

Blog: 12.12.25

Coming up to the end of the year so fast! Lots of physical changes to our surgery building, and finally it is looking smart and professional as it should. The new stormwater pipe in the carpark even coped perfectly with those heavy, heavy downpours we have had over the last few weeks, and not a lake or puddle in sight even with the thunderstorm's heaviest rain. Dreams of dry feet getting out of the cars in the carpark, have finally become a reality. The upgrade took long enough and a lot of patience, time [especially waiting for fine weather], skilled tradies, and money! Thank you for your forbearance, and everyone else who was involved.

Some staff changes too: Dr Amelia Tuyay has started working with us. Initially she will be only doing two days, but we will sort out in the New Year her permanent days. She is a senior NZ doctor and has been a Fellow of our Royal College of General Practice now for over 15 years. She speaks Filipino so we will be able to expand our availability for Immigration medicals. Dr Dominic will be reducing his days at the end of January as his website on Men's Health is demanding more and more of his time. Dr Amy as she is known, will do the other days of the week. At the end of January Dr Taua moves up her availability to include Wednesdays and begins working 4 long days a week, while Dr Navarone Rogers-Hindmarsh starts with us 3.5 days a week in early February. [More about that later]. Despite this increase in doctor availability, we are still looking for a longterm senior male doctor to join us. So, if anyone is doing a post Christmas clean up and finds a spare one in a neglected cupboard, please contact us as they are very hard to find:)

Hours over the summer break are as we usually do, We don't closedown for 2 or 3 weeks like some practices but remain open on the non- statutory holidays for our patients. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday [22nd, 23rd and Christmas Eve] and on Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th and Wednesday [New year's 'Eve] we open as usual at 8am. No bookings, just walk in. You might like to ring and see whether it's good to come

now, or to wait an hour. With the exception of emergencies- and believe me, they do occur as the likes of appendicitis and heart attacks don't know it's Christmas- we see patients in the order they come in. We just work through. If there are patients sitting in the waiting room at 1pm and we haven't had lunch, we will just ask them to wait for 20 minutes while we eat, and get the brain going again. After all the brain consumes 20% of our energy from food:)

We do Telephone consults, but they go on the list too and are rung as the doctor works down the list. The receptionist [Jamie the first week and Maria the second week] can give you an idea of the time I may be ringing but that's of course dependent on any emergencies coming through the door. At least it is better than sitting in an A and E for 6-8 hours. And no, sorry, we don't see anybody but our own registered patients. If other practices aren't looking after their patients like we do, then their patients will be the ones down at the A and E paying high fees and waiting hours. We are a skeleton staff, one receptionist, one nurse and one doctor so we are not available for routine visits. Just A and E work, for example: infected heel cut from walking on a shell at the beach, sudden onset of bronchitis or bladder infections, gastroenteritis, bellyache, etc. When we are finished, and we are hoping it will be 3 pm or not too long after, we will shut up shop and go home. It is the holiday season and we have families and visitors too. We are back to work for normal consultations on Monday January 5th. Dr Dominic starts back Monday 12th January.

Do have a lovely time over this summer break Christmas. What it means to those of us who are Christians should remind us all of peace and forgiveness especially in big family gatherings where there are sometimes some fraught relationships. It is good to make that extra effort to get together at least once a year even if it takes extra effort to get along with everyone and not to forget those who are isolated and lonely.

Drive carefully, Drs Jacqueline, Dominic, Taua, Ranche and Amy, nurses Jan and Paula [and sometimes Claire], Meriana, Jamie and Maria. [and a big thanks for the hard work keeping

our surgery spic and span to Bronson and our grounds so tidy
to Lawrence].