

Week at a Glance

Austin Health
Weekly Staff Newsletter

Tuesday 29 July, 2008

Sailing for everyone

Patients and staff at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre (RTRC) had a taste of the freedom of sailing the seas without leaving the safety of the spinal gym over the last two weeks, thanks to a virtual sailing regatta run by Community Linking Specialist Mara Ferraro and sailing organisation Sailability.

Participants used one of Sailability's Access Dinghies linked to a simulator. Access Dinghies are almost untipable and have modifications – such as joystick steering – that allow them to be sailed by people with disabilities.

Several participants plan to continue to sail at Albert Park Lake or the Docklands. One of those is Frank Kleinitz, who owns his own catamaran and would like to be able to use it again. Mr Kleinitz, who was working as an engineer in Qatar when he had a motorbike accident in March, is going to suggest a similar sailing program there.

“When expats [in Qatar] get an injury they go home and never come back. When locals get an injury they go home and play video games and never see the light of day again,” he said.

RTRC patient and high-level quadriplegic Justin Stevenson hopes he too can sail with either a modified Playstation controller that he can operate with his chin or a head controller similar to one he uses on the computer.

“Sailing is one of the few sports where, with a bit of equipment modification, people with disabilities can compete alongside the able-bodied,” said Sailability Victoria Secretary David Staley.

“We'd like to run a regatta once or twice a year and turn this into a more structured program,” said Mara Ferraro.

The Surgery Centre opens



LEFT: The Surgery Centre Inpatient NUM Michelle Wood (second from left) takes Premier Brumby to meet nursing and clerical staff with Head of Endoscopy Dr Rhys Vaughan and media in tow.

BELOW: Premier John Brumby and Health Minister Daniel Andrews address the media.

BELOW: Inpatient Unit staff gather at afternoon tea after the official opening.



The Surgery Centre at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital opened its doors to its first patients today, after an official opening on Monday attended by Premier John Brumby and Health Minister Daniel Andrews.

The Premier and Minister toured the newly refurbished rooms and met the new staff, before opening the Centre in front of media and staff.

CEO Dr Brendan Murphy presented bunches of flowers to Surgical CSU Director Bernadette McDonald, Anaesthesia, Preoperative and Intensive Care CSU Director Denis O'Leary, and NUMs Michelle Wood and Janette Vella, who led a mammoth effort to get The Surgery Centre ready for opening.

The Surgery Centre will treat 6000 category two and three elective surgery patients a year, allowing Austin Health to treat

an additional 2000 patients each year.

Premier John Brumby said that The Surgery Centre was part of a State Government campaign to reduce surgery waiting times.

“This new elective surgery centre – the second of its kind in Victoria – will play a key role in a concerted push on surgery waiting lists and wait times,” he said.

“The cornerstone of this model of care is that patients who are admitted for surgery will not be cancelled because of emergency demand, as currently occurs at major public hospitals,” said Ms McDonald.

“Our first day of operation ran smoothly with all our patients receiving excellent care, thanks to the professionalism of our new team of staff,” she said.

IT training courses August 2008

MedTrak and Microsoft training or refresher courses can be booked by your manager on the online booking system at http://armcreq/training/public_maintain.asp

Enquiries: Andrew x4097 or Anna x2903.

Royal Talbot fundraising film night

What: A choice of four films:

- *The Bank Job*
- *How About You?*
- *And when did you last see your father?*
- *The Square*

When and where: 6:30pm (TBC), Thursday 31 July, Balwyn Cinema, Whitehorse Road, Balwyn.

Tickets: \$13 (\$11 conc.) from Val x7567 or Kay x7370.

Student success

Congratulations to the **Austin Health/Northern Health** Melbourne University medical students and their teaching staff, who were the top performing clinical school in the 2008 Semester 9 exams!

Donate blood

A mobile blood donation unit will be at the Red Cross Centre, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital from 9:30am-3:30pm on August 22.

Bookings required: contact Ahmed Hassin, Australian Red Cross Blood Service on 9259 3563

Mental Health CSU Grand Round

What: 'Pharmacogenetics' presented by A/Prof Chee Ng, Clinical Associate Professor in Psychiatry, The Melbourne Clinic, The University of Melbourne/St. Vincent's Mental Health and Director of WHO Collaborating Centre for Mental Health.

Lunch: 12-12:30pm, outside the John Lindell Lecture Theatre, sponsored by Eli Lilly Australia.

Presentation: 12.30-1:30pm, Monday 4 August, John Lindell Lecture Theatre, Level 4, Lance Townsend Building, Austin Hospital.

Division of Surgery Forum: Annual Audits

Unit: HPB and Transplantation Unit, chaired by Mr M Douglas.

When and where: 7:30am, Wednesday 30 July, Level 8 Lecture Theatre, Lance Townsend Building, Austin Hospital.

Breakfast courtesy of Nycomed and Ferring.

Division of Medicine Grand Round

What: 'The OSCE Roadshow', presented by Dr David Smallwood, Medical Education Fellow, University of Melbourne/Royal Melbourne Hospital.

When and where: 12.10pm, Wednesday 30 July, John Lindell Lecture Theatre, Level 4, Lance Townsend Building, Austin Hospital.

Lunch: 1pm, Zeltner Hall, provided by Aspen.

Have you tried the frozen healthy meals?

The frozen food vending machine contains meals that can be reheated in the microwave and is located in the corridor on Level 1 Austin Tower immediately to the right when you step out of the visitor lifts.

The machines are monitored and will be removed if they do not prove popular.

Meals/wraps range from \$3.60 to \$5.60 and 1 in 20 are free!

Gala charity night

If you have friends in Sydney then be sure to let them know about the gala fundraising event for the Cancer Centre Appeal featuring Olivia Newton-John on September 30 at the State Theatre, Sydney.

Tickets through Ticketmaster via the link from www.austin.org.au

Austin Hospital stalls

**Level 3, Lance Townsend Building
Austin Hospital**

Wednesday 30 July
Winter hats and scarves
Jun Gong

Thursday 31 July
Yarra Trail and Ginger Floss clothing
Anne Lock

Friday 1 August
Fresh home-made pies, quiches, biscuits and cakes
Variety Pie Kitchen

Winter clearance!
30% off EVERYTHING in the Gift Shop, Level 3, Lance Townsend Building. Entertainment Book 2008 now \$60.