



ST VINCENT'S CAMPUS
ALUMNI

*Charity,
Care
& Compassion*

Newsletter

December 2015

Christmas Message

One of the great features of St Vincent's alumni is the multicultural and multidisciplinary nature of its membership. Our members are drawn from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds representing the vibrant nature of Australian society. We also come from a range of medical disciplines drawn together by our dedication to the health and wellbeing of our patients and the wider community.

A century ago, St Vincent's alumni would have had a less varied heritage. They would have reflected on the contribution of the Scots to medical education in Australia. They would have celebrated Christmas reading the poetry of Irish Australian writers such as Father Patrick Joseph Hartigan (pen name John O'Brien), reciting poems such as "Around the Boree log" and "On Darlinghurst Hill". As Australian society has diversified, the St Vincent's alumni community has grown into an inclusive family that respects all beliefs and cultures.

While celebrating the festive season and New Year, we ask you to spare a thought for the less fortunate people in our world: the large number of displaced people in Syria who are facing an uncertain future, children in detention and the vulnerable people in our own communities.

Our goal for this time of year is to prepare for the birth of Christ and to show respect to the practices and beliefs of all members of the St Vincent's family.

On behalf of the Alumni Committee we wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Sister Anthea Groves,
Congregational Representative



Tony Williams,
President St Vincent's Campus Alumni.



A Christmas Blessing

May the love of the newborn Christ surround you,
and release in you compassion and care for others;
May the joy of the Holy Family enrich you
in your travelling through life, and in your discoveries;
May the hope of the baby of Bethlehem direct you
in your birthing, and in your departing;
May the insight of the Carpenter from Nazareth
challenge you in your struggles, and in your complacency;
And may the Peace of the risen Christ empower you
in your hearts, in your homes, and in all your longings:
And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, your families
and all in the family of God's creation,
Now, throughout this Christmastime, and forevermore.

Amen

Edgar Ruddock

Image courtesy of Victor Habbick on FreedigitalPhotos.net

St Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment Update

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney's Redevelopment application has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, giving the go ahead to the improvements to the current site.

Robert Cusack, CEO of St Vincent's Private Hospital recently confirmed that "Subject to a final sign-off from the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, construction of the new East Wing is set to begin in November. This redevelopment will prove a real enabler for St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney. It will provide far greater capacity to expand the exceptional care we currently provide as well as introduce advanced technologies to undertake exciting new endeavours."

The new 13-storey East Wing will include a new cafeteria, new ambulatory care service, two new operating theatres, expanded medical/surgical inpatient units, a new rehabilitation service and additional doctors' suites. There will also be a new Central Sterilising Services Department located above the existing operating theatre wing, and there will be four new hoists to connect the new CSSD with the operating theatres at levels 5 and 3.

Existing medical/surgical inpatient units of levels 6 to 10 will be refurbished and the main entrance on level 4 will be updated. The current Day Surgery Unit of level 3 will be refurbished to provide an additional operating theatre.

The existing cafeteria will be temporarily located at the Sacred Heart Health Service where the Terrace Café is currently located.

In order for these improvements to take place, the building contractor, Buildcorp, will establish the construction site including fencing, security and an overhead hoarding to protect the surrounding areas. Once the site has been established, demolition will commence followed by excavation of the basement at level 2 for the new building. While it is anticipated that these works will create some noise and disruption to the existing hospitals, actions are being taken to minimise the impact, including the provision of acoustic barriers to adjacent windows and the construction techniques that minimise noise and vibration.

\$5million funding for Campus Master Planning approved

In September, Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced that the NSW Government will provide \$5 million in seed funding over two years for the next stage of planning for the St Vincent's Healthcare and Research Campus.

The funding will ensure that the Darlinghurst Campus remains a key provider to the NSW Health System, meeting growth in service needs in a more effective way through operational efficiencies and improved treatment of chronic disease.

The planning centres on several of the enVision 2025 priorities to adopt innovative models of care, expand existing facilities, grow our specialty services, extend services to the poor and marginalised and strengthen existing partnerships, particularly research partnerships.



A/Prof Anthony Schembri, Sr Jacinta Fong rsc, Sr Sesarina Bau rsc, Sr Anthea Groves rsc, NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Sr Maureen Walters rsc, Sr Deirdre Hickey rsc and Bruce Notley-Smith Member for Coogee.

Save the date

St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2016

The 2015 Alumni Dinner and AGM will be held on **Friday 27 May 2016** from 6pm. The Guest Speaker will be **Professor Dominic Dwyer** who will speak about: **Lessons learnt from infectious disease outbreaks: From 1788 to 2016**. Invitations will be sent closer to the event. The previous functions have been well attended and there are capacity limitations. A prompt response to the formal invitation will secure your place and be greatly appreciated.

St Vincent's Clinic Celebrates 25 Years



Dr John Roarty AM and Sr Mary Maguire rsc

St Vincent's Clinic Celebrated 25 years of service with a liturgy and reception on 19 August 2015.

A/Prof Janet Rimmer, Chair of St Vincent's Clinic, welcomed all to the liturgy in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Pauline Deeweerd, Director of Aboriginal Health at St Vincent's performed the Acknowledgement of Country.

Bishop Terry Brady celebrated the liturgy of thanksgiving and Sister Mary Maguire RSC, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity in Australia when St Vincent's Clinic was opened in 1990, delivered a reflection on the decision she made to approve the Clinic and spoke of the satisfaction at the way the Clinic has achieved its goals over 25 years.

