



HILLS DENTAL GROUP

Spring 2015

Spring in the Hills is a great season of renewal and new growth, where the gardens and the neighbours come out of winter hibernation and soak up the sunshine. We at Hills Dental Group are also commencing a period of renewal and new growth. The practice founded by Brian Wheeler in January 1972 has gone through many seasons over the past 43 years, with rapid growth in the seventies when Geoff Robson and Tony Bennett joined the practice developing sites at Aldgate and Lobethal.

The current site in Stirling was built in 1979 and we moved from Aldgate. In the late eighties the Lobethal branch was sold and we had a period of consolidation, with slow and consistent growth. The original partnership survived the test of time for over 25 years and was eventually to include Niti Siow who joined the partnership in 2004. In recent years Geoff and Tony have retired to be replaced by Keith Lew. The transformation will soon be complete as Brian Wheeler will shortly be retiring, to be replaced by Alastair Farmer, as agreement has recently been reached where he will take over the care of Brian's patients over the next few months. The transition should be smooth and seamless with all patients continuing to receive the same care as always.

After 45 years of Dental Practice Brian is ready for a long break and a new stage in life. He has expressed his gratitude for the loyal support so many people have given over the years. This includes both patients and staff. There are still a number of families attending the practice from 1972, now in the third generation. Many staff members have also been with the team for more than twenty years, with Rosie Schultz and Jill Colotti each having over thirty six years of service.



Long serving Dental Hygienist, Pam Prior retired in May after being with the practice for more than 25 years. Pam had wonderful rapport with all her patients and built a large and loyal following. We held a typical Hills Dental celebration to farewell Pam and wish her well in the future. She will be greatly missed. Her sessions have been taken by Denny Dunning, one of the younger generation, who has been with Hills Dental Group both as dental assistant and hygienist for ten years.

We are currently in the process of achieving accreditation for the practice. This involves many hours of work reviewing and writing policy for all the many and varied procedures undertaken in running a dental practice. The important outcome of accreditation is ensuring that patient care is of the highest standard with all team members improving their skills and knowledge in the process.



HILLS DENTAL GROUP

Spring 2015

Health Funds

Hills Dental Group has always had the policy of not having any contract or relationship with the health insurance funds. Our belief is that our relationship is solely with you, our patients, and it is entirely your choice as to which, if any, health insurance fund you wish to join.

Currently, some of the major health funds are venturing into the business of also being the health provider by purchasing existing dental practices or establishing new ones. To encourage their members to attend the company's surgery they are paying a much higher benefit if you elect to attend that practice, rather than supporting an independent practice such as Hills Dental Group.

We have always believed that this is grossly unfair to the patients, as the patients are being penalised, even though all members of the fund pay the same premium. There is a large number of Not for Profit, or Mutual Health Funds providing Extras Insurance which covers dental treatment. Many of these offer higher benefits, without any preferred provider arrangements compared to the major Health Funds now owned by public companies, such as insurance companies whose shareholders demand a dividend.

We encourage you to visit the government sponsored website; privatehealth.gov.au, to compare health funds. It definitely pays to shop around.

Staff News

Our Maternity section is still active, with Hygienist, Kate Warren, starting twelve months maternity leave in early December. Bec Marsland, one of our Oral Surgery Assistants has recently returned from maternity leave. As mentioned before, one of our longest serving Hygienists, Pam Prior has retired and most of her patient list has been taken over by Denny Dunning. We have been glad to intermittently have Millie May back in the surgery, helping out when several of our dental assistants have either been on holidays or sick leave. Millie is in the final term of her training as a Dental Laboratory Technician. Kristen Kewley has taken on the task of assisting with the documentation involved in our accreditation. Both she and Alastair Farmer are making good progress in this process. Jill Colotti is soon to be a grandmother for the second time and greatly enjoying the role. We are pleased to welcome Megan Whittaker. She has quickly settled into her role as one of the front desk team.



HILLS DENTAL GROUP

8339 2955

98 Mt Barker Rd, Stirling SA 5152

www.hillsdental.com.au

reception@hillsdental.com.au