelong Advertiser, and sponsored by Tuckers Funeral Services, to spread the message about the need to encourage people to develop their death literacy, make a will and decide on preferences for end-of-life care.

As the region's leading healthcare provider, Barwon Health's clinicians have a paramount role in developing advance care plans with their patients and this is reflected in the current Strategic Plan.

To better understand the wishes and needs of people facing these choices, Barwon Health and Deakin University recently made the joint appointment of Professor Peter Martin to the role of Professor in Clinical Communication and End-of-Life Care.

Three quarters of people have never had an "end-of-life" discussion and less than 10 per cent die with an advance care plan in place.

Regardless of a patient's age, it is important for our staff to have a conversation when people first present to us to enable them to think clearly about these important decisions that can sometimes take them by surprise.

With the number of Australians aged at least 65 set to double by 2050, it will become increasingly important for people to openly plan and discuss their end-of-life wishes with family and loved ones. ♦

Pictured: Barwon Health ICU director Neil Orford leads a Death Over Dinner-style luncheon on D2KDay.



STUDENTS JOIN ALiGN PROGRAM

In July, Barwon Health welcomed 32 first year undergraduate nursing students from Deakin University into the Applied Learning in General Nursing (ALiGN) fellowship program.

The program sees the students co-located between Deakin University (Waterfront) and Barwon Health. For the next two and a half years of their studies, the students will attend the seminar and simulation component of some clinical subjects at Barwon Health in the Health Education and Research Building. The students will also undertake all their clinical placements in one of Barwon Health's many clinical settings.

This integrated program provides students with an opportunity to develop and practice their knowledge and skills in a supportive environment. Students aim to establish an in-depth understanding of Barwon Health values, staff and what it means to be part of a health professional team. The program also strives to give students a sense of belonging that encourages them to pursue graduate programs and ongoing careers at Barwon Health. ♥

Pictured: Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Dr Lucy Cuddihy (bottom left) with the ALiGN Nursing Cohort.

BRONCHS project improving bronchiolitis care

The Emergency Care Clinical Network (ECCN) actively engages emergency clinicians to create and build sustainable improvements and innovation in Victorian emergency departments.

The University Hospital Geelong Emergency Department is part of a project to *improving management of bronchiolitis*, guided by The Royal Children's Hospital Bronchiolitis Guideline.

As part of the project, a logo was developed with the mnemonic "BRONCHS" to promote and prompt all staff of bronchiolitis management

(Breathing assessment, Respiratory rate, Oxygen therapy below Spo2 of 90% RA, No – Salbutamol, Corticosteroid or Adrenaline, Continue to monitor vitals & work of breathing, Hydration, Humidified High-flow as required, Severity of Bronchiolitis documented in diagnosis).

The project will conclude in November and aims to embed the best practice in the management of bronchiolitis within Barwon Health. ♥

Pictured: Nursing project lead Rhoda Jamieson CSN with ED staff at the BRONCHS launch in June.

The project aims to embed the best practice in the management of bronchiolitis within Barwon Health.



Butterfly Project helping the Deafness Foundation

Barwon Health supported the Deafness Foundation in Hearing Awareness Week by selling butterfly badges from its Allied Health Department.

The Allied Health Department and Children's Ward created "butterfly making stations" that allowed patients and their families to create paper butterflies, representing the national symbol of deafness.

The butterflies were collected for public display at the Karingal Eastern Community Hub in Geelong for Hearing Awareness Week, from 20 to 27 August.

The Butterfly Project started in April as a result of a grant and funding for the development of the Wandarra Yarning resource booklet.

To find out more about more the Deafness Foundation, please visit www.deafness.org.au.



Pictured (L-R): Registered Nurses Chloe Reid and Liam Cunningham with Aboriginal Health Policy and Projects Officer Casey Ritchie and hearing dog Zara at the Children's Ward Butterfly Project display.



Maternity refurbishment underway

Barwon Health's Maternity Services refurbishment project commenced on 30 August and will be complete in mid-February 2018.

The project was funded by proceeds from the 2016 Run Geelong event and will create a modern, spacious environment to welcome families into Barwon Health's Maternity Service.

