



Principals: Dr Jennifer Levecke B.D.Sc. Dr William Levecke B.D.Sc. Dr Wynne Yip B.D.Sc.

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Our end of year edition features...

A reflection on our “Covid Year” of challenges and some feedback.

Vale Dr Neville Regan who passed away earlier this year.

Dr Kate Snell returns to the Blackburn Dental Family.

Our Christmas-New Year Surgery Hours 2020-2021



Dr Jenny Levecke writes...

Thankyou Patients during this “Covid Year” and the way forward

Welcome to our end-of-year newsletter...and what a year it has been for all of us. Covid-19 has certainly presented some challenges to our community. Firstly, we would like to thank you, our patients, for your patience.

Due to evolving knowledge of the virus and how it behaves, and varying levels of restrictions placed upon us, we have had to “pivot” like so many others. This has meant cancelling appointments, sometimes at short notice. It also necessitated temporary options instead of more permanent solutions and unfortunately, there were times when we were unable to see you when you thought you needed us. Be assured, we had your health and safety and that of our staff and the wider community in the forefront of our decision making.



The good news is that Victoria has done an amazing job at reducing the rates of Covid-19 transmission in the community and BDG is now operating with our Covid safe plan at near normal capacity.

Global research shows that dentists have had lower rates of virus transmission than anticipated, when compared to other health workers. The hypothesis for why this is so is that dentists and their staff are so experienced in infection control procedures.

However, on top our usual strict infection control measures, we have introduced some additional procedures, many of which may be with us for some time.

CONT'D OVER...

Our Covid Year CONT'D...

Our first line of defence at Blackburn Dental is screening to minimise the risk of someone bringing the virus into our practice. For this reason, when you call to make an appointment, you will be asked a number of Covid related questions.

- You will be asked to contact the practice again on the day before your visit to confirm that you are unlikely to be carrying the virus.
- If in any doubt, we ask that you postpone your visit until you are well.
- Likewise, our staff are being exceptionally vigilant and not presenting for work if they are experiencing any symptoms.
- This may lead to inconvenient staff shortages requiring all of us to be flexible and understanding.
- On arrival, hand sanitiser should be used and we shall do a temperature check at reception.

Social distancing has been shown to be a major defence also. For this reason, we are limiting the number of people on the premises. Our appointment schedules have been altered and we ask that you do not bring unnecessary companions or family members with you.

Dr Kate Snell returns to the Blackburn Dental Family Many of you may have met Dr Kate Snell who took up a maternity leave position with us in October 2019 while Dr Khanh Nguyen took time off for her second child. Kate has been very well liked by staff and our patients. In June this year, Kate accepted a permanent position with us alongside Khanh's return to the practice. **Kate works on Wednesday and Saturday while Khanh is on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. We are very pleased to have Kate join our BDG family.**



“Vale – Dr Neville Regan 15.4.1936 – 12.5.2020

In May of this year, we acknowledged with great sadness the death of our friend and colleague, Neville Regan. Neville was a founding member of Blackburn Dental Group, together with Dr Gavan Oakley. In 1968 they designed and built the architecturally acclaimed premises at 23 Blackburn Road, Blackburn which still serves us well today. Neville initially practiced most facets of dentistry but later dedicated his time to providing removable dental prosthetics or dentures. He had a real skill and talent in this field and took great pride in providing highly individualised dentures for his patients.

Dental history was a passion of Neville's. He volunteered at the Dental Museum at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne and assisted in exhibitions at the University of Melbourne. He had a huge collection of dental memorabilia which included artefacts and books. Nev retired from dental practice in 2015. He is survived by his wife, Annie, 6 children and 4 grandchildren and will be greatly missed by us all.

CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR HOURS

DECEMBER 2020

Thurs 24 Dec 8am – 1pm
Fri 25, Sat 26, Sun 2, Mon 28 Dec - Closed
 Tues 29 Dec 8am - 5.30pm
 Wed 30 Dec 8am – 5.30pm
 Thurs 31 Dec 8am – 1pm

JANUARY 2021

Fri 1, Sat 2, Sun 3 Jan – Closed
Normal Hours Resume
Mon 4 January
 Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm
 Sat 8am-12noon

“Compliments of the Season”



Our Blackburn Dental Team
 wish patients, colleagues
 and friends

**Best wishes from
 Jenny, Will and Wynne**

Annual Gift Giving

We continue the tradition of Blackburn Dental **donating Christmas Food Hampers** to St Vincent De Paul Society, in conjunction with our local Parish, The St.Thomas Apostle Catholic Church. Our staff donate essentials such as pasta, pasta sauces, canned vegetables, tuna and ham. Also, some more festive items including Christmas cakes and puddings, mince pies and bonbons. We hope our donations, in lieu of gift exchanges, can go to those less fortunate at this time of the year.

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