



Christmas Newsletter

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We are always looking for memorabilia or historical information related to St Vincent's. If you have any articles of interest please contact us on 8382 6405 or email clinic@stvincents.com.au.....

Letter from Sr Anthea Groves, RSC and Tony Williams

Dear Members of the Alumni,

In the middle of a particularly dry and hot spring this year, the Australian bush in NSW began a process that has occurred for centuries, that is regeneration by fire.

This process was aided by some genuine human error, power lines collapsing and the usual band of idiot fire bugs.

Some two hundred and twenty or so families lost their homes and all belongings which was devastating and heartbreaking for them. However due to the rapid response by a band of selfless men and women, professional fire fighters, volunteers, support groups the overall loss of property considering the massive ferocity of the fires, was minimal. A great deal of the credit for this outcome must be directed to the Rural Fire Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons who led his men and women with professionalism and calm and measured direction.

We were just feeling relaxed about the world when the TV screens showed us vivid pictures of devastation unimaginable. The hurricane in the Philippines causing human misery to such a degree it would be hard to know where to start with regard to restoration.

The mission of the Sisters of Charity has always been primarily directed towards the care of the poor and disadvantaged. The world has responded to this crisis and as usual Australia is very much involved in this effort. The Sisters would ask that we fully enjoy the Birth of Christ with our families and friends, and at the same time offer prayers and material help to those who have such a desperate need.

Sr Anthea Groves, RSC
On behalf of the Sisters of Charity

Tony Williams
President, St Vincent's Campus Alumni



Alumni 2014 Function

The 2014 Alumni Dinner and AGM will be held **on Friday, 30 May 2014** from 6.00pm.

Our 2014 speakers will come to you directly from the "Front Line" – Surgeons: Dr Brett Courtenay, Dr Andrew Higgs, Dr Anthony Chambers & Dr Tony Grabs will share their experiences in combat zones.

Invitations will be sent closer to the event. The previous functions have been very well attended. There are capacity limitations at the venue. Prompt response to the formal invitations will be greatly appreciated.

U-Space

In 2012, St Vincent's Private Hospital opened the young adult mental health unit 'U-space', which has cared for well over 400 young men and women affected with mental health illness. Winning the prestigious World Architecture Awards in Paris for best health care facility, the purpose-built unit is already achieving excellent results in treating those with early psychosis, anxiety and mood disorder.

The 20 bed sub-acute unit, housed within the O'Brien Centre, the existing mental health and alcohol & drug facility at St Vincent's Hospital, is the first such facility in Australia and also provides diagnosis specific day programs and outpatient consultations.

We are receiving a steady stream of patient referrals including some from Psychiatric Emergency Care Centres (PECCs). This is particularly encouraging because PECC units are built for short-term acute situations; it's great now to be treating patients in a purpose built, more age-appropriate facility providing the right support to achieve a better outcome.

Plans are underway to strengthen U-Space's day care programs and to provide outreach and telepsychiatry services.

Farewell – Jonathan Anderson



After 5 years as CEO of St Vincent's Hospital Jonathan Anderson left the organisation in early October. Thank you Jonathan and best wishes for the future and new opportunities



Painting Celebrates 175 Years of Service

Earlier this year, St Vincent's Health Australia presented a specially commissioned painting to the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Australia to mark 175 years of service to the Australian Community

This painting was created by Aboriginal elder, Charles Madden and depicts the five Sisters sent by Mary Aikenhead being welcomed by a Gadigal family onto their land. The Sisters are compassionately looking over the baby and offering



their professional service, as they are trained in excellence in Western health. It shows great integrity for the Sisters to have travelled such a long way from their home to offer support to the Gadigal people. They come as an act of justice for the Gadigal people as they realise the devastating effects of colonisation.

The many symbols on this painting represent the spirituality and way of life of the Gadigal people and the Eora nation. Some of these symbols still remain etched into the natural rock formations of the Sydney basin. The painting shows the start of an extended warm welcome to the Sisters and to the St Vincent's Health onto Gadigal land.

The Sisters of Charity have always gone out to meet those in need of care face to face. They respect the dignity of each person they meet by listening to their stories. Working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been a feature of the way St Vincent's has delivered health care in the community. In return, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to teach St Vincent's staff about their culture and how to work with them in the provision of safe, high quality care. Through this partnership we both continue to work towards reconciliation. St Vincent's Health Australia is proud to continue the tradition of health and aged care established by Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity: a tradition grounded in love of Christ and Service of the Poor.