The refurbishment will improve comfort for expecting mothers by including recliner chairs for women presenting who do not require their assessment in a hospital bed, a larger ultrasound room in the Maternity Day Assessment Unit (MDAU), more privacy in the waiting area and much more.

The refurbishment work will leave the Myers Street hospital entrance inaccessible to staff.

The project will also see the temporary relocation of the MDAU, the Geelong Midwives Clinic, Maternity Reception, and YAPP (Young Approach to Pregnancy and Parenting). These services will relocate to level 6 of University Hospital Geelong and be accessible via the main entrance on Bellerine Street. ♥

Pictured: Refurbishment work at Maternity Services will leave the Myers Street hospital entrance inaccessible to staff.





Consumers at the forefront

Here Maureen Johnson, Barwon Health's Consumer Engagement Manager, highlights the organisation's approach to working with patients to create a better service and healthier community.

After just a few months in my position at Barwon Health, I have already had the privilege of working with an engaged, insightful and active group of consumers, who add enormous value to this organisation.

Until now, my consumer engagement work has mostly been in the health literacy and consumer health information space. I have worked with hospitals for around 20 years to capture the expertise of health consumers and to make sure they get the information they want and need, rather than the information we think they should have.

I have worked with consumers, who have had both good and bad experiences with their health service. In spite of trauma,

anger or just plain disappointment, these consumers have been able to sit at the table with clinical staff and managers and offer their expertise, insight, and creative solutions. Beyond being heard and respected, they have no other expectations. In all this time, I have never known a consumer who was not satisfied with the experience of 'participating' in hospital processes and improvements and I have seen many success stories.

We do it because when we work in healthcare, we can become so entrenched in the culture and language of medicine and bureaucracy that we no longer understand what it is like from the outside. As many of you are already aware, a patient who is asked, "How could we have made your experience better?" can offer a gold mine of information. A consumer who is invited to speak to us about our services, processes and information can provide an invaluable perspective that we might never have seen otherwise.

There are already many initiatives in place at Barwon Health aiming to understand and improve on the experience of patients. This work is a joy and deeply satisfying, but it is also underpinned by an increasing body of research evidence. A patient-centred approach and engagement with consumers and community is inextricably linked with a significantly improved patient experience, which in turn impacts on quality and safety, hospital costs, patient satisfaction, decreased mortality, decrease use of emergency services, fewer medication errors, lower infection rates and increased work satisfaction for hospital staff (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2010).

Barwon Health is committed to striding forward with consumers leading the way, and I personally look forward to working with staff and consumers to make the journey a little easier. ♥

Pictured: Maureen Johnson (centre) with Barwon Health consumer representatives at a clinical ethics session.

FIRST YEAR OF BARWON HEALTH AND EPWORTH GEELONG CONTRACT

The 2016-17 financial year was the first year of the unique arrangement between Barwon Health and Epworth Geelong.

The partnership, guided by a 10-year contract, saw nearly 6400 public treatments at Epworth Geelong over the 12-month period. Nearly 2800 renal dialysis treatments, 1131 oncology treatments and 2459 surgical procedures took place at the private hospital between July 2016 and the end of June 2017.

This unique arrangement has enabled increased access and decreased waiting times, in particular for patients waiting for elective surgery procedures. Many who received care at Epworth Geelong faced shorter timeframes than would have been possible without the partnership. Patients are not charged for the surgeon, anaesthetist or hospital stay and are able to receive their care at the new Epworth hospital, located in Waurn Ponds.

Barwon Health refers public patients suitable for treatment to Epworth Geelong across chemotherapy, renal dialysis and specific surgical specialties. Not all public patients are suitable for treatment at Epworth and patients have a right to choose where they receive their treatment.

While initially, only patients waiting for specific same-day surgical procedures were referred to Epworth, over the past 12 months the arrangement has been able to expand to include eligible patients waiting for overnight or multi-day procedures within the specialities of Orthopaedics and Urology.

The success of the first year of this partnership has been a result of the commitment of the teams at both health services. Within Barwon Health, the teams from the Andrew Love Cancer Centre, the Renal Dialysis Unit, the Elective Surgery Waiting List Unit, Outpatients Department, Surgical Units, Patient Administration and Information Services are to be congratulated for their efforts and commitment to ensuring the smooth transition of patients between Barwon Health and Epworth. ♦

Community collective supports local mental health researchers

An event that started as a one-off gathering of Geelong musicians paying homage to the late grunge rock idol, Chris Cornell, quickly developed into something more.

