The options for local surgery continue to grow as we celebrate our first year in the new theatre complex and day surgery unit. The Kilmore and District Hospital (TKDH) team is now performing around 1500 surgical procedures per year. Almost 70% of these are day cases close to home. This steady progress means that more people in our community can access a broader range of surgical services. We now offer dental surgery and 24/7 emergency maternity. We are looking at further opportunities for general surgery and endoscopy, so people can access timely diagnosis or bowel cancer treatment.

“As we continue to grow, we’re also looking for ways to make a better, safer patient journey,” explains Theatre Manager, David Clark.

TKDH’s pre-admission clinic will be fully functioning from May. The guidelines, developed with anaesthetists and surgeons, provide for a safer assessment and delivery of surgical care. As part of the overall process we have a pre-anaesthetic assessment clinic run by senior theatre nurses in consultation with our anaesthetic team. It’s a chance for patients to get ready for surgery by asking questions to alleviate any concerns. We conduct a medical review to check that each patient’s procedure can be performed safely and within the hospital’s capability. If it’s not appropriate for surgery to be performed at Kilmore Hospital, the patient will be referred back to their surgeon. If the surgery subsequently happens elsewhere we make it possible for patients to transfer back for post-operative care and recovery close to home.

The majority of surgeons now consult right here in our outpatient building. This makes local access to specialists easy – without the hassle of travelling to the city (continued next page).
Meet Martin

We’re pleased to welcome Dr Martin Duffy to the leadership group. Martin took up the role of Director of Medical Services in mid-April. It’s an important position that oversees TKDH visiting medical team, and guides clinical services strategy.

Martin is a Staff Specialist Anaesthetist at St Vincent’s Hospital – a continuing role he undertakes four days a week. On the fifth day he works with us.

We’re fortunate to have such an experienced and respected clinician and manager join us. Martin is active in surgical and obstetric anaesthesia, as well as health administration. He holds a Masters of Public Health and is an Associate Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators.

State of the Art

Having state of the art equipment means that we can provide safer care and a better patient experience. This year we purchased a $130K Laparoscopic Tower largely due to the generosity of local benefactors, Mr and Mrs Keath.

Our surgeons are now using the tower to access high definition pictures that guide them to perform keyhole surgery.

A camera connects to a scope which enters the patient’s body. It sends back clear and concise images so the surgeon can see inside the body and know where to go. The images are also vital in diagnosing cancers and other internal medical issues.

This type of procedure saves patients from having to be ‘opened’ up. Operating this way reduces risk, pain and discomfort. It also means less recovery time so a patient can usually return home on the same day. We currently use the tower for gynaecological, orthopaedic, urology, ear, nose and throat, plus general surgery.

To support all of this theatre activity we’re developing our nursing team. We’ve appointed two associate nurse unit managers and additional staff, which is building capacity for 24/7 emergency surgical response. We’ve also awarded a Perioperative Scholarship (see page 3).

Everything we’re doing is about delivering a better experience for patients.

The day surgery unit means that we can closely monitor patients and facilitate a quicker and safer discharge process. We’ve also improved aftercare processes, which enables some patients, who would previously have stayed overnight, to safely recover in the comfort of their own home with family. Patient feedback is telling us that this is a positive step.

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<tr>
<th>Obstetrics</th>
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<th>General Surgery</th>
<th>Gynaecology</th>
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<td>Endoscopy</td>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>Ear, Nose and Throat</td>
<td>Varicose Veins</td>
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How we Operate (continued)

“We’re communicating with local GPs so they’re clear about who and what’s available here for their patients. We’re also listening to doctors to hear what our community needs so we can plan to deliver the appropriate services for our rural setting.” said David.

What's now available at Kilmore Hospital includes new state of the art equipment, thanks to fundraising, generous donations and increased capital investment.

The latest model endoscopy suite gives our surgeons a clear look into bowel or stomach abnormalities, so they can diagnose cancer and provide early treatments. Our Laparoscopic Tower is in use for gynaecological, orthopaedic, urology, ear, nose and throat, plus general surgery (see below).
CEO’s Update (Sue Race)

With Term One over and the footy well underway, autumn is a perfect time of year to get back into the garden or to simply make the most of the great outdoors before winter arrives.

This season we’re showcasing our surgical services. Each year we perform over 1500 operations in partnership with our visiting specialists. We are working hard to increase services to make the most of our state of the art facilities.

In March we farewelled our Director of Medical Services, Dr KC Tse, who headed north to further his involvement with Swan Hill Hospital (and make the most of the warmer weather). I am delighted that we’ve recruited Dr Martin Duffy to this important position. You can read more about Martin on page 2.

Our team’s focus for the coming months includes:

• Gearing up for the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards’ external review and accreditation of quality and safety (27 & 28 June)
• Continuing to develop our theatre services
• Working to increase medical cover for our Maternity Service and Urgent Care Centre.

None of what we do can happen without the efforts of our entire hospital team – including supporters, donors, volunteers and committee members. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards,

Sue

Learning Boost

Jo-Anne Bumpstead is a big believer in lifelong learning and applying evidence to clinical practice.

Since finishing her nursing course she’s wanted to become a perioperative professional – working with colleagues and patients before, during and after operations or invasive procedures.

As TKDH’s surgical services continue to expand it’s important for us to support our staff to advance their clinical skills and their careers. So it’s great news to announce Jo-Anne as the inaugural candidate for our Perioperative Scholarship (Nursing).

The scholarship offers support to a dynamic, motivated and experienced registered nurse to undertake a Perioperative Masters of Nursing.

It’s a program that fits nicely with our leadership culture. It supports safe practice and continual quality improvement. Through the program Jo-Anne accesses a dynamic multidisciplinary team plus the latest equipment and clinical facilities.

Her days combine practical training at Kilmore with theoretical training through Latrobe University – including online learning and on-site study days at the Alfred Hospital.

So far, she’s thoroughly enjoying the experience.

“I love the learning and the mental stimulation. Mostly I love the comradery – the theatre team are always happy to provide advice and feedback.”

TKDH is growing and we’re pleased to have staff like Jo-Anne who want to grow with us.
Knowing how we’re Going

We want to keep our community in the loop. So our nurses partnered with consumers to design Knowing How We’re Going Boards. The accessible material can help you to understand the hospital experience, and support you to participate in your own care. Openly sharing how we’re performing keeps you informed and us accountable.

You’ll find the boards at our main entrance, Urgent Care Centre, Operating Theatre, Acute In-Patient and Maternity Wards. Let us know what you think!

Who are You?

Catherine Clifford
Associate Nurse Unit Manager, Theatre

What’s your typical day?

Very busy! Exactly what I do depends what role I am in on the day. Theatre nursing varies from attending to patients, taking phone calls, pre-admission appointments, being on the floor in theatre and the recovery ward, plus booking patients into the system.

Why did you become a nurse?

I’ve been a nurse for 15 years. Before my nurse training I was a personal care attendant. I’ve always enjoyed looking after people and being there to somehow make a difference.

What’s the best thing about working in theatre?

With the new theatre complex and day surgery facilities we get to look after patients at admission, in surgery and right through to discharge. It means personal continuity of care for the patient but it’s also job satisfaction for me to be there with them for each stage.

What are the benefits of the Kilmore & District Hospital?

It’s close to home and we have great staff at the hospital. Everyone is friendly.

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