Each of the SVHA health service sites has been given a high quality reproduction of the original painting to display.



Sandra David Oration – 2014 Research Grants Announced



Picture: 2014 Research Grant Recipients

With the announcement of the 2014 research grants, St Vincent's Clinic Foundation has now awarded more than \$11 million to over 280 research projects on the Campus. In 2014 the Trustees made \$748,000 available for 12 research grants, 5 multidisciplinary research grants, 2 travelling scholarships, support for nursing and allied health staff presenting research papers and the excellence awards for clinical researchers. For full details of the grants please visit the St Vincent's Clinic website at:

<http://www.clinic.stvincents.com.au/research>

Healthcare Rationing in Australia: Should the Young be Favoured over the Elderly?

That is the question Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP posed to the audience at The Annual Sandra David Oration, held on Wednesday, 9 October 2013. It was a great success with over 100 attendees. The Oration was followed by the presentation of the 2013 excellence awards for clinical researchers and the announcement of the 2014 research and multi-disciplinary grant recipients.



Picture: Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP



Griffith Hospital Update

St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith plans are on track to begin construction of the 40 bed hospital and Murrumbidgee Clinical Teaching and Learning Centre. Combined with existing Griffith Base Hospital, the interlinked clinical and teaching campus of some 150 hospital beds and related community and primary care infrastructure will see a critical mass of healthcare services established for the people of the Riverina. This project represents a wonderful example of our mission in action in responding to community need.



St Vincent's Curran Foundation

On 5 November 2013, the Curran Foundation announced the recipients for its 2013 grants. Around \$1 million in funding was awarded with the majority allocated to the purchase of much needed equipment.

HCF Patient Satisfaction Survey

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney is a top performer in patient satisfaction and experience in Australia according to the 2012 HCF Patient Satisfaction Survey. A similar survey conducted by Medibank Private also showed outstanding results.

Celebrating One Year of Service

- Kinghorn Cancer Centre opened on 28 August 2012
- Tierney House opened 21 September 2012

New Director of Research

Prof Terry Campbell has been appointed as St Vincent's Director of Research. Terry brings with him many years of research expertise and will oversee the research precinct for St Vincent's Health Network.



St Vincent's Campus Farewells Dr Tony Williams

After spending 54 years as part of the St Vincent's family, Dr Tony Williams has officially retired from active practice.

Joining St Vincent's in 1959 as a student, Tony leaves the lasting legacy of his professionalism, talent and knowledge as passed down through generations of colleagues over the years.

A small function was held in his honour attended by colleagues, friends and family where Dr Greg O'Sullivan spoke candidly of Tony's five plus decades at St Vincent's. He spoke of his wisdom, calmness and ability to see the big picture as well as his support and mentoring of colleagues.

Sir Anthea thanked Mary-Rose (Tony's wife) and family, acknowledging the sacrifices the family had made in support of Tony and his work and his dedication to St Vincent's. She gave him a "token" of appreciation....The much prized spoons!

Dr Brett Gardiner, Michelle Wilson and Robert Cusack all paid tribute to Tony, his contribution to the Campus and his excellence in clinical care.

However Tony is not lost from the St Vincent's family. Dedicated as he is, Tony has been appointed Consultant Emeritus at St Vincent's Hospital. And you will still see him around St Vincent's Darlinghurst as he continues in his role as the Chair of the St Vincent's Campus Alumni Committee.

Congratulations Tony, and thank you from St Vincent's for all that you do.





175 Years Serving in Australia – The Sisters of Charity

“Their legacy of care and compassion to all has been a priceless contribution to our nation to the finest aspects of the Australian spirit” - Prof Marie R Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW

The Sisters of Charity have published a delightful book “Impelled by Christ’s Love, 175 Years Serving in Australia.” It was commissioned to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Charity in Australia.



“It is our hope that the snapshots in this book will be a source of inspiration and that, with others who will hear a similar call as Sisters or as colleagues and friends, we can play our part in making respectful relationships’ wherever we are.”

- Sir Annette Cunliffe rsc, Congregational Leader.

Books can be purchased for \$15 in the Little Shop in the St Vincent’s Hospital Foyer.