Chris Cornell – A Thank You and Tribute – held at the Barwon Club in June, featured almost 30 talented local artists performing from a collection of Cornell's greatest hits.

Proceeds raised on the night were donated, with Deakin University's IMPACT Strategic Research Centre (Innovation in Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Treatment) and BeyondBlue chosen as the two beneficiaries.

The success of the evening spurred on the formation of the Geelong Music Community Collective (GMCC), spearheaded by Stuart Caldwell.

"The Chris Cornell night was such a success that we, as a group, realised we could turn this tragedy into something genuinely positive," Mr Caldwell said.

Since forming, the GMCC has hosted its second event *Nu-Metal - Our Heavy Youth and Tribute to Chester*, following the death of Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington.

The inaugural GMCC-IMPACT Student Travel Award was also awarded on the evening to Bianca Kavanagh, who intends to use the prize to support the presentation of research data on the effects of 'Personality disorder as a predictor of functional outcomes in patients with major depressive disorder' at the Society for Mental Health Research (SMHR) conference in December.

The GMCC is working on its next event and intends to continue supporting IMPACT. ♦

Pictured: Stuart Caldwell presenting Bianca Kavanagh with the GMCC-IMPACT student award. Photo by Patrick Callow.



Students excel in physician exams

Barwon Health's 12 medical registrars studying The Royal Australasian College of Physicians Clinical Examination finished with a 100 per cent pass rate, beating the Australian average of 70 per cent.

Barwon Health's physician training program provides comprehensive teaching, training and mentorship to basic and advanced physician trainees.

The completion of basic physician training and entry into advanced training depends on successfully passing examinations.

The clinical examination, held annually in July, is well-known to be a difficult and stressful test of all aspects of practice as a junior physician, including diagnostic skills, management of medical conditions, health priorities, communication, professionalism and judgement.



Trainees spend four months intensively preparing for the examination and the Department of Physician Education, along with committed excellent local physicians, has created a competitive preparation program. 💖

Pictured: Barwon Health had 12 clinical examination candidates achieve a 100 per cent pass rate, allowing all trainees to move on to advanced specialist training.

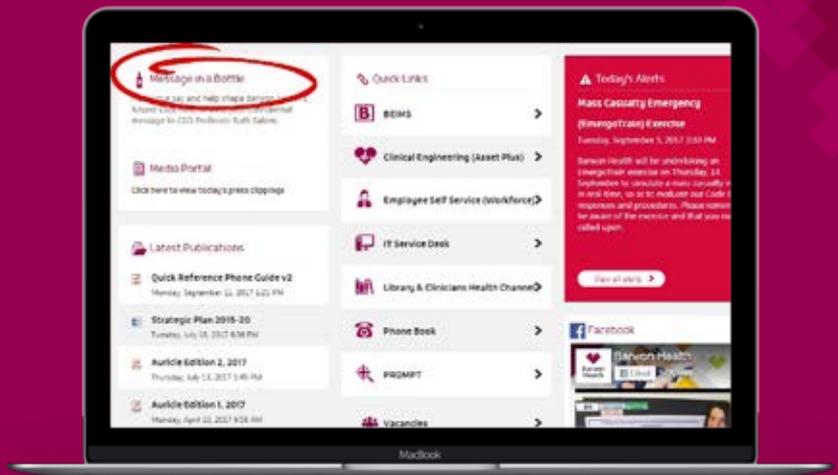
Message in a Bottle

In an organisation as large as Barwon Health, it can sometimes be hard to feel like you have a voice to suggest positive improvements.

To help collect your suggestions for improvement, whether big or small, a new feedback button has been set up on the home page of the staff intranet site, One Point.

Fresh, thoughtful and constructive ideas will assist Barwon Health's vision of working together with our community to build healthier lives, inspired by world class standards.

If you click on the "Message in a Bottle" icon on the One Point home page, you will be taken to a third party app, with space provided to detail your feedback. Using this app is anonymous unless you provide your contact details and name.



