
TRANSPORT FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Over 100 Years of Caring for, and Servicing, our Members

SEPTEMBER, 1991



*We care for patients
of all ages
- and most types!*

"We would say without hesitation that Vimy House has been the very best!"

So wrote a grateful husband of a patient with extensive experience of hospitals and nursing homes. His letter went on to express appreciation of the care and attention given by all the staff – not only the nursing and personal care staff, but the domestic and other staff as well who keep the rooms spotlessly clean.

For 72 years, Vimy House has had the reputation for being a very fine hospital. It not only serves, and looks after, its own T.F.S members, but also members of the general public. It is a fully accredited hospital, backed by a warm, friendly and efficient team who take pride and care in their work.

We always thought Vimy House was outstanding and so did Sisters I. Tate-Jobson and Leah Rosenthal when they started the hospital, which became known as Vimy House in 1919.

Vimy House is without hesitation the very best because its technical excellence is supported by an extensive inventory of the very latest surgical and nursing equipment.

- A lamina flow which allows for a constant exchange of clean air in the operating theatre (ideally suited for major orthopaedic work).
- The latest in arthroscopy equipment (a technique which is not only fast and efficient, but also halves a patients' stay in hospital).

- Constant passive movement machines (or C.P.M.'s) ideally suited for knee surgery preventing stiffness by constantly and almost imperceptibly activating the leg.
- The very latest in anaesthetic and resuscitation equipment, with up to the minute drugs, backed by a highly experienced team of operating theatre staff.

Patients at Vimy House enjoy their surroundings. The sunny rooms are welcoming with some overlooking the Kew Valley while others look into the native garden featuring red bottle brush.

Vimy tells its own story with letters of thanks sitting proudly in the Director of Nursing's Office and every fortnight the Vimy Newsletter (or Chronic-ill as it is called) gives the latest updates of meetings and medical and surgical changes.

Most of us, nursing sisters, have been with the hospital for a decade or so. I have actually just clocked my 16th year. Many of us have left to have babies and are now back in full swing at Vimy. This loyalty is the appreciation we all have, not only for Vimy House that many of us have striven to build, but also the love and understanding we have for one another. This filters through to the patients of Vimy House. So often patients have said to me: "This is such a happy place with an atmosphere all of its own."

Contributed by Anne MacMillan R.N.

Vimy House is now an even better place to have your operation

With the recent investment of several hundred thousand dollars in sophisticated diagnostic and operating equipment, Vimy House is now in the top echelon of private medical hospitals anywhere in Australia.

This is another reason to use Vimy House, your hospital, still the friendly, efficient place you have come to expect over the years.

"The advantages of the new equipment is that it is time saving and highly efficient both for a wide range of gynaecological operations and knee reconstructions," said the Transport Friendly Society Secretary/Manager, Mr. Bill Maher.

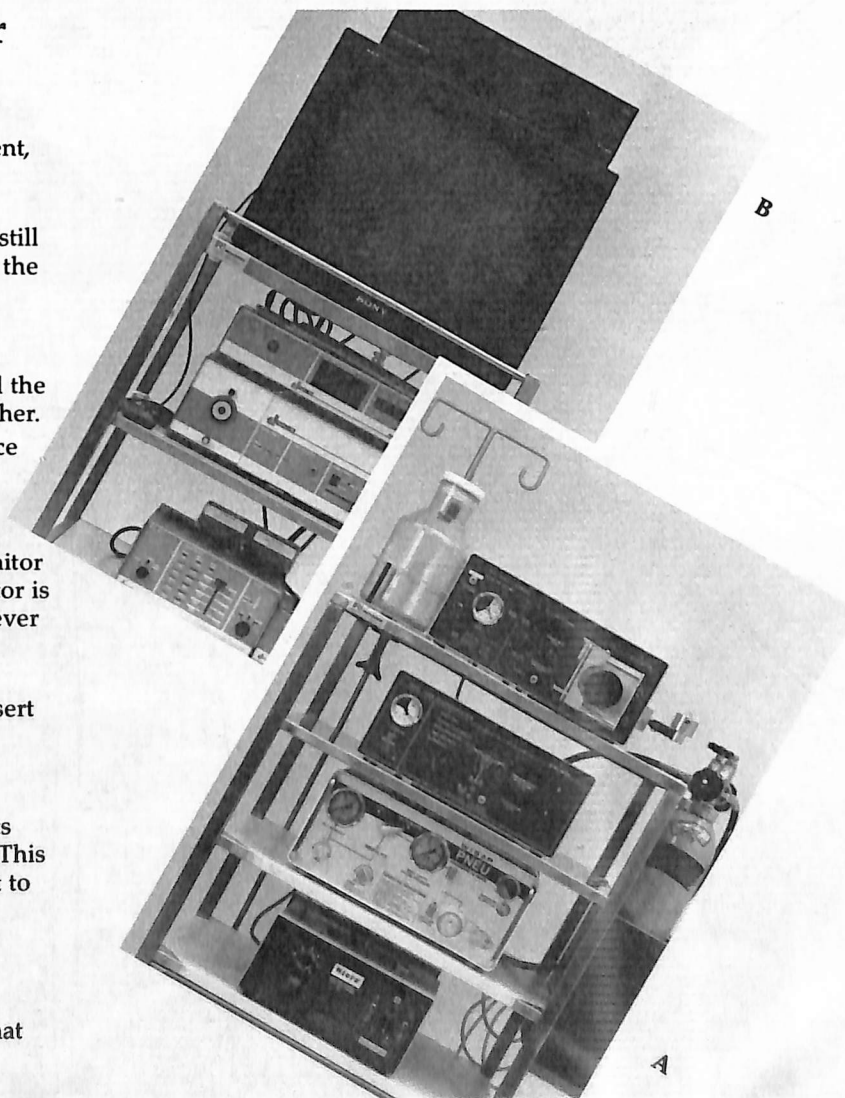
"Photograph 'A' shows a trolley consisting of a light source insoflator for looking inside stomachs for a wide range of purposes. The equipment, mainly used for women's operations, is also useful for appendicectomies.

