



Glen Iris Medical Centre

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www.gimc.com.au

FREE TO TAKE HOME!

DECEMBER 2016 - JANUARY 2017 EDITION



Fun in the Sun



Swimmer's Ear



'I Don't Want to go to School'



Finding Your Ho-Ho-Ho

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.

www.healthnews.net.au

● PRACTICE DOCTORS

Dr Arthur Kipouridis

MBBS, FRACGP

Dr Elizabeth McNaughton

MBBS, DipObst (RCOG), FRACGP

Dr Ronnie Gerendasi

MD, BSc, FRACGP

Dr Sally Hanson

BSc, BMBS, FRACGP

On personal leave until the beginning of 2017

Dr Miriam Blashki

MBBS, FRACGP

Presently on extended personal leave

Dr Timothy Ross

MBBS, FRACGP

Dr Odette Wan

MBBS, DipRANZCOG, FRACGP

Dr Jean Douyere

MBBS, DGM, FRACGP

Dr Jennifer Rothfield

MBBS

Men's Health

Paediatrics

Sports Medicine

Meditation

Asthma

Travel Medicine

Women's Health

Family Medicine

Minor Surgery

Counselling

Shared Care

● PRACTICE STAFF

Managers:

Dr Arthur Kipouridis,

Dr Ronnie Gerendasi &

Jill McPhie

Reception Staff:

Andrea, Debbie, Prue, Stacey, Olivia,

Fiona, Lana & Agnes

Practice Nurses:

Jill McPhie

Katherine Teagle (Nurse Immuniser)

Jaceen O'Meara &

Jenny Gastin

● ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES

Physiotherapist

Travis Quinn

Available Mon/Wed/Fri 10.00am - 12md

Psychologist

Lyn Stevenson

Psychologist

Michelle Cranston

Diabetic Educator

Katrina Walsh

Dietician

Joanna baker

▶ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.

● SURGERY HOURS

Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm

Saturday 8am – 11.30am

Public Holidays as advertised

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

DoctorDoctor.: **132 660**. Call **000** in an emergency.

Home Visits. If you wish your doctor to make a home visit, please call the surgery first thing in the morning. Home visits are not available to new patients

● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

We direct-bill Medicare for Pensioners and Health Care Card holders.

Private patients will pay a gap beyond the Medicare refund. This varies according to the complexity of service or if a procedure is performed.

At the discretion of the doctor a "no show" fee may be charged for patients who miss their appointments. Payment can be made by cheque, credit card or EFTPOS.

Please note – on Saturdays and Public Holidays, bulk billing arrangements are not available.

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Dr Jennifer Rothfield - At the beginning of November we welcomed Dr Jennifer Rothfield to our team. Jennifer has a sports medicine diploma as well as a family planning certificate and mental health training.

My Health Record - this is the name of the national digital health record system being implemented by the government. Having a My Health Record means that your important health information like allergies, medical conditions and treatments, medicine details, tests and scan reports can be digitally stored in one place. These can then be accessed by healthcare providers such as doctors, specialists and hospital staff online from anywhere at anytime when they need to, like in an accident or emergency. The My Health Record is protected and regulated by law, just like on-line banking. If you would like to know more about the My Health Record system please speak to one of our friendly staff members who will be able to assist you to register for this system.

Online Appointments - online appointments are now available via our website: **www.gimc.com.au** - Please note that on-line appointments are **NOT** available for new patients.

Needle free injections – available at Glen Iris Medical Centre – please speak to your G.P.

We are now able to send **SMS appointment reminders**. Please ensure that your current mobile phone number is updated on our files.

Telephone calls. Reception staff will take a message for the Doctor whilst he or she is consulting. They will then return the call ASAP or at the end of their session. However, if the status of the inquiry is urgent then staff will put the call through immediately to the Doctor concerned or to the Doctor on duty. Emails and SMS messages of a clinical nature will not be accepted by Practitioners of this practice. Remember an email is the electronic equivalent of a "post card"

Children's immunisations: If possible please book an appointment for your child to be immunised on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays when Kath (our nurse immuniser) is available to assist with the doctor to administer these vaccinations. Please let reception know that you are booking for a child's immunisations.

Fun in the Sun

Summer time is great fun for children and with a few handy safety tips it can be fun for parents as well. Children love being outside but they can overheat, so ensure they drink plenty of water through the day.

Get them to play in the shade or come inside in the hottest part of the day. If travelling, be aware that cars can heat up and children may feel the effects before you do. Do not leave children in a car on a hot day.

Remember to slip, slop and slap.

Kids love a romp in the park. Playgrounds are much safer than they were, but there is never a substitute for supervising your children and guiding them to age-appropriate play equipment. Similarly, water activities are great fun on a hot day but pool fences do not replace watching your child. Floatation devices are helpful for young children but, again, cannot replace your vigilance. Teach your children to always swim between the flags at the beach.