All ideas will be reviewed by the Executive Governance Committee and the best idea of the month will be progressed. The contributor, and their department, will also be the recipient of a CEO prize for "Best Bright Idea of the Month", which will include afternoon tea for their team.

Already, a cafeteria upgrade has been identified as a staff priority to brighten up the University Hospital Geelong dining experience.

Other suggestions are being discussed for future improvements and will be announced as they are made official. 💖



BMI MRI service celebrates 20 years

The MRI service, which is part of Barwon Medical Imaging (BMI), celebrated its 20th Anniversary on 17 July.

The service began in 1997, and was opened by then-Premier Jeff Kennett. The small team included radiologist Dr Nick Ferris and three radiographers, Jason Farrow and Jeff Umbers, who still work in MRI at Barwon Medical Imaging today, and Kate Negus, the current MRI supervisor.

She said she was amazed at the advances in MRI technology that had led to far more detailed imaging of the brain and other organs.

In 1997, the MRI unit provided scans to Geelong Hospital inpatients, outpatients and patients in the greater Geelong and Western Victorian region.

Currently, Dr Peter Morris is the MRI director, assisted by a team of specialist radiologists and an MRI fellow.

Dr Morris said even though the MRI service was now an extremely busy area, the team atmosphere and staff made it a pleasure to work there.

The department has grown to include more than 20 MRI radiographers, all with ASMIRT MRI accreditation, and three with post graduate qualifications. Nurses and receptionists complete the team, which now looks after 30 to 40 patients every day, including specialised imaging, such as brain perfusion, dynamic vascular studies and cardiac imaging.

University Hospital Geelong (UHG) provides one of only three paediatric MRI under anaesthetic services in Victoria. MRI imaging for patients with certain implants is also available once their MRI safety is checked. UHG BMI is the only MRI site in Geelong to provide a service for scanning patients with MRI conditional pacemakers and some stents and aneurysm clips. 💎

Pictured: MRI supervisor Kate Negus, MRI grade 3 Cathryn Holland and BMI tutor Sean deBooy with the latest MRI machine.

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20 MRI radiographers, all with ASMIRT MRI accreditation, and **three with post graduate qualifications.**



INTRODUCING THE NEXT GENERATION TO CAREERS IN HEALTH

In July and August, the Clinical Education and Training team co-ordinated a clinical work experience program, highlighting key aspects of Barwon Health's innovative health service.

Forty local year 10 students took part in a range of simulated activities to test their interest and consider options for their future career direction. Barwon Health works in partnership with the Geelong Region Local Learning and Employment Network to help support young people's career development and grow Geelong's workforce of the future.

This year, there were a record number of applications received from a greater range of schools than previously. Students came from 19 different secondary schools across the region to experience a week of immersive activities, allowing them to discover what a day in the life of a health professional may entail. The program offered exposure to clinicians and educators from a broad range of occupations, including nursing, medicine, midwifery, physiotherapy, speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, medical imaging, pharmacy, paramedics and exercise physiology, working across several areas of healthcare. ♦

Pictured: Sacred Heart students Ebony and Alyssa in the simulated theatre with Nurse Educator Liz Krstevski.



Award recognises rehabilitation at home

This year, the Home Based Rehabilitation Program won the award for Leadership and Governance in Aboriginal Health at the Inaugural Barwon Health NAIDOC awards ceremony.

Home Based Rehabilitation Program Co-ordinator Kylie Casey said the team had done an excellent job working with two long term clients of Aboriginal origin.

"We treated them with respect and dignity, used a high level of sensitivity and good communication skills to maintain rapport over a long period of time," she said.

"We showed persistence and advocacy for these clients' rights to help them stay at home for as long as possible, despite complicated circumstances.

"Our team is proud of our multi-disciplinary collaboration to get the best outcome for



these clients, which have been complex cases."

At the same event, Maree Townsend was recognised with the Innovation and Change in Aboriginal Health Award, while Claire Geldard received the Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Award. ♦

Pictured: Physiotherapist John Furness receives the Leadership and Governance in Aboriginal Health award at the Inaugural Barwon Health NAIDOC ceremony on 6 July, presented by Aboriginal Health Program Manager Renee Owen and Barwon Health Chief Operating Officer Robyn Hales.