"Photograph 'B' is a dionics light source, camera and monitor for doing arthroscopies of any joints. On top of the monitor is a printer which takes polaroid type photographs of whatever the camera is seeing.

"An arthroscopy is a relatively simple operation, under anaesthetic, where a small hole is made in the joint, to insert a tiny telescope type instrument with a light source. This allows the surgeon to visualise the internal aspects of the joint, be it the knee joint, shoulder, ankle or wrist joint.

"Through other small holes made in the joint, instruments can be inserted and investigative procedures performed. This avoids the need to make a large incision to open the joint to perform an operation.

"The new equipment is particularly effective for sports' injuries. For example, with footballers needing a knee reconstruction, they usually had to have the knee totally open. Now their cartilage can be repaired so efficiently that they can go home the next day and can be playing again within two to three weeks," Mr. Maher said.



Annual Election

Please note that nominations for the following positions will be received by the Scrutineers until noon Friday, 18th October, 1991.

Members of Committee of Delegates

Brunswick	(1)	Three Year Term
Camberwell	(1)	Three Year Term
Doncaster	(1)	Three Year Term
Elwood	(1)	Three Year Term
Essendon	(1)	Three Year Term
Glenhuntly	(1)	Three Year Term
Market Street	(1)	Three Year Term
Preston	(1)	Three Year Term
50 Queen Street	(1)	Three Year Term
Associate Rep	(1)	Three Year Term

Members of the Board of Directors

One Year Term x 2, Two Years Term x 2, Three Years Term x 3

Annual General Meeting

The One Hundred and Third Annual General Meeting will be held at Vimy House Private Hospital, 5 Studley Avenue, Kew, on Tuesday, 22nd October, 1991 at 8.00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Receive minutes of the One Hundred and Second Annual General Meeting held on 23rd October, 1990.
2. Receive the Annual Report of the Board of Directors.
3. Receive the Investment Report.
4. Receive the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30th June, 1991.
5. Receive the names of persons seeking election to the Committee of Delegates.
6. Declare the names of persons elected as members of the Committee of Delegates.
7. Receive the names of persons seeking election to the Board of Directors.
8. Declare the names of persons elected as members of the Board of Directors.
9. Appoint the Auditors for the ensuing financial year.
10. Determine the honoraria payable to the Committee of Delegates in respect of the period since the last Annual General Meeting.
11. Ratify rule changes in respect of contribution rates and benefits effected since the last Annual General Meeting and any other rule changes.
12. Consider any other business which the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting in his absolute and unfettered discretion determines to be business appropriate to be considered by the Annual General Meeting.

Note: Rule changes and Annual Reports are available from your Delegate or T.F.S. Office.

New Membership Cards

Have you received your new membership card? These have been designed to be more cost effective than the old sticky labels, should last longer and can easily fit into your wallet or purse. So leave those bulky membership books at home – the next time you have to produce proof of membership – just produce your card!

Quote your membership number, and table number, when claiming or making enquiries.

Bulk Billing – not what it used to be

The Federal Budget, in an attempt to reduce the cost to health services, has reduced the bulk billing rebate to practitioners by \$3.80. This means that patients who would normally be bulk billed by their practitioner and therefore not incur any out-of-pocket expense will now be required to pay \$3.80 per consultation.

This charge is NOT an increase in fees but a DECREASE in Medicare rebates. Fortunately, pensioners and holders of health care cards will not be affected.

The Voluntary Health Insurance Association is currently rallying for the Government to allow health funds to insure this extra, non-rebatable cost, so keep your fingers crossed and we will keep you informed as to the outcome.

Change of Management

We welcome Mr. Stuart Imer, the new manager of South Yarra Physiotherapy Clinic. Stuart will continue our agreement with the South Yarra Clinic which means continued excellent care for all our members who avail themselves of Stuart's services. For an appointment – call 266 2321.