Summer offers good opportunities to connect with your children. You can enjoy splashing around with them in the pool or catch a ball or Frisbee in the park. You can go bike riding together or simply lie down at night and watch the stars. Outdoor activities are good for both your health (reducing stress and improving sleep and fitness) and your children's wellbeing. ■



Back-to-School Nutrition

Holidays are over and thoughts will turn to getting children back to school and what to put in that dreaded lunchbox. While lunch boxes can be a difficult problem for parents, they needn't be.

Before considering lunch, ensure your child eats breakfast every day. This can be an egg, or some fruit with yoghurt or toast. Many breakfast cereals are high in sugar and food colouring, so read the labels carefully. The best drink for your child at breakfast is water.

The sandwich remains a popular lunch. Choose wholegrain or multigrain bread in preference to white. Fillings can be cold meats, vegetables or cheese or whatever

your child likes. Wraps are another option. Pack some carrot or celery sticks, a hard-boiled egg and fruit – and you have a nutritious and inexpensive lunch!

If allergies are not a concern a small pot of mixed seeds, nuts and dried fruit is a healthy recess snack. Just as at breakfast, the best drink during the day is water. Fruit juices are high in sugar so it is better children eat a piece of fruit and drink a glass of water than have fruit juice. ■



Swimmer's Ear

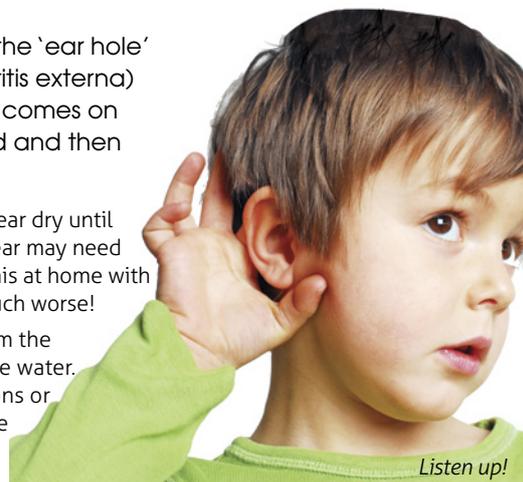
The ear has three parts – outer, middle and inner. The outer ear or ear canal is the 'ear hole' we can feel and leads to the eardrum. If this gets infected (technical name, otitis externa) it is called swimmer's ear or tropical ear. While not caused by water, it typically comes on if water remains in the ear canal. This can cause the lining to become inflamed and then bacteria or fungi multiply in the moist environment.

The hallmark symptom is a painful ear and the pain can be quite intense. There may be a fever but not commonly. It is rare to get 'cold'-like symptoms of runny nose or cough as is common in middle ear infections. The ear canal may become red and swollen.

See your doctor. Swimmer's ear is easily differentiated from a middle ear infection on examination of the ear. Treatment is antibiotic

drops and it's important to keep the ear dry until the infection clears. Sometimes the ear may need cleaning by your doctor. Do not do this at home with cotton buds as it can make things much worse!

Prevention includes using drops from the chemist after swimming to evaporate water. For those prone to repeated infections or who swim regularly, earplugs may be helpful. ■



'I Don't Want to go to School'

School refusal is serious and emotional. It is hard to stay detached. But finding a solution early can prevent unnecessary school absence.

Watch for things such as tantrums or tears about going to school; not wanting to leave mum or dad; refusal to leave the car or home; repeated visits to the school nurse; and feelings of physical sickness like nausea, headache and stomach cramps.

The causes can be simple or hard to find. We look for bullying, change of school, transition from primary to high school, separation anxiety, family stress, problems with teachers, academic pressures, moving house or changes in home life.

It may not be a condition of itself but a response to anxiety or fear, often because things are seen through a child's eyes.

It is serious when a child gets behind in their education or misses out on friendships.



Early recognition is vital. Discussing possibilities with your GP and school teacher can help, rather than guess what might be affecting your child. A psychologist can sometimes help.

Simple measures include being clear and direct about school attendance, offering incentives for going to school, or banning toys and electronic devices if the child is at home. It is important for the parents and teachers to be in regular contact and to 'be on the same page'.

State education departments have programs that help in difficult cases. ■



Getting into the spirit

Finding Your Ho-Ho-Ho

Kids can't wait for Christmas and a good number of adults can't wait for it to be over.

Christmas can be stressful for some. This might be because you dread 'enduring' family members who you have carefully avoided since last Christmas, or it might be you've just got your credit card under control from the last festive season. It might be that you feel obligated to everyone.

There are simple things you can do to reduce Christmas stress.

- Practise slow deep breathing every day. This reduces stress and anxiety.
- Cull the present list to those you genuinely care about and you don't have to spend a fortune.
- Cut up the credit card and buy your Christmas presents with cash. That way you buy what you can afford and there won't be nasty surprises on the January credit card statement.
- Close down. Many businesses close over Christmas. You can do the same. Switch off the phone and go away.
- Be a kid again. Pop crackers, enjoy unwrapping presents and give yourself to the silliness of the season. This will make you laugh and you can't stress when you are laughing.