Staff acknowledgements

Valued customer service team member **Patricia Talmage** has retired from Barwon Health after 41 years. She started working in medical records in 1976 before moving to customer services. Her generous nature will be sadly missed by her work colleagues and many other departments inside and outside Barwon Health.

In July, **Lorraine Kucharski** retired from Barwon Health after 37 years in food services. After beginning as a tea lady, she worked in the kitchen and was asked to train to be a supervisor. In 2006, the Central Processing Unit was commissioned at the McKellar Centre and Lorraine took up the position as PM Supervisor, playing an integral role in the Barwon Health Food Service's new chapter.

Allison Sidebotham has left Barwon Health to take up the position of Director, Industrial Relations- Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. Allison commenced work at Barwon Health as the Employee Relations Consultant in April 2014 and quickly moved into the role of Director, Workforce Relations. In her final months with Barwon Health, Allison acted in the position of Operations Director of the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service.

On September 25, **Dr William Kingswell** commenced the position of Clinical Director, Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Services (MHDAS), taking over from Acting Clinical Director Dr Sean Jespersen. Dr Kingswell brings significant senior executive experience to MHDAS and Barwon Health, with over 30 years of experience and achievements in health care, specialising in psychiatry. He has previously held numerous senior positions within the Queensland Department of Health including Executive Director, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, and Acting Deputy Director –General, Health Service and Clinical Innovation. ♦

Pictured: Lorraine Kucharski.



Let's work together

The work of Barwon Health's GP Liaison Unit was highlighted at the Western Victoria Primary Health Network Health Expo in July.

The event, with a theme of Let's Work Together, had a target audience of practice nurses, practice managers and allied health professionals.

The networking evening, aiming to share local health industry service knowledge collaboratively, had an audience of more than 75 health professionals.

Colac Area Health, Bellarine Community Health and the four main Geelong regional hospitals supplied comprehensive information, with a focus on utilising health pathways, hospital resources and patient access.

A Barwon Health expo table included a range of useful material, such as the Barwon Health Service Information Package, Community Health Rehabilitation, Palliative Care Service Guide, and a BMI Patient Video. ♦

Pictured: GP Liaison Unit Program Manager Sandra Lowther with Cameron Smith and Andrew Ward, representing Barwon Health at the Western Victoria Primary Health Network Health Expo.



Working together to reduce falls risk

Barwon Health staff are focusing on preventing falls after an Allied Health Grand Round discussion panel in May, followed by the Directorate of Medicine and Emergency's teaching event in August.

More than 120 people attended the "Catch them before they fall" Grand Round, with a panel led by Rehabilitation Physician Dr Neil Crompton, Kathryn Beiser Senior Registered Nurse, Senior Clinician Physiotherapist Janice Bennison, Senior Clinician Occupational Therapist Lyn

McLaren and Physiotherapy Manager Chris Lindner.

The forum highlighted how clinicians can work collaboratively to prevent falls and the importance of health professionals being champions of consistent health messages to minimise falls risks.

In August, a group of multidisciplinary representatives from each University Hospital Geelong ward came together to share the ideas and initiatives they had been working on to prevent falls since their previous meeting.

Program Assistant Andrea Petrie said the "shift and share" approach was used, with a representative from each ward presenting their work while others rotated around the wards' displays to learn what they had been doing, compare notes, pick up ideas, and share advice.

"It was great to see the many and varied approaches to the same problems and the effort that everyone had put in," she said.

"Feedback was really positive from the day.

"Each area now has a number of new ideas, as well as ongoing initiatives to implement and focus on over the coming weeks. We will plan to come back together again in late October or early November."



Pictured: Multidisciplinary representatives from each ward came together to share ideas to prevent falls.



New technology aids limb movements

The Occupational Therapy department has introduced an Upper Limb Assistive Technology Program using state-of-the-art equipment purchased with funds from the Barwon Health Foundation and a recent funding grant.

The equipment aims to allow clients to independently work on their upper limbs to improve function.

It is hoped that over time clients will be able to access the equipment on a supervision basis in self-directed therapy to use the equipment more frequently, as stroke guidelines indicate clients should participate in about three hours of daily therapy for best outcomes.

The Saebo Rejoyce is a computerised upper limb training system, while the Saebo MAS mobile arm supports allows stroke clients to use their arm by reducing its weight.

