



FREE TO TAKE HOME!

DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018 EDITION



Connecting with teenagers



Children at the beach



Tips for travellers



Chlamydia the hidden STI

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

● PRACTICE DOCTORS

Dr Maureen McKeown

Family Medicine, Obstetric Shared Care,
Children's & Women's Health

Dr Andrew Harris

Minor Surgery, Sports Medicine, Diving
Medicine, Authorised Aviation Medicals

Dr Jackie Judd

Children's Health, Obstetric Shared Care,
Family Medicine

Dr Emma Pearce

Women's Health, Child Health

Dr Jean Harding

Minor Surgery, Child Health, Family Medicine

Dr Andrew Leaver

Family Medicine, Minor Surgery

Dr Katrina Denison

Family medicine, Obstetric shared care,
Women's & Children's Health.
Speaks Czechoslovakian

Dr Grant Russell

Family Medicine, Child health, Minor Surgery

● ALLIED HEALTH STAFF

Dr Jenina Cotton - DMD.

Dentist

Ms Julia Nicholson

Dental Assistant/Practice Manager

● PRACTICE STAFF

Office Manager:

Samantha Chittenden

Practice Nurses:

Catherine Morrison &
Charmaine Bonifacio

Receptionists:

Melissa, Montana, Helen, Deb, Jacque &
Jessie

● SURGERY HOURS

Monday to Friday8.00 am to 6.30 pm

Saturday morning ..9.00 am to 12.30 pm

Sunday morning.....9.00 am to 11.00 am

All Public Holidays CLOSED

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

Please phone the locum service on **9429 5677** for the doctor on call.

Dial **000** and ask for an ambulance in case of a medical emergency.

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Travel Vaccinations and Advice. We are accredited to offer full travel health advice and a full vaccination service at your convenience

Fibreglass Plasters. Our clinic is able to offer you the convenience of fibreglass plastering for your uncomplicated fractures. Please make an appointment to discuss this service.

Referrals. Doctors in this practice are competent at handling common health problems. When necessary, they can use opinions from specialists. You can discuss this openly with your doctor.

Telephone advice. Most problems are best dealt with in consultation. A doctor is available during normal surgery hours for emergency advice. Our staff are experienced in deciding the appropriate response to any phone request.

Reminder system. Because our practice is committed to preventive care, we may send you an occasional reminder regarding health services appropriate to your care. If you wish to opt out of this, please let us know.

Test results. To obtain the results of any tests, please make a further appointment with your Doctor. Please ask the doctor at the time of your appointment how long it will take for these results to be received by the clinic so that a convenient appointment time can be made. To maintain confidentiality, results will not be given over the phone except in special circumstances.

● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

We are a private billing practice. Children 12 and under are bulk billed.

Information about our fees and services are available at reception.

Payment at the time of consultation is required. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS.

● APPOINTMENTS

Consultation is by appointment. Urgent cases are seen on the day.

Home Visits. If you require a home visit for special reasons, please request this first thing in the morning. Visits are at the doctor's discretion for patients within a 5 km radius.

Booking a long appointment is important for more complex problems – insurance medical, health review, counselling, a second opinion, etc. This may involve a longer wait. Please bring all relevant information.



▷ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.

www.healthnews.net.au

Connecting with your teenager

The teenage stereotype of a monosyllabic adolescent behind a slammed-shut bedroom door has some validity but it is far from the whole story. Adolescence is a time of change, physically, mentally emotionally and socially. The transition from child to adult is not always easy. In this era of social media and smart phones, there are additional pressures.

Parents often lament that their teenagers do not listen, and they may be right. However, communication is a two-way street. This means listening is as important (possibly more so) than talking to your teens. We know that teenagers (despite what they may say) still want guidance and parental support. While outwardly they may claim to know it all, deep down there is still insecurity.

Seek out common interests. Talk about topics they raise. Be prepared to talk when they are ready to open up about a situation (even if you are doing something else). Be opportunistic. When driving to school or other places, you have a captive audience. This can be a good time to talk. Aim to sit down for dinner with your teen at least a few times a week. Talk around the dinner table can be revealing. No matter how many times the answer is nothing much, ask about their day, every day.

