

Radio Doctors deliver on 40 years

By DAYLE LATHAM

The Radio Doctor service originated in the Illawarra 1974 after a meeting of six local GPs who were concerned about providing quality after hours care for their patients.

The service still exists today as Radio Doctors Illawarra and in October cele-



Foundation member Dr Ananth Rao and his wife Dr Jayanthi Rao enjoy the 40th anniversary celebrations for the Wollongong Medical Service Co-operative.

brated its 40th anniversary.

General manager Frank Wallner said the anniversary marked the beginnings of the after-hours home visit medical service.

"It was established by a group of GPs who were interested in having a way to share their after-hours commitments, so they didn't all have to work 24 seven," he said.

"A couple of those original doctors were at the anniversary and they spoke about the early days when it was established."

Along with those original GPs, Dr Roger Parrish and Dr Ananth Rao who are still practising, a gathering of around 40 people was held at the Coral Grace Room of Lagoon Restaurant in North Wollongong.

The service has grown to include over 140 doctors and now provides after hours-health care for patients every night of the year from the Seacliff Bridge (starting at Scarborough) in the north to Gerroa in the south.

"Since [1974] it has grown to be to a membership organisation, a not-for-profit which aims to provide a high

standard of after-hours medical care," Mr Wallner said.

It does not matter if someone who's GP does not belong to the service phones.

"We will see all people from all regions and visitors," Mr Wallner explained.

Mr Wallner said the anniversary celebrations were a chance to acknowledge and recognise the value the service has in the Illawarra region.

"We play an important role when people's own GP is not available," he said.

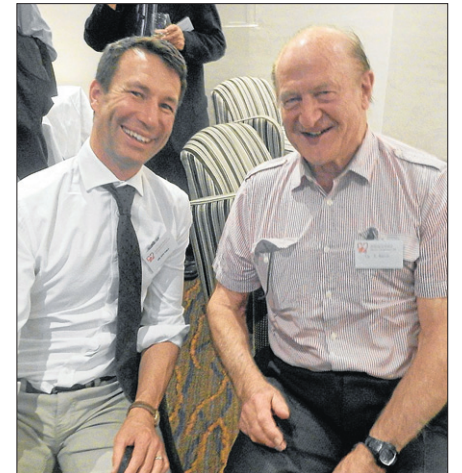
"While we are not an emergency service, we will refer people as necessary."

Also at the celebration, around 10 recognition awards were presented to staff who had been with the Radio Doctors for at least 20 years and had made outstanding contributions.

During the Christmas period the Radio Doctors Illawarra's hours of operating will be as follows:

It will operate across all public holidays including Christmas and Boxing Day, when the service will operate 24 hours.

It will operate normal weekend hours on Saturday, December 27 from midday



Radio Doctor Illawarra board member Dr Jeff Hall and foundation member Dr Roger Parrish discuss changes in the service at the 40th anniversary celebrations.

until Monday 6am.

New Year's Day it will operate all day and all night and the same on Australia Day.

The service's usual hours are weekdays 7pm-6am, Saturdays noon-Monday 6am and all public holidays.

The centre can be contacted on 4228 5522. In case of emergency dial 000.



Be a community sharps

Safety Stickler

with all used syringes, needles and lancets

FREE Community sharps disposal facilities

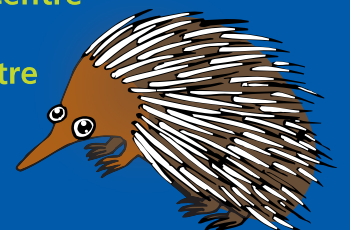
For free disposal of community sharps, take your sharps in a sealed, puncture resistant container (not glass) to one of the pharmacies or medical sharps bins at the following locations:

LOCAL PHARMACIES

- Basin View Pharmacy**
2/1 Tallyan Point Rd, BASIN VIEW
- Berry Pharmacy**
113 Queen St, BERRY
- Blooms THE CHEMIST**
130 Junction St, NOWRA
- Bomaderry Pharmacy**
37 Meroo St, BOMADERRY
(opposite Railway Station)
- Culburra Pharmacy**
187 Prince Edward Ave, CULBURRA BEACH
- Michael Temby Pharmacy**
77 Junction St, NOWRA
- St Georges Basin Pharmacy**
134 Island Point Rd, ST GEORGES BASIN
- Sussex Inlet Pharmacy**
192 Jacobs Drive, SUSSEX INLET
- Terry White Chemist**
Shop 12, Stocklands, East St, NOWRA

PUBLIC SHARPS DISPOSAL BINS

- Bomaderry**
McIntyre Way, BOMADERRY
(bin located outside entrance to Council Works Depot)
- Milton Ulladulla Hospital**
Princes Highway, MILTON
(bin located outside Emergency Department)
- Nowra Community Health Centre**
Lawrence Avenue, NOWRA
- Shoalhaven Hospital**
Scenic Drive, NOWRA
(bin located outside Emergency Department)
- St Georges Basin Community Health Centre**
21 Meriton Street, ST GEORGES BASIN
- Sussex Inlet Community Health Centre**
161 Jacobs Drive, SUSSEX INLET
- Ulladulla Community Health Centre**
Cnr South St & Princes Hwy, ULLADULLA



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