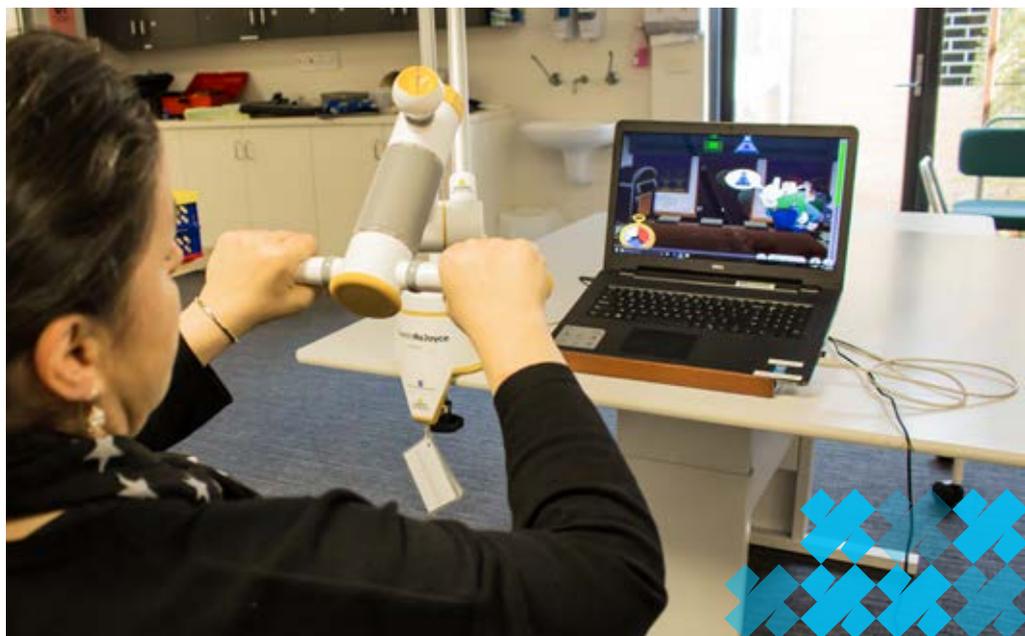
Two Able X armskates are used to complete upper limb software programs,

designed to retrain the upper limb, as well as a large touchscreen monitor to encourage upper limb control and sustained use.

The McKellar CRC OT department has introduced an upper limb group utilising

the equipment and has found clients of all ages are extremely excited to use equipment with their affected limbs. ♦

Pictured: A McKellar Centre staff member demonstrates the Saebo Rejoyce, a computerised upper limb training system.



Raising awareness for head and neck cancer

In late July, Barwon Health's Supportive Care Centre hosted a morning tea to raise awareness of head and neck cancer.

Radiation oncologist Dr Maitham Mathlum provided information, while volunteer Glenda Ford shared her story with guests.

Head and neck cancer is a general term used to refer to a range of different cancers that start developing in the head and neck region of the body.

According to the Cancer Council, about 4000 people in Australia are diagnosed with head and neck cancer each year. Last year, Barwon Health treated more than 200 people for head and neck cancer. ♦

Pictured: Barwon Health volunteer and former patient Glenda Ford (centre) with her husband Geoff (right) with Dr Maitham Mathlum (left).

BARWON HEALTH CONDUCTS CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE VACCINE TRIAL

The Barwon Health Clinical Trial Unit, in collaboration with the Department of Infectious Diseases, is participating in a vaccine study to prevent antibiotic associated diarrhoea caused by *Clostridium difficile*, or *C.diff*.

C.diff can infect the gastrointestinal tract and cause diarrhoea, high temperatures and abdominal pain.

Individuals are at high risk of this infection if they have had frequent or prolonged exposure to the healthcare setting and antibiotics. Barwon Health treats about 100 *C.diff* infections annually, and in July became the first health service to enrol a patient in a *C.diff* clinical trial.

Barwon Health has the most patient recruits for the trial in Australia.

Trial study coordinator Kate Ellis said it was exciting to be involved in potentially groundbreaking research.

"The possibility of having a vaccine to prevent *C.diff* means the current burden this infection has on the public health system would be dramatically reduced in the future," she said.

