

Vet News

We are still operating in these challenging times and Austin Health is continuing to do an exceptional job keeping our staff and patients safe and supporting the community through the pandemic.

Remembrance Day



In celebration of Remembrance Day, children and educators at the hospital's child care centre worked together to make poppy flowers. These flowers were then used to decorate a wreath and some children took their poppy flowers home. At 11am on the day, they observed a minute of silence to show their respect and remember those that fought for our country. They then listened to our national anthem "Advance Australia Fair". The centre is in the process of learning the lyrics as children will sing it at school next year. Although most of the children do not fully understand the significance of Remembrance Day, it was a good opportunity to instil in young children the ramifications of war and give them a reason to work towards a more peaceful world.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to have the traditional Remembrance Service. A limited number of attendees ensured the day was commemorated in respect to those who have served. Eight plaques for the Royal Australian Engineers Association were unveiled and dedicated. These plaques will be located in various areas across Melbourne.

Jeff Freeman and Robert Winther also visited the Heidelberg Memorial to lay a wreath (Jeff pictured right). A smaller version of this memorial is to be placed in the Remembrance Garden at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in 2021.





The day was not only unique because a crowd of 50 rather than 400 could attend but it is also the first ever Remembrance Day to also coincide with NAIDOC Week. Ngarra Jarra Team Leader, Cath Bradley, noted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have fought for Australia in all major wars.

“We acknowledge with deep regret that our Aboriginal veterans did not receive the recognition, support or rights of other returned soldiers,” Cath said. Cath was joined by Julie Peers, Ngemba Woman and Elder in the Victorian Aboriginal Community in placing flowers at the Indigenous Memorial Pole (left).

A new buggy to replace a previous patient transporter has been named ‘Simpson’ by Olwyn Alvey in a competition held as part of Veterans Health Week. The buggy will be personalised with a picture of Simpson and his donkey. This was unveiled by our CEO Adam Horsburgh along with PSA Helen Gregory who drives the buggy (pictured right).



Doug Blackney, RSL Representative



Michael Mosley, Volunteer Veteran Liaison



Don Hughes, President RAE Association (Vic) and Zeus unveiling the eight plaques

Piper
David
Cretney



Ken Kemp,
for
Ward 17



Justin Powell,
Legacy
Melbourne



Veteran
Liaison
Volunteer
Bill Smith

Bugler
Kathleen
O'Reilly
with
Graeme
McSolvin,
Vietnam
Veteran



80th Anniversary Heidelberg Repat Hospital 2021

The hospital opened on 13 March 1941 and much has happened since that event. The hospital was handed over from the Army in 1947 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Then in 1995, it transferred to the Victorian Hospitals System and amalgamated with Austin Hospital and Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre to become Austin Health.

There are many activities planned for next year and it is important to acknowledge this special place.

Post 1975 Obelisk

A grant from the Victorian Veterans Council has been successful and, together with a significant donation from the War Widows Guild (Victoria), this project is now able to proceed. Unveiling is planned for Sunday 20 June 2021. This date is 100 years to the day of the unveiling of the Heidelberg Memorial.

Key Dates at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital 2021

- ANZAC Day 10.30am Friday 23 April 2021
- Vietnam Veterans Day 10.30am Tuesday 17 August 2021
- Remembrance Day 10.30am Thursday 11 November 2021

Christmas Greeting

We look forward to re-establishing our friendships with you and to the reintroduction of currently suspended hospital services.

2020 has been particularly challenging and we appreciate your support. We hope you have the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends over Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

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We wish you a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