Not all these tips suit everyone. Do what works for you. Do remember that Christmas (whether you are religious or not) can be a time for joy and relaxation. ■

Alcohol and the Festive Season

Christmas is a time we can overindulge in food and drink but there are simple ways to avoid this. There is no need to accept every invitation – everyone knows it's a busy time, so you can politely decline.

When you do go out, alternate your alcoholic drink with a glass of water. This means that you can always have a drink in your hand but will only consume half the number of alcoholic drinks. Taking this one step further there is no problem drinking water or mineral water all night. An increasing number of people choose not to drink alcohol at all. Claim a medical cause if you feel the need for an excuse but you needn't feel any need to justify abstinence.

Drink a big glass of water before leaving for the event, that way you won't arrive thirsty and eager for the first offering. If you are consuming alcohol, it is important to eat. This slows the alcohol absorption and also helps to fill you up.



'Frogs need water and so do we'

Know when you've had enough. It's OK to be sociable and in an hour or so, leave.

Family gatherings at Christmas should be enjoyable but too many drinks can fuel tension. If you are hosting, be aware of responsible serving of liquor and if you are a guest, remember to enjoy festive cheer in moderation. ■



SEASONED ROLLED PORK SERVED WITH SPICED APRICOTS



Ingredients

- 1.7kg boned loin of pork
- 1 small handful fresh rosemary, leaves picked
- 3 heaped tablespoons fennel seeds
- Sea salt
- freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 500g sourdough or rustic bread
- 2 red onions, peeled and finely sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and finely sliced
- 1 small handful fresh sage leaves, torn
- 2 handful pine nuts or pistachios kernels roughly chopped
- extra virgin olive oil
- 4 tbsps balsamic vinegar

Spiced Apricots:

- 6 ripe apricots
- Chilli flakes
- Dark brown sugar
- Knob butter

Method

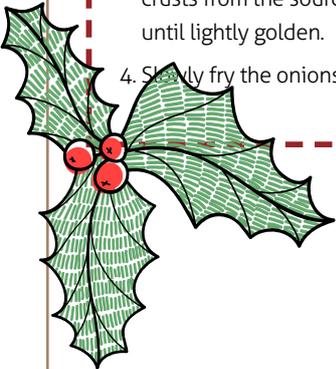
1. Preheat your oven to 220C.
2. Score across the pork skin – about 5cms wide and 1cm deep.
3. Pound the rosemary and fennel seeds in a pestle and mortar with approx 1 tbspn flaked sea salt until fine, then rub into all the score marks on the pork. Remove the crusts from the sourdough bread and toast until lightly golden.
4. Slowly fry the onions, garlic, sage and



pine/pistachio nuts in a little olive oil for 10 minutes until the onions are sweet and soft. Season with salt and pepper, add the balsamic vinegar and put the mixture in a bowl. Tear your bread into smallish pieces and add to the bowl. Mix everything together really well. Put to one side and allow to cool.

5. Place pork rind side down. Spread seasoning in centre, then roll the pork over and tie it with a few pieces of string. Place the pork on a roasting tray and cook in the preheated oven for 30 minutes then lower the temperature to 190C for a further 50-60 minutes until skin is crisp and golden.

Serve with spiced apricots: Halve and stone ripe apricots. Dot each with a little butter, then sprinkle with a pinch of dried chilli flakes and dark brown sugar. Place apricots around the pork for the last 5-10 minutes of cooking.



CHRISTMAS COLOUR FUN!

Glen Iris Medical Centre

● APPOINTMENTS

Consultation is by appointment.

Urgent cases will be seen on the day. Walk in's will be accommodated where possible

Booking a long appointment.

If you want an insurance medical, review of a complex health problem, counselling for emotional difficulties, gynaecological check-up or a second opinion about someone else's management you will need to make sure you book a longer appointment. This may involve a longer wait but your problem will get the attention it deserves. Please bring with you relevant letters and test results from other doctors.

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Practice feedback. The Doctors and staff at this practice value your feedback. Any comments/complaints should be addressed to the Practice Managers or directed to the Health Services Commissioner on 1300 582 113.

Privacy policy. Your medical records are a confidential document. It is the policy of this practice to maintain security of your personal health information at all times and to make sure that this information is only available to authorised members of staff.

Reminder system. Our practice is committed to preventative care. We may send out a reminder letter from time to time, offering you preventative health services appropriate to your care. If you do not wish to be part of this system or on a State reminder system, please let your doctor or reception know. Patients with significantly abnormal results will be notified by our practice staff. Patients may call the Practice Nurse between 11.30 – 12.30pm Monday to Friday for results.

● OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

- Vaccinations for overseas travel
- Childhood immunisations
- Minor surgery (e.g. Suturing, removal of lesions)
- Venepuncture & ECG
- **Australian Clinicallabs Pathology Collection Centre –**
No appointment necessary
Mon – Fri 8am – 4pm
Saturday 8am – 11am