Communication is the key to connecting. Ask your own parents how they coped with you. Talk to your doctor about any concerns you have about your teenager. ■



Children at the beach

The summer holiday is the perfect opportunity to get children away from electronic devices and into the outdoors. While we want children to play safely and avoid injury, we need to recognise that a grazed knee is not a major drama.

Compared to previous generations, most public playgrounds are remarkably safe. The modern synthetic surfaces cushion falls and equipment is designed with safety in mind. However, there is no substitute for watching your children.

Older children can be left more to play independently but younger children need a watchful eye. There is much to be said for parents and carers playing with them, which gives the adults some exercise too.

Trampolines are fun but children need instruction on how to use them safely. Once more, design is far better than in the past. Bicycles are a popular Christmas present and learning to ride a bike is still a childhood joy. While falling off when starting is impossible to avoid, wearing a bike helmet and offering physical support can minimise major damage.

Running and ball games are fun in summer. It is important for children to wear appropriate footwear and, where applicable, safety equipment.

Injury risk can be minimised but not eliminated. Fortunately, most play-related injuries will be minor. Talk to your doctor about any concerns you have. ■



Tips for travellers

Travel vaccinations are important considerations before travelling, but most of the health issues people face on their travels can't be vaccinated against. Insurance claim statistics suggest that people experience similar health issues travelling as they do at home – chest or sinus infections, viruses, gastro, cuts and bruises and more serious ones like heart attack and broken bones from trauma.

Talk with your doctor before travelling. Your own medical circumstances may make certain itineraries problematic. Make sure you take adequate supply of any regular medications you have been prescribed. A letter from your doctor listing them can be helpful at airport security.

You don't need a suitcase full of first aid supplies but a kit of location-relevant basics can be helpful. Having a simple pain killer, anti-diarrhoeal and antihistamine in your kit can cover many issues that may arise. Simple band aids and antiseptic may save a trip to a medical facility.

In many countries, you should only drink bottled water. Beware for salads and fruits that might be washed in local water. Eat mainly cooked vegetables and fruits which are peeled (e.g. banana).

Be aware of local customs and laws. Ask if there are areas to avoid. If you are driving make sure you have insurance. This may be separate to travel insurance, which is also a must, and less expensive than you might think.

Holidays should be fun, and with some simple precautions they can remain so. ■

Getting on top of Impetigo

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by common bacteria (staphylococcus and streptococcus).

It is more common in children, as the name school sores suggests, but it can also affect adults. The bacteria can live quietly on the skin but minor grazes or other disruptions of the skin's surface can allow infection to set in. It is not a reflection of poor hygiene.

The condition is not serious but is unsightly and very contagious. It often starts with redness which quickly develops into sore blisters which may weep or develop crusts. It can spread from point to point around the body.

Diagnosis is generally on the appearance. Sometimes your doctor may suggest a swab test to confirm the type of bacteria.

Treatment is topical antiseptic and often an antibiotic. It is important to keep your child away from other children. Wash the child's clothes, bedding and towels in hot water and a germicidal washing agent. Avoid sharing towels.

Encourage hand washing but discourage scratching the sores and cover them if necessary. The sores will heal in a few days without permanent scarring. ■



 **Weblink:** <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/impetigo-school-sores>



Chlamydia the hidden STI

The commonest sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Australia is Chlamydia with the number of cases rising over the past 20 years, particularly in the 15-25 age group. Both sexes are equally affected and it is very treatable.

Common symptoms are burning with passing urine and a discharge from the genitals. Women may experience lower abdomen or pelvic pain. Often the symptoms are mild which emerge between one and three weeks after exposure. Many people don't have any symptoms at all.

Diagnosis is by urine or swab testing and, generally, a full STI check will be done which involves a urine and blood test.

Treatment is with antibiotics. If chlamydia is confirmed then a repeat test will be needed about three weeks later to ensure the infection has cleared up. It is a notifiable infectious disease, so cases are reported to the WA Health Department.

The other critical part of treatment is contact tracing. If you have been diagnosed with Chlamydia, you need to notify sexual partners as they will also need treatment.