For more information on the trial, please contact Kate Ellis on 03 4215 2878 or email kathryc@barwonhealth.org.au. ♦

Pictured: North Geelong resident Bob Prince takes part in Barwon Health's C. diff clinical trial.



Empowering people with cancer

Barwon Health's multidisciplinary clinic takes a person-centered care approach to improving quality of life for people with cancer suffering from weight loss.

Patients, especially with muscle loss, reduced strength and loss of appetite, receive support from palliative care consultants Professor Peter Martin and Doctor Helen Farrell, nurse practitioner Meg Harrison, dietician Kate van Berkel and physiotherapist Matt Ely.

The service, which launched in 2007, has significantly increased referrals since relocating from the McKellar Centre two years ago to better align with Barwon Health Cancer Services. In this time, the clinic has tripled in size.

The novel approach of having all clinicians in the room together has decreased appointment length for patients and improved communication between staff and patients.

As the service is currently the only one of its kind within Australia, research is high on the list of priorities. Professor Martin's newly combined role with Deakin University School of Medicine will pave the way for increased research in the area of clinical communication and cancer cachexia service delivery health outcomes. ♦

Pictured: (L-R) Nurse practitioner Meg Harrison, Professor Peter Martin, dietician Kate van Berkel, physiotherapist Matt Ely, and Palliative Care Consultant Dr Helen Farrell.





Foundation launches Kids Appeal

The Barwon Health Foundation Kids Appeal is raising funds for a brand new rehabilitation centre for Geelong children and youth. This exciting new project will only be possible with local support and will be fully funded by the community.

The state-of-the-art centre will include a gym, consulting rooms, a therapy kitchen, playground and private treatment rooms. It is hoped this project will reach its goal of \$3 million within three years, through generous community support.

The Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service (VPRS) is a service just for young people in the Barwon South West Region. The focus of the service is on 'kids leading kids' lives' – going to school, being with friends and enjoying hobbies and sports.

Since 2009, clinicians and specialists at the VPRS have been working with children from infancy to late adolescence (0-18), including those with traumatic brain injuries, strokes, and spinal cord injuries. Others, such as those with cerebral palsy, have been involved in rehabilitation, following medical treatments, including surgery or Botox injection.

Treatments range from physical, speech and occupational therapy to social work and clinical psychology. Neuropsychologists also help with recovery from changes in thinking and behaviour.

In 2016, the VPRS saw 156 patients from the Geelong region and assisted 108 in the first half of 2017. Many of these children and youth have had an acquired brain injury (injuries to the brain from car accidents, falls, strokes and brain tumours).

It is estimated about 20,000 Australian children aged under 15 years have an acquired brain injury.

Others have had spinal cord injuries or had surgery to muscles, bones or tendons to allow more free movement.

A new centre in Geelong will be designed just for children to tailor programs to each child and family's needs.



- Children will have spaces and equipment that are the ideal size for them.
- The spaces will be designed and decorated with their imaginations in mind.
- The new centre's atmosphere will help stimulate their creativity and engage them in rehabilitation.
- The space will engage developing brains. Play will be disguised as therapy, engaging the minds of children and their families will be developed.
- Spaces will developed with whole families in mind, including parents and siblings who play a key role in rehabilitation.
- Staff will have the facilities and equipment to provide the highest quality care to children of all ages, with better outcomes for families.



- Quiet spaces for counselling, therapy and group programs will provide a warm, friendly and homely environment, allowing families who may be under great stress to feel safe and cared for.
- Teleconference facilities will improve the capacity to provide direct support to families across the region, allowing for conferencing and input from Melbourne-based specialist clinicians.

The new centre will include:

- A children's gym with state-of-the-art equipment to help with walking, moving arms and hands, and preparing children for physical play at home, playgrounds and schools.
- An innovative 'communal kitchen' will allow families to sit, relax, meet and chat. At the same time, children and youth can participate in therapeutic cooking activities. This can help with arm movement, thinking skills, problem solving, and physical function.





KIDS APPEAL

GEELONG



FACE OF THE 2017 KIDS APPEAL – KEISHA'S STORY

Cerebral palsy can limit a child's mobility and speech, but it hasn't stopped three-year-old Keisha from smiling.

