



Thevin's hospital adventure

No one quite knows how a bead ended up in four-year-old Thevin's ear – even Thevin himself seems unable to explain it. But Thevin's more than willing to share his story about his first ever hospital visit, particularly the part about the banana-flavoured gas, the DVD and his bravery award which he shows off with pride.

After a visit to the GP for a suspected ear infection, the cause of Thevin's sore ear turned out to be something quite different. Thevin's mum Samantha was encouraged to take him to the Eye and Ear where he underwent day surgery to remove the mystery bead.

While it's not an everyday procedure, removing a foreign object from the ear is something the hospital has done before. But for a child and their family, any visit to the hospital for surgery can be an unsettling experience.

Three days after Thevin's surgery, Samantha contacted the hospital to say thank you to the staff that went out of their way to comfort her son. "Everyone, starting from the ward nurses, operating room doctors, surgeons – each and every one was so kind and very cheerful," said Samantha.



Thevin enjoys an icy pole with his twin brother Nevin while recovering from surgery

After a quick recovery following his first surgery, Thevin wasted no time in telling all his friends about his exciting experience. "The nurses said he could keep the mask used for the surgery so he had a big show-and-tell at kinder, also showing off the bead in a little container and his bravery award," Samantha said.

"I'm sure that the hospital staff see children every day, but it was just very refreshing to see how they took the time to make my son feel very special."

"Thank you to the nurse on the fourth floor who made my son feel comfortable before surgery by giving him toys and books, and to the nurse who arranged for him and his brother to watch a movie while we waited for him to be allowed to go home."



We are now on Twitter!

Follow @EyeandEar150th for all the latest news on our 150th anniversary events and activities.



CEO message

Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of *sight&sound*.

It's been an exciting few months for the hospital since the last bumper edition of *sight&sound*, which commemorated the hospital's 150th anniversary. Activities to celebrate this special occasion have continued, with the hospital opening its doors to over 640 guests over two days in July for Open House Melbourne tours.

Our 150th anniversary public lecture series has seen another two great lectures presented by Professor Stephen O'Leary and Associate Professor Robert Cowan in recent months. More information about these lectures is provided on page 3, along with details of our upcoming final lecture and Community Board Meeting.

At the Eye and Ear we take great pride in our tradition of caring in every sense. Young Thevin's story on the front page demonstrates how our dedicated staff are making a difference by going to great lengths to help patients feel comfortable and at ease. New equipment recently purchased by the hospital is also helping to make a visit to the hospital a more positive experience for our youngest patients. You can read about this on page 3.

Work on the hospital's redevelopment continues, with preparatory work well underway. The next key milestone will be the appointment of our construction manager who is due to be on site in mid-October 2013.

We now have a section of our website dedicated to providing you with information and the latest news about our redevelopment. As works progress, this will include important detail about changes to the hospital, such as changed access arrangements. I encourage you to have a look at the redevelopment website page and continue checking for regular updates.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of *sight&sound*.

Best wishes,

Caroline Clarke
Acting CEO

Donation allows ENT clinic to broaden its scope

An Indigenous Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic has added a new tool to their medical belt thanks to a generous donation.

The clinic, run in partnership by the Eye and Ear and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), recently received a Vorotek Scope to help improve patient treatment.

The Vorotek Scope acts like a torch on a headband and is used for looking into the ear, providing a magnified image of the ear drum. It was kindly donated by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, purchased using a donation from the Wilbur-Ellis Impact Fund.

Professor Stephen O'Leary from the Eye and Ear has a close involvement with the clinic, visiting regularly with his team to treat indigenous children with ENT complaints. He says that the scope will make a big difference to the clinic and its patients.

"The Vorotek Scope is hands-free, so unlike a handheld otoscope, you can remove a wax build-up or object while using it," said Professor O'Leary.

"The donation of the scope helps us to impart our knowledge by providing hands-on training to those at the VAHS clinic so they can learn how to better look after indigenous children's ears."



Professor O'Leary, centre, demonstrates the Vorotek Scope with representatives from VAHS and Connell Bros Company (part of the Wilbur-Ellis Group)



150th anniversary celebrations continue at the Eye and Ear

Celebrations for the Eye and Ear's 150th anniversary have been in full swing in recent months.

Staff and volunteers led tours of the hospital over a weekend in July as part of Open House Melbourne 2013, which saw over 100 of Melbourne's historic buildings open their doors to the public. More than 640 visitors made the most of an opportunity to traipse through the underground tunnel linking the Eye and Ear with St Vincent's Hospital.