Left untreated Chlamydia can lead to infertility, which is why screening is recommended if you are sexually active. Prevention is relatively simple although not 100%. Always practise safe sex and use protection to reduce the chances of getting chlamydia and other STIs.

Don't be scared of raising concerns with your doctor. They will have dealt with this issue often. And, remember, it is a common condition, you may have no symptoms and it is treatable. ■

 **Weblink:** <https://www.sexualhealthaustralia.com.au/chlamydia1.html>



Jellyfish

While shark attacks make headlines, there are other creatures in the water that can cause us problems when swimming. These are many and varied and influenced by season and where on the coastline you are.

Most jellyfish stings are not serious but can be itchy or painful. However, tropical marine stingers found across Northern Australia can cause swimmers serious reactions and even death.

There are ways to minimise the chances of getting stung: Always swim between the red and yellow flags and inside stinger nets (where provided). Don't enter the water if beaches are closed. Look for and obey safety signs.

If a person is stung by a marine stinger they will need first aid. Apply vinegar to the sting area. Call for the lifeguard and seek urgent medical attention.

Stings by less toxic jellyfish can be treated firstly by removing the sting. You can use simple analgesia for pain, antihistamine for itching and soothing creams. ■

 **Weblink:** <https://beachsafe.org.au/surf-safety/tropical-stingers>



SMOKED SALMON BLINIS



Ingredients:

Smoked salmon
Salted capers
Fresh dill
Red onion, thinly sliced in half rings
Horseradish relish
Dijon mustard
Egg mayonnaise

For Blinis:

(makes 30+)
2 cups SR flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 egg, beaten
Pinch of salt
½ cup finely grated parmesan
1 tblspn finely grated parsley
Milk as needed

Method:

To make horseradish cream: add
1 tblspn horseradish relish, 1 tspn

Dijon mustard to 1 cup of egg mayo
(homemade or quality shop-bought).
Adjust quantities to your own taste.

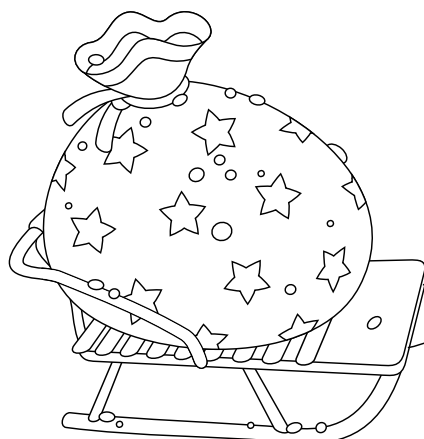
To make blinis: Sift flour and baking
soda together. Add salt. Make a well
and add egg. Mix to combine then
add milk to create a thick batter. Add
parmesan. Let stand until bubbles
start appearing on the surface of the
batter.

Heat a frypan or griddle to about
170C, spray with cooking oil and add
heaped teaspoons of batter leaving
room for a little spread. When
bubbles appear on the top of the
blini, turn and cook other side.

Continue until all the mixture is used
(leftovers can freeze)

To assemble: Spread horseradish
cream on blini, add a portion of
smoked salmon and top with a caper
and a sprig of dill.

CHRISTMAS COLOUR FUN!



OTHER SERVICES

- Dorevitch Pathology (8.30am – 4.00pm)
- Nursing home and hospital visits.
- Sports physiotherapy.
- Stress Management & Relationship Counselling.

Practice professionals are experienced in the broad range of health problems affecting all age groups. The practice is fully accredited to national standards.

SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Medical record confidentiality.

This practice protects your personal health information to ensure it is only available to authorised staff members for the intended purposes and to comply with the Privacy Act. Please read our Confidentiality Statement and make sure we have your signature scanned into your Medical File.

Your comments on our medical services are always welcome. We strive to improve for your benefit.

Please direct any queries or complaints to the Practice Manager.
manager@sandringhammedical.com.au
If you wish, you can register your complaint with the Health Services Commissioner T: (61 3) 8601 5200,
Email:hsc@health.vic.gov.au,
30th Floor, 570 Bourke Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000

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Sunday morning
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CLOSED

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