

Governor-General opens redevelopment

A celebration party followed the official opening of the St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital redevelopment by the Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, on Friday 7 May. Ms Bryce was accompanied by her husband Mr Michael Bryce for the celebrations, which were held near the new entrance under a marquee. Hospital staff, visiting practitioners, volunteers, auxiliary members, former patients, former staff and the hospital's executive team were joined by an impressive list of VIPs at the opening ceremony

General Manager Dr Ian England spoke at the ceremony about the way the redevelopment has helped the hospital maintain its commitment to world-class standards.

The chair of the UnitingCare Board Ms Heather Watson congratulated all those involved in the redevelopment and thanked the doctors, staff and volunteers



The Governor-General of Australia Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, assisted by UnitingCare Health CEO Mr Richard Royle unveiled the plaque and cut a celebratory cake at the official opening of the new St Andrew's Hospital on Friday 7 May. St Andrew's General Manager Dr Ian England (right) was the Master of Ceremonies on the special day.

for being so flexible while the work was undertaken.

Cardiac surgeon Dr Michael Gardner, representing the hospital's doctors, talked about the St Andrew's sense of ethics and the high standards of the nursing staff, saying the new-look hospital meant doctors now had the best of everything.

Graduate nurse, Nellie Dunsdon, spoke of the opportunities the hospital provided for nursing staff and how the redevelopment made staff proud to work at St Andrew's. The Governor-General unveiled a commemorative plaque and also cut a celebration cake before going on a tour of the hospital.

More than 100 people attended the opening ceremony and the party.

What doctors say about the new-look hospital

Dr John Tuffley, visiting orthopaedic surgeon:

"A more centralised orthopaedic service has improved morale, and improved the cohesiveness of the orthopaedic unit.

"The new front entrance to St Andrew's Hospital has improved the first impression that patients have when they present to the hospital.

"New modern and enlarged operating theatres with up-to-date equipment allow the more timely and improved orthopaedic management of patients."

Dr Terry Coyne, visiting neurosurgeon:

"The opening of the new St Andrew's Hospital development provides an essential base for the surgeons of BrizBrain & Spine, which better allows us to continue our neurosurgical work at the hospital and further fosters our relationship with St Andrew's."

Dr Maurice Stevens, visiting ENT surgeon:

"Patients now enjoy state-of-the-art facilities in all disciplines.

"St Andrew's can now boast the largest private ENT department in Brisbane supporting all of the subspecialties within otolaryngology. I am particularly pleased that St Andrew's is able to continue to treat large numbers of paediatric ENT patients."

Professor Peter Silburn, visiting neurologist:

"The redevelopment has helped to lift the hospital in multiple ways. The improved and expanded facilities have ensured that St Andrew's will maintain its position as a leading hospital in Brisbane."

Dr Del Hinckley, visiting plastic and reconstructive surgeon:

"I congratulate all involved in making our dream a reality. St Andrews War Memorial Hospital is the gem in the crown of UnitingCare Health and has set an enviable standard for health

care that many aspire to, but few achieve."

Dr Michael Gardner, visiting cardiac surgeon:

"I have had a significant involvement with St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital for the past 25 years because of the quality of its nursing staff and its high ethical standards.

"The new-look hospital now has an outstanding presence for patients and doctors, particularly the impressive new front entrance.

"We now truly have a hospital building that matches St Andrew's high standards of care."

Dr John Hayes, visiting cardiologist:

"The new theatres and state-of-the-art equipment ensures St Andrew's can maintain its status in providing first-class patient care with world-class results.

"The redevelopment and new equipment places St Andrew's at the leading edge of medical care and medical outcomes."

In the news

- Reports of “TV legend “John ‘Strop’ Cornell undergoing Deep Brain Stimulation surgery at St Andrew’s War Memorial Hospital for Parkinson’s disease and making an excellent recovery were reported in *The Daily Telegraph* and other News Limited publications, as well as on Channel 9’s *A Current Affair* and radio.

The procedure was performed by neurosurgeon Dr Terry Coyne and neurologist Professor Peter Silburn. Cornell, 69, spoke of his “incredible recovery”, saying he felt as though “a magic wand had been waved over me”.

The man best known to television audiences as Paul Hogan’s hapless sidekick Strop in the 1970s sketch

comedy *The Paul Hogan Show*, had become so impaired by the disease he was almost unable to walk.

The article said a grateful Cornell “has started donating generously to St Andrew’s so that less-fortunate people can enjoy the benefits of improved treatment”.

The wide media coverage led to several calls from people with Parkinson’s disease seeking more information.

- The *North City News* reported on the cultural diversity of the staff working in the theatres at St Andrew’s. There are 27 countries represented within the 170 theatre staff.

The staff held an international lunch to celebrate the different countries represented.