Alumni Webpage

Don’t forget to visit our website:

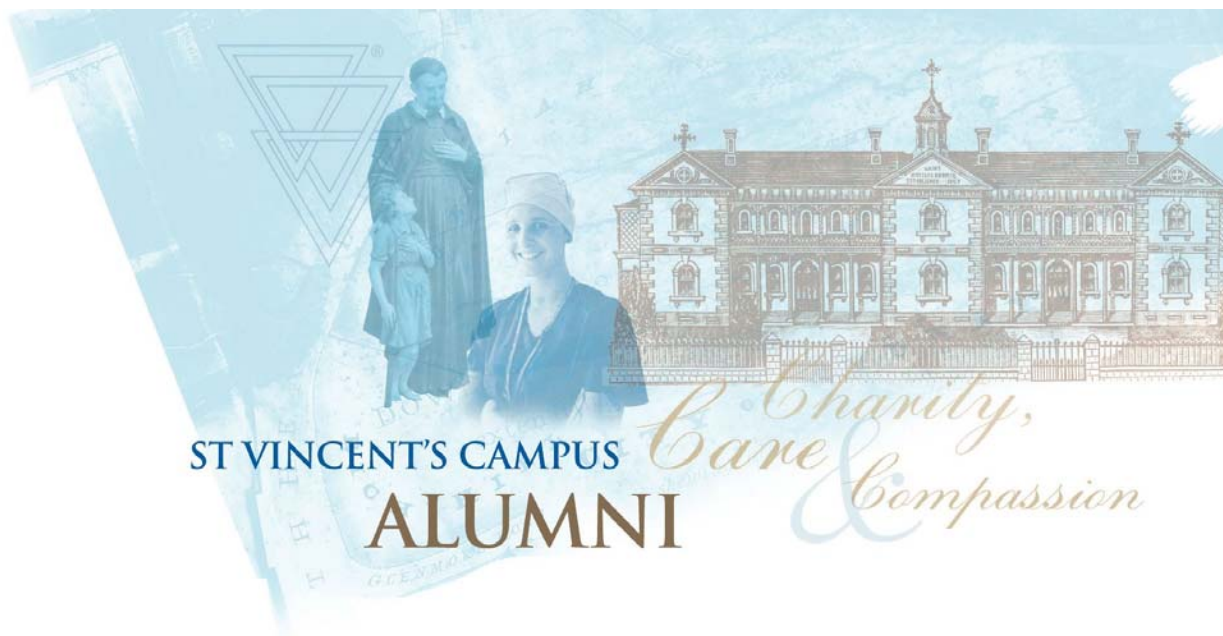
www.stvincents.com.au

The Alumni page can be found under the Healthcare professionals tab.



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11



Changes to the SVHA Structure

St Vincent's Health Australia announced the appointment of Toby Hall as the new Group Chief Executive Officer. Toby was previously the CEO of Mission Australia and has an extensive background working as a senior executive in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

From 2 September 2013, SVHA moved from a regional based management structure to a service-line structure. This means that rather than being structured by regions, SVHA will now be structured by three service areas (called) Divisions. Each Division will be led by a CEO who reports to the Group CEO as follows:

- Public Hospitals – CEO, Patricia O'Rourke
- Private Hospitals – CEO, Martin Day
- Aged Care and Shared Services – CEO, John Leahy

Each Division will align with the Group Support Services functions of Mission, HR, Clinical Governance and Finance.

The benefits of this restructure will support SVHA to advance its Mission through:

- Leveraging specialist expertise in public health, private health and aged care to achieve
- Excellence and growth
- Using a shared services model to support service delivery ensuring a more effective stewardship of resources
- Improving operational effectiveness for patient centred care
- Sharing expertise and knowledge within divisions and across the organisation
- Aligning Group Support Services to better support the divisions, and
- Providing a national advocacy voice on key health and social policy issues.

Strengthening SVHA as one national organisation, will better position the organisation to become a leading provider of health and aged care services across Australia.



Photographs from the 2013 Alumni Dinner







For any enquiries regarding this publication or the St Vincent's Campus Alumni, please contact us via:

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Christmas Wish

*God give you blessings at Christmas time;
Stars for your darkness, sun for your day,
Light on the path as you search for the Way,
And a mountain to climb.*

*God grant you courage this coming year,
Fruit for your striving, friends if you roam,
Joy in your labour, love in your home,
And a summit to clear*

by Myra Seovel