The Open House tours were part of our year-long celebrations of 150 years of the Eye and Ear. Also featuring on our 2013 calendar has been the 150th anniversary public lecture series, which acknowledges our long tradition of teaching and training.

In July Professor Stephen O'Leary continued the series with his presentation *Eradicating ear disease in Indigenous Australians: A community responsibility*. The fourth public lecture, held in August, coincided with Hearing Awareness Week and saw Associate Professor Robert Cowan, CEO for the HEARING CRC, discuss the future of hearing and the challenges faced by our ageing population.

The hospital will conclude its 150th anniversary celebrations in November with its second Community Board Meeting. This presents an opportunity for members of the community to be involved in a range of matters affecting the hospital. This event will also incorporate the final public lecture, with Associate Professor Anne Brooks, Head of General Eye Clinic 3, who will present on excellence in training.

The Community Board Meeting and lecture will be held on Tuesday 19 November from 6pm in the Lucy Jones Hall, the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, 426 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Please email rsvp@eyeandear.org.au to register your interest.

New hospital equipment is all fun and games

Coming to hospital can be a daunting experience, especially if you are only a few years old. But the Eye and Ear is putting its youngest patients at ease with the help of new play activity units and portable DVDs.

Mitch Wilson, Nurse Unit Manager of Ward 4, arranged with the support of the hospital's Executive for the play units to be installed in the Ward 4 admissions area and for DVDs to be purchased using funds raised through the Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay. He says that the equipment is all about making young patients comfortable at every stage of their visit.

"It's diversion therapy," said Mitch.

"The whole process, including fasting, anaesthesia and post-op recovery can be upsetting for anyone, but especially young children. The activity units and DVDs are helping to take their mind off it all and make them comfortable."



Director Ambulatory Services Tracy Siggins and Nurse Unit Manager Mitch Wilson with some of the new activity units

Get involved with the Eye and Ear

If you are interested in joining the Eye and Ear Consumer Advisory Committee or Consumer Register, please contact Consumer Liaison Officer Debra Hailes on 9929 8225 or email debra.hailes@eyeandear.org.au



CEO Ann Clark congratulates Stella on her award for 40 years of service in 2011.

Volunteer profile: Stella Bell

Stella Bell has dedicated half her life to her role as Treasurer of the Frankston Friends of the Eye and Ear Auxiliary. It's an admirable commitment from an 84-year-old great-grandmother of 12.

Her involvement goes even further back than her 42 years as Treasurer. Her father-in-law, Eric Bell, called the meeting which led to the formation of the Frankston auxiliary. "My mother-in-law Gladys was the auxiliary's first president. In those days they had a lot of coffee mornings. Gladys would ask me to come and help out in the kitchen on those mornings."

Her involvement with the Frankston Friends and the Eye and Ear grew from there. "We used to have a combined charity and card shop and I ordered the Christmas cards and introduced the tea towels," said Stella.

"There was one man that came in every year to get six tea towels to send to England. Each year he made sure that I helped him pick them out."

While the shop is no longer operating, Stella still enjoys her role. "I've made many great friends over the years and it's a pleasure knowing that you're helping out such a worthy cause. You never know who is going to need eye care or a bionic ear."

The Eye and Ear recognised the great contribution of its auxiliary members with a morning tea in September. Auxiliary members past and present, including Stella, joined staff at the hospital to share stories and celebrate their involvement with the Eye and Ear.

The road to awareness

Bill Bouhalis is forever grateful for the support of the Eye and Ear's Cochlear Implant Clinic (CIC). So much so that on 9 November he will set off on his bike to ride the 770km from Adelaide to Melbourne to raise awareness and funds for the CIC.

Six years ago, at the age of 19, Bill's daughter Nichole suddenly lost her hearing as a result of Cogan's Syndrome, an autoimmune disease that affected her ability to walk and maintain balance. After receiving a Cochlear implant to restore her hearing, Nichole remains a regular visitor to the clinic.

"Nichole is working and has regained her independence because of her Cochlear implant. I want many other children and adults to have the same opportunity," said Bill.

To support Bill, visit:
give.everydayhero.com/au/bill-bouhalis



Support us

Donations and bequests help us to continue our care, treatment and research to prevent vision and hearing loss. You can donate at eyeandear.org.au or phone 1800 808 137.

If you would like information about leaving a bequest to the hospital in your Will, please contact the Bequest Officer on 03 9929 8598. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

Interested in volunteering?

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@eyeandear.org.au or phone 03 9929 8902.

Disclaimer

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