T.F.S Holidays

The T.F.S office will be CLOSED on the following dates:

Tuesday, 5th November 1991 (Cup Day)

Wednesday, 25th December 1991 (Christmas Day)

Thursday, 26th December 1991 (Boxing Day)

Investment Update

For further information or an appointment, ring Don Barker on 853 1422.

News in Brief

Ambulance: For a trial period, the T.F.S will meet the costs of ambulance services rather than costs of subscriptions. This is a major change in policy and will benefit all our Extras members as previously, only a percentage of Extras members subscribed to the ambulance. This takes effect from 1st November 1991, so please, those Extras members whose subscription falls due around 1st November 1991, don't renew as the T.F.S will meet your ambulance trips.

Increase in Rates: As from 1st November 1991, due to unavoidable circumstances, contributions will increase by 5 cents per week for Single Extras cover and 25 cents per week for Single Hospital cover. The increase will be doubled for Family cover. Our contributions will still continue to be most competitive.

Physiotherapy Benefits Restricted: Extras members, please note that "no out of pocket expense for physiotherapy treatment at South Yarra or Heidelberg Clinics only applies until the normal Society limit is reached, after which, treatment is no longer claimable.

Epworth Hospital: Unfortunately, due to unexpected increases in bed and theatre charges by Epworth Hospital, we have been forced to discontinue our "Preferred Provider Agreement" as from 1st September 1991. Patients undergoing hospitalisation at Epworth will now be required to forgoe a predetermined "Patient Moiety". This agreement will again be reviewed on 1st March 1992. We apologise to any members who may be inconvenienced by this move, however, please remember your own hospital – Vimy House – which is available to all members of our hospital tables.

Masseur Benefits: As from 1st November 1991, benefit will no longer be claimable for massage.

Ancillary Limits: As from 1st November 1991, T.F.S is considering introducing a "family limit" to ancillary benefits. This will not effect dental limits, optical limits or single memberships. The "limit per family per annum" will be in place of "limit per person per annum".

Members Note

Membership Resignations: Please note, any member who resigns from T.F.S is no longer entitled to treatment at the T.F.S Dental Clinic. This Clinic is for use by T.F.S members only and any appointments made after membership termination date are automatically cancelled.

Dental Bulk Fees: If attending a private dentist, please request that individual item numbers and charges be notioned on your account. Accounts with a "bulk fee" for several item numbers slows down processing time and can result in reduced benefits.

Initial Consultations: Members of Extras Fund may have noted that we have introduced "Initial Consultation Benefits" for several Extras services. This initial benefit is only payable once per Society Year.

T.F.S. Dental Clinic

The Dental Clinic will be CLOSED for Public Holidays as well as the following dates:

Friday, 4th October, 1991
Monday, 4th November, 1991
Monday, 2nd December, 1991

Ambulance Survey

Thank you to all our members who took part in the Ambulance Survey published in last quarter's Newsletter. Much useful information was derived from your answers. The winner of the bottle of champagne was Mr. Torney. He has kindly donated his prize to a long staying patient at Vimy. Thank you Mr. Torney for your thoughtful gesture, which has brightened up the patient's stay.

Stop Press!!!

TELEPHONE NUMBER INCORRECT

You may have noticed a change of telephone numbers on your new membership card – the number for the Dental Clinic IS WRONG – SORRY! It should read 862 2691. All the other new numbers are correct – these changes were due to Telecom upgrading their exchange.

Please also note that Brian Atherton (Heidelberg Physiotherapy Clinic) has also had his telephone number changed to 457 1563.

T.F.S. for all your Health Needs

Transport Friendly Society: 5 Studley Ave, Kew. P.O. Box 207, Kew, 3101. Phone 853 1888. Office Hours 8.45 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Vimy House Private Hospital: Director of Nursing Mrs. Maria Hubble, 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 1422.

Financial and Investment Advisor: Don Barker, 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 1422.

Dental Clinic: Receptionist Miss Cheryl Thompson, 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 2691.

Radiology Clinic: Radiographer Mrs. Lee Tong, 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 7994.

Physiotherapy Clinics: Mr. Brian Atherton, 66 Mount Street, Heidelberg. Phone 457 1563. Mr. Stuart Imer, 84 West Toorak Road, South Yarra. Phone 266 2321.

Eye Clinic: Ophthalmologist Mr. Firth-Smith, 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 1422. Optometrist Dr. Michael Fish, 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 1422.

Travel Insurance: 5 Studley Ave, Kew. Phone 853 1888.

"The Mornington" Retirement Village: Manager Mr. David McIntosh, 150 Tyabb Road, Mornington. Phone (059) 75 6877.

Karinyah Private Nursing Home: Director of Nursing Sr. Dulcie Arnott, 69 The Broadway, Camberwell. Phone 882 8059.

The T.F.S Travel Advisory Service

Don't forget your travel insurance.

We can give you a package tailored to your needs so you'll have peace of mind knowing that you're covered in the event of an accident or mishap anywhere in the world.

More than 200 T.F.S members used the service last year. They're our best advertisement!

Call us on 853 1888.

