A young asthma sufferer was the first recipient of a chopper flight from the hospital's new state of the art helipad.

Kayden Banks from Kilmore was transferred from the hospital’s Urgent Care Centre to the Royal Children's Hospital in July, one month after the official opening, which marked the final stage of our major redevelopment project.

Clinicians concluded that the severity of the asthma attack necessitated an emergency department with specialist equipment and personnel.

The quick trip in the air facilitated Kayden's timely access to the right treatment, and he was able to make a full recovery.

Kayden’s mum, Sarah, was grateful for the way Kilmore & District Hospital staff kept her informed of what was happening, and for the professionalism of the Air Ambulance crew.

Hospital CEO, Sue Race, said that the helipad, at the rear of the new inpatient building, is a valuable community resource.

“This Air Ambulance service means we have the fastest form of transportation available to connect our patients to emergency services.

“Local people can confidently enjoy country life knowing that quality healthcare is available at the hospital, and that they have direct access to Melbourne’s major hospitals if and when it’s needed.”

The modern helipad is equipped for all weather conditions.
Welcome to the inaugural edition of Kilmore news.

In my first year on the job it’s been great to get to know so many of you, visit medical practices and consider how we can work together for the future of our community.

We know that people want access to quality healthcare close to home. Kilmore & District Hospital is a great facility and local asset.

The statistics show us that the community need for our services is strong. In the past year our surgeons performed 31% more operations. There were 47% more babies born here, and we can see that more people are visiting us for urgent care.

Between now and 2036 our Mitchell Shire population is set to grow by 115%. Growth presents us with opportunities and challenges.

It’s vital that we prepare ourselves to meet increased demand while maintaining financial sustainability and quality of care. This means putting the right systems in place that inspire trust and confidence in our healthcare.

People and collaborations will be the key to the future. Partnerships with medical professionals and healthcare organisations can support us all to deliver the care and services that our community needs.

This quarterly news bulletin is just one way we’ll be engaging with you on that collective journey. Your ideas and contributions to the conversation are welcome.

We’ve recently added a few new faces to the executive team that supports the hospital to implement its strategic direction. Dr Ka Chun (KC) Tse is our new Director of Medical Services, and Kate Pryde has come on board as Director, Clinical and Aged Care Services. We’ve just welcomed Kirrily Gilchrist to the new role, Director Development & Improvement. They join me and Colin Clark, who heads our Finance & Administration team.

I invite you to come along to meet the team and contribute to the discussion about our future direction at the open access community event on Saturday 22 October. The AGM in November is a chance to let you know how we’ve performed over the past year. I look forward to seeing you there.

Save the Date

Our AGM is set for Wednesday 23 November at 6.00pm. Join us in the Kilmore Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street Kilmore.

- 5000+ district nursing visits
- 145 geriatric patients
- 8300+ urgent care attendances
- 7700 meals on wheels
- 97 aged care residents
- 1509 operations
- 292 babies born
- 5500 ante natal appointments
Babies born here

Of the 292 babies born here this past year, Archie Bobic was the final delivery of retiring obstetrician Dr John Griffiths.

Archie and his three year old brother Cohen were both welcomed into the world by Dr Griffiths. Their mum Natalie felt “very lucky and honoured to be his last obstetrics patient.”

With the birth of her second child in March, Natalie and her husband Justin had access to the “beautiful private-feeling rooms” in the new maternity wing at Kilmore & District Hospital. She really enjoyed the friendly and professional experience of a local birth.

“All of the lovely midwives and familiar faces from last time remembered me from just over three years ago. They were all so very personable and made our stay with a newborn a carefree and enjoyable one.”

We all thank Dr Griffiths for his years of service and wish him well in life and semi-retirement.

Surgical Snippet

Having consultations and surgery close to home makes the logistics easier for patients, carers and their families. The personal connections, comfort and familiar surrounds can also ease nervousness and aid the recovery process.

Our new operating theatre and facilities are supporting patients to access procedures across a range of surgical specialities. Our current surgical list includes ear, nose and throat, general surgery, endoscopy, obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedic, paediatric, urology and dental.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your local GP to consider Kilmore & District Hospital for your operation.

Step Inside: Community Access Day

10am-2pm, Saturday 22 October

You’re invited to step inside Kilmore & District Hospital.

We’re opening up our spaces including theatre, aged care facilities and maternity. Follow your feet, peek behind the curtain and find out what goes on behind the scenes!

It’s a great chance for people to meet our team, check out the redevelopment and discover more about local health resources. The Board will hold an open access community forum to provide a step by step overview of the direction in which Kilmore & District Hospital is heading.

• Hospital tours every half hour from 10:30am to 12:30pm
• Rotary sausage sizzle from 11:30am to 1:30pm
• Meet the Team 12:30pm to 1:30pm
• ‘Doctor for the Day’ program for kids (bookings essential 5734 2000).

Full event details are available online at www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au
Who are You?

Dr SARWAT SHENOUDA
Consulting gynaecologist and obstetrician
Chair, Visiting Medical Officers Committee

What do you do around here?
My theatre work includes gynaecological surgery, obstetrics, caesarean delivery and pelvic floor. I see patients for antenatal clinics in the outpatients’ building.

Why did you become VMO Chair?
I’m very conscious of safe practice guidelines and looking at ways to improve the quality of services. I live locally and wanted to do something to make sure that the hospital and VMOs keep moving in the same direction. It can be a juggle to meet expectations within realistic parameters. The Committee helps us to find the right balance that will ultimately support patients and the community.

What are the challenges?
The ‘old way’ of not informing patients has gone. Patient expectations have themselves improved and we need to be responsive. It would be good to attract people with new skills, and greater numbers of young medical and nursing staff, as we have an ageing population. As the hospital grows we’ll need experienced people to deliver the services our community needs, for example a bigger on call theatre list for obstetrics.

What do you think about the Kilmore & District Hospital?
I ask patients that all the time. I hear them say “It’s wonderful, because we’re treated like human beings, not numbers.” Personally, I say “come and see.” It really is one of the best places. I absolutely recommend that patients be treated at Kilmore. The Open Access Day is a good way for people to discover why.

Best thing about working here?
I get a lot of job satisfaction. The patients, staff and everyone make you feel appreciated and that you have done a good job. I get great feedback, which leaves a good taste in your mouth at the end of the working day.

Five words to describe KDH.
Patient-centric, loyal community, pleasant, appreciative, quality of service.