Candles representing the three functions of St Vincent's Clinic were placed by Michelle Wilson (St Vincent's Clinic), Ted Harris AC (St Vincent's Clinic Foundation) and Gary Sillett (Sisters of Charity Outreach). Dr Max Coleman placed a stethoscope to represent the doctors who practice at St Vincent's Clinic and Sr Deirdre Hickey RSC placed a glass of water to represent hospitality.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, guests attended a reception at St Vincent's Clinic where some of the founding doctors and Sisters came together with more recent Clinic staff to celebrate the milestone. Dr John Roarty, a key doctor in the planning and development of St Vincent's Clinic spoke of the time spent working with the Sisters of Charity to achieve a unique medical facility in Australia.

In the words of Sister Mary Bernice Elphick, RSC, OBE AC, one of the founders of St Vincent's Clinic:

"We look forward to a future alive with dreams, that will give meaning and purpose to our commitment and vision."

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney awarded ACHS Accreditation

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney underwent and achieved Australian Council on Health Service Standards (ACHS) from the 29th of September to the 1st of October 2015. SVPHS received 49 Met with Merits (the higher award offered by ACHS) and satisfactorily met all Criterion in the 10 National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and the 5 ACHS EQUIP National Standards.

The surveyors commented that 'throughout the survey staff demonstrated how they provide a safe, quality environment for patients, carers, visitors and staff in accordance with the mission of the Sisters of Charity and the values of Compassion, Justice, Integrity and Excellence'. This was also recognised when the hospital received Magnet designated hospital status in 2011 and in the planned review for 2016. They also noted that 'the involvement of consumers at St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney is flourishing due to the commitment of consumers who have membership of key hospital and nursing committees and are actively engaged in a broad range of service improvements'. The survey team observed 'a strong staff culture of teamwork and commitment in improving the safety and quality of patient care. This positive work environment was also confirmed in the results of the recent St Vincent's Health Australia hospitals Staff Patient Safety Culture Survey. Many aspects of the hospital's Quality and Risk Plan are embedded in the day-to-day activities of the hospital'.



Robert Cusack, Joan Bourke, Edel Murray and Jose Aguilera at the ACHS Accreditation for St Vincent's Private Hospital

Privacy

* If you do not wish to receive any material from St Vincent's Campus Alumni, please advise via email to clinic@svha.org.au and we will remove you from our mailing list.

Sandra David Oration 2015

Journalist and speaker Geraldine Doogue AO, delivered the annual Sandra David Oration for 2015 at St Vincent's Clinic on 20 September. The topic of this year's oration was "Hopes and dreams for an ideal Australia."

Ms Doogue set the scene with a video of her two young grandchildren, representatives of a generation who will inherit the Australia that we build today, before proposing to do some "realistic dreaming about what might be possible in this country of our" and asking: "how might we thrive?"

The first dream she shared was one of peace: "I think my role as an elder is to keep a constant vigil about any subtle drift towards war or a growing appetite for the glamour around war." She asked the audience to consider the 100 years of peace in the 1800s and the complacency that led people, catastrophically, into World War I.

Hopes for a worldly Australia that looks at the big picture were also included in her dream: "I also yearn for these children to grow up in and contribute to an Australia that thinks big, that keeps its eye on the big map. That they live among elders that think it is right, not hubris, to participate in conversations that tilt at us being a great country."

"I think it's not an accident that we are where we are right now. That underneath all that Aussie, Aussie, Aussie bravado, we have created a very interesting young society here, based on an incredibly old one, and I think we need to explore it and understand it more in order to keep it going and to make us fit for purpose."

Australia's position in Asia was identified as an asset that should be recognised and Ms Doogue called on Australians to recognise the benefits of living in the "sweet spot" that is Australia during the Asian century and to draw on the opportunities for collaboration and innovation available within the neighbourhood. A fairer society was another hope that she shared for her grandchildren's future: "I'd like these children to grow up in a fairer society as part of my hopes and dreams for an ideal Australia; where money doesn't open all doors, yet where the generation of wealth is prompted from our brains and institutions like this are really praised. Where there is a genuine pride in these achievements, just as much as there is in who wins the Dally M or the Brownlow Medal."

She expressed hope that the ideal of opportunities for little Aussie battlers would remain a part of our society:

"If we sideline this honouring of the little Aussie battler as a guiding ethic, I think we'll lose something of our very soul, our young soul. It matters, in other words, the myth that one fosters in the country and the language that one uses to reach each other and capture an intangible essence. I want a deep seated



A/Prof Brett Courtenay thanks guest speaker, Geraldine Doogue at the 2015 Sandra David Oration

embedding of the thought that inequality is bad, very bad for communities."

Ms Doogue also expressed hope for a lifestyle that includes time for rest and personal connections. "I'd like more settled households, ones where the 24/7 open all hours culture has been tamed... The creation of families that are real, that realise our lives, our 21st century lives; that express a hope of what we can do in the future."

She concluded the oration with a final hope for the Australia of the future: "We really have a lot to be proud of in this place, but I think we are on the cusp of a lot of potential and now is the time to test the potential, to take the chance so that we really do emerge as a great nation, and that is what I would like to bequeath to those two little kids, and I am sure Sandra David would thoroughly approve."

*The Sandra David Oration is held each September/October in honour of Sandra who was a Sister of Charity. All Alumni members are welcome to attend the event. Details of the 2016 will be included in the Alumni newsletter and on the St Vincent's Clinic website at:

www.stvincentsclinic.com.au/home/whats-happening/events

2016 Research Grants Announced

With the announcement of the 2016 research grants at the Sandra David Oration in September, St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has now awarded more than \$13 million to over 300 research projects on the St Vincent's campus.

In the latest round of grants, the Foundation made \$828,000 available for 14 research projects, six multidisciplinary patient focused research grants and a travelling scholarship. Support was also provided for nursing and allied health staff to present research papers and excellence awards were given for clinical research. For full details of the grants, please see the clinic website at :

www.stvincentsclinic.com.au/research