With the help of Barwon Health paediatricians, occupational therapists, speech therapists and physiotherapists, Keisha is achieving amazing things.

She regularly sees Dr Mike Forrester at the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Centre at McKellar for Botox injections, which have a major positive impact on her progression.

The Botox loosens Keisha's muscles, allowing her to move around and play more. Her first Botox treatment had a miraculous effect and her speech immediately improved. Her mother Debbie couldn't believe what the treatment did for Keisha's development.

"Keisha went from hardly being able to speak, to speaking quite well," she said.

"It helped her speech, her balance and all of her movements. We are hoping the next treatment will help Keisha to crawl further and faster."

Keisha recently started crawling and it is hoped that one day she will be able to pull herself up and even learn to walk.

Keisha will continue to receive Botox injections and physiotherapy at the McKellar Centre. After the amazing care and treatment they have received from Barwon Health and the McKellar Centre, her parents Debbie and Shane are delighted to support the 2017 Barwon Health Foundation Kids Appeal, raising money for a brand new Geelong rehabilitation centre for children and youth.

"Keisha is thriving thanks to the support the clinicians give us," Debbie said. "We are so excited to be part of this exciting new project. Having a new centre specifically for kids just like our Keisha will be amazing for other families in the Geelong region just like us." 



GEELONG COLLEGE TAKES THE PLUNGE TO SUPPORT THE ANDREW LOVE CANCER CENTRE

On 23 July, 50 participants took on a 10-hour swimming challenge in support of Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre.

Teams made up of students, staff, family and friends swam continuously for 10 hours to raise funds for the planned redevelopment of the Chemotherapy Day Ward and Oncology Pharmacy at Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre.

The event was an overwhelming success, blowing the original fundraising target of \$5000 out of the water (so to speak!), with a total of \$20,364. ♥

Pictured: The Andrew Love Cancer Centre Swimathon, proudly supported by The Geelong College.



DAUGHTER'S ACT OF LOVE

La Dolce Vita was held on 9 July at the Geelong Hotel in support of Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre.

Ever since her mother's rare blood cancer diagnosis, Samantha Lopez has been determined to raise awareness of blood cancer and the importance of bone marrow donation.

The La Dolce Vita event's Italian Riviera theme had guests enjoying delicious food and drinks while raising funds for the cause.

The event far surpassed expectations and raised more than \$10,000 for Project Love. ♥

Pictured: La Dolce Vita event organiser Samantha Lopez presenting the cheque from her fundraiser to Andrew Love Cancer Centre Transplant and Apheresis Coordinator Jenny Hempton.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Indian Feast and Karaoke Event
Saturday 21 October

Shane O'Brien Asthma Foundation Dinner
Saturday 21 October

Geelong Connected Communities Gala Parade
Saturday 11 November

Cotton On Run Geelong
Sunday 19 November

Medimime Productions present "The Grinch"
17-25 November at GPAC



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GALA PARADE

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2017

ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 7PM PARADE AT 7.45PM

THIS MAGICAL TWILIGHT PARADE, BROUGHT TO YOU BY BARWON HEALTH FOUNDATION, WILL WEAVE ITS WAY ALONG MALOP STREET AND MOORABOOL STREET TOWARDS THE FLOATING CHRISTMAS TREE



GALADAY.COM.AU

Barwon Health Locations

University Hospital Geelong™	Bellerine Street, Geelong T 4215 0000
Corio Community Health Centre	Gellibrand Street, Corio T 1300 715 673
Belmont Community Health Centre	1-17 Reynolds Road, Belmont T 1300 715 673
Torquay Community Health Centre	100 Surfcoast Highway, Torquay T 1300 715 673
McKellar Centre	45-95 Ballarat Road, North Geelong T 4215 5200
Newcomb Community Health Centre	104-108 Bellarine Highway, Newcomb T 1300 715 673
Belmont Community Rehabilitation Centre	1-17 Reynolds Road, Belmont T 1300 715 673
Anglesea Community Health Centre	McMillan Street, Anglesea T 1300 715 673
Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol Services	Swanston Street, Geelong T 1300 094 187

Please note: this is not a complete listing of Barwon Health sites.

www.barwonhealth.org.au



OUR VALUES
RESPECT
COMPASSION
COMMITMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
INNOVATION