



WHS

NEWS BULLETIN

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Welcome to the **40th** edition of the **Work Health Safety News Bulletin**

CARLENE'S FAREWELL

A farewell morning tea was held recently in honour of service employee **Carlene Board** who is relocating to interstate after 11 ½ years of dedicated and devoted service in hotel services as a cleaner.



Pictured above: steam rising off the sea adjacent to Meercroft Care Inc. at 7:30 am on May 4th 2017.



Pictured above from left: Carlene Board and work colleague, Tina Good

HUMAN RESOURCE - ROSTERS



Pictured above: Amanda Rayner (roster clerk) attending to the arduous task of filling shifts.

Monthly indicators April and May 2017 combined:

Annual Leave	2,734 hours
Sick Leave	1,134 hours
Carer's Leave	319 hours
Leave without pay	781 hours
Total	4,968 hours

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE



*Pictured above: hairdresser Rebecca Priest (background) and Elizabeth Roach having her hair shaved off! Together with money received from a morning tea, the grand total of **\$450.00** was raised with all proceeds going to the Leukemia Foundation.*

MEDICATION TROLLEYS

In response to concerns raised by staff in relation to the maneuverability of the current medication trolleys, an ergonomic review has been undertaken by an Occupational Therapist.

The findings of the review identified that there are concerning forces, movements and postures associated with the use of the said trolleys.

Whilst improving work practices, are not likely to eliminate the issues on their own, management is currently exploring other options in order to reduce the manual handling risks inherent in this task.



SANITARY BINS

The standard sanitary bins located across the facility have recently been upgraded to **touch free sanitary bins** as (*pictured below*) while at the same time increasing the total number to 10 bins.



ELECTRONIC DOORS

Major issues were identified in 2016 with the automatic door entry to Meercroft Care Inc. Namely:

- ▶ Doors come open and difficult to close in strong winds
- ▶ Entry doors are **3 metres** high and flex in strong winds
- ▶ Impacts on operating mechanism
- ▶ Ongoing maintenance and repairs
- ▶ Environmental Health Safety Issue for all and sundry

In response to same, the Home's Asset Management Committee actioned an external assessment resulting in the following outcome:

The replacement of the above mentioned doors (*as pictured below*) with a much shorter **2.05 metre** high version, complete with floor mounted door guides positioned at the sides, preventing flexing and frame damage.



GLOVE DISPENSER HOLDER



In response to a staff request, a glove dispenser unit (*pictured above*) has been now installed in each of the 2 communal bathrooms in the Bluffhaven secure unit.

OCEAN VIEW (SECURE UNIT) DISPENSATION

In **December 2011** Meercroft Care Inc. was granted special dispensation by Tasmania Fire Service whereby the fire alarm will only sound in the Ocean View (Secure Unit) if the alarm has been activated in the said unit itself.

Meaning: that if a fire alarm is activated elsewhere within the Home, the Ocean View (Secure Unit) **will not be included** and all doors / gates will remain secure.

Notwithstanding:

- ▶ That any fire alarm activation will still register on the Home's **DECT phones** facility wide.



- ▶ That any announcement made over the **public address system** will be heard facility wide.
- ▶ That if the fire alarm is activated in the Ocean View (Secure Unit) the fire alarm will sound **facility wide**. Thereby alerting the entire facility to the emergency.

Unfortunately, the initial separation at the main fire panel defaulted with the status quo remaining in place.

Despite repeated attempts over the years to rectify the situation, the matter was finally resolved in **April 2017** when an issue was identified with the floating voltage causing the intermittent fault where the speaker zones were not correctly switching. This in turn caused the alarm to sound in the Secure Unit when same should have been isolated.

DISPOSAL OF DISCARDED LINEN

Staff are reminded that all discarded linen must be taken/returned to the **laundry** for record keeping prior to **disposal/replacement** thereof. *Pictured: new linen store.*



WORKPLACE INSPECTION

In compliance with the *Work Health Safety Act 2012*, regular workplace inspections are conducted on a monthly basis in accordance with a designated 12 monthly schedule comprising **27** different areas and locations facility wide.

For example:

- ▶ All communal areas (lounges, corridors, dining room)
- ▶ Offices / maintenance workshop
- ▶ Nurses stations / drug rooms
- ▶ Pan rooms / bathrooms
- ▶ Residents rooms & ensuites
- ▶ Kitchen / laundry / linen stores / chemical stores
- ▶ Staff rooms / hair salon
- ▶ Cleaners room / store rooms
- ▶ Function rooms / first aid

All relevant information and/or non-compliant issue derived there from are then documented and referred to our maintenance department for investigation and outcome.

One such area that staff may not be familiar with is the “under-the-house” basement storage area located at the northern end of Parkview.



Pictured above and below: the basement storage area after an internal cleanout / removal of all unwanted items of furniture, equipment and etc.



GASTRONETERITIS



With Gastroenteritis reportedly out in the wider community, we all need to be vigilant in order keep our workplace and living environment symptom free!

What are the symptoms of gastroenteritis in adults?

Gastroenteritis is an infection of the gut (intestines). It causes diarrhoea and may also cause you to be sick (vomit), and have tummy (abdominal) pain and other symptoms. In most cases the infection clears over several days but sometimes takes longer. The main risk is lack of fluid in the body (dehydration).

How long does it take to get gastro?

Gastroenteritis symptoms usually begin **1 to 2 days** after you have taken in the germ, but it can be as early as 1 hour (for example staphylococcal toxin) and as long as **60 days** (for example Listeria infection). Symptoms can include: nausea and/or vomiting, diarrhoea, sometimes containing blood.

How do you get gastro?

Viral **gastroenteritis** is contagious. It is spread through close contact with infected persons (for example, by sharing food, water, or eating utensils) or by touching surfaces contaminated by an infected person and then touching one's mouth

How it spreads

Through contaminated food or water.
By touching a contaminated surface (blanket or doorknob).
Consult a doctor for medical advice

How long does gastro last for?

Depending on the cause, viral gastroenteritis symptoms may appear within **one to three days** after you're infected and can range from mild to severe. Symptoms usually last just a day or two, but occasionally they may persist as long as **10 days**.

What causes a stomach virus?

Viral gastroenteritis is an intestinal infection that is commonly known as **stomach flu**. **Symptoms of stomach flu** include watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, and vomiting. Many different viruses **can cause stomach flu**. Stomach flu often develops after contact with an infected person or consuming contaminated food or water.

What is good to eat when you have a stomach bug?

Gradually begin to **eat** bland, easy-to-digest **foods**, such as soda crackers, toast, gelatin, bananas, rice and chicken. Stop **eating** if your nausea returns. **Avoid** certain **foods** and substances until **you** feel better. These include dairy products, caffeine, alcohol, nicotine, and fatty or highly seasoned **foods**.

How long does stomach virus last?

Depending on the cause, viral gastroenteritis symptoms may appear within **one to three days** after you're infected and can range from mild to severe. Symptoms usually last just a day or two, but occasionally they may persist as long as **10 days**.

Protocol for Gastroenteritis

In accordance with Meercroft **Policy INF025**, staff are reminded of their responsibilities in relation to Gastroenteritis. Namely: Staff are not to attend work if they have Gastro symptoms or are exposed to someone who has Gastro.

If you have had Gastro, you are **not to return to work** until you are **symptom free for 48 hours**.



Workplace Health & Safety Committee 2017

