



70 Years

1954 - 2024



Kerang & District Hospital
Kerang District Health

INTRODUCTION

Upon reviewing 70 years of history carefully documented in this booklet, what really stands out to me is the many, many years of community support. Being a country kid myself, I understand the meaning of the word 'community'. It is not just a place to live and work. There is an energy and a heartbeat in close-knit communities. A common definition of community is a group of people who share an identity-forming narrative. It is about friendships and connections and conveys a sense of togetherness and positivity. A strong sense of community brings people together to support one other in the good times, in the tough times and with everything in between. There have been many events that I have witnessed over the past 5 years that I have seen the breadth of community solidarity. It is phenomenal. I feel really proud and privileged to be working within this community.

The financial support over the years has been phenomenal and KDH would not be where it is now without the ongoing support of the local community. This support has been provided by the KDH Ladies Auxiliary since its inception in 1937, the Murray to Moyne Committee, local Kerang service clubs including Rotary, Lions Masonic Lodge, families and individuals. The donations assist the hospital to have state of the art equipment and a modern infrastructure so we can continue to serve the community for many years to come.

Seventy years ago, the Kerang district were asked to contribute 72,000 pounds (or 28% of the capital cost) for the construction of a new hospital. The remainder of the cost was to be provided by the Hospitals and Charities Commission. After the community raised an initial 30,000 pounds, the Hospitals and Charities Commission decided it would provide the balance. However, to furnish the new hospital, the community raised a further 10,000 pounds. The community's contribution enabled the new hospital to be opened debt-free.

There have been many major building developments over the past 70 years including Glenarm (1979), W.D Thomas Day Centre (1991), Glenarm Extension (1993), Acute Ward (1995), Operating Theatre (1995) and the Designated Landing Area (2004). These projects could not have been undertaken without the financial support of the Kerang Community.

KDH has expanded its range of health services in order to meet the changing needs of our community. For this reason, in 2002, Kerang and District Hospital was formally changed to Kerang District Health, to more accurately reflect the wide range of services provided.

In 1996 KDH embarked upon the Australian Council of Health Care Standards accreditation process. Kerang District Health has been fully accredited since 1997 providing safe and high-quality care.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the 70th Anniversary Committee, comprising former and current staff members, for reviewing this booklet for the 70th Birthday celebrations.

Dedication

I would like to acknowledge and thank all community members who have supported Kerang District Health over the years. Your support and commitment are incredibly important to all of us.

Kellie Byron-Gray
Chief Executive Officer (since December 2021)

History Prior to Kerang & District Hospital

The Residents of Kerang have always enjoyed the benefits of adequate health care. Since 1875 there have always been at least two doctors in Kerang. The Swan Hill Shire (which included Kerang) originally provided one doctor for the North Riding and one for the South Riding. Dr Gumbow was the first practitioner in Swan Hill, and the first Kerang practitioner, Dr King became a resident in 1856.

During the Typhoid epidemic of the 1890s Mrs G. Adams provided a large tent for patients on the corner of Fitzroy and Scoresby Streets, which continued to serve as an early hospital.

Women received assistance in childbirth from local midwives, who delivered babies at home or in small hospitals at the midwives' houses.

Some of the midwives were listed in the Postal Gazettes:

- 1901 Mrs George Flight
- 1902 Miss A. Raven
- 1903 Nurse Hollingsworth

The Shelley home became a hospital run by Sister Lewis. Another private hospital operated in Albert Street by Nurse French. In Nolan Street Mrs Todd provided a midwifery service, while in Victoria Street "Kenilworth" was another private hospital run by Nurse Foster in 1916, and later by Nurse Stevenson.

Sister Albrecht started a private hospital in Burgoyne Street in 1905. It was named "Leahurst" after Florence Nightingale's home. In 1909 she brought a larger family home "Glenarm" belonging to Mrs Hannah (Glenarm was the place in Ireland that the Hannah family came from).

In 1922, Sister Primrose bought "Glenarm" from sister Albrecht and built "Primrose House". This gave Kerang a general Hospital, "Glenarm" and the midwifery section "Primrose House" which were joined by a walkway. The hospital was located on the corner of wattle and Shadforth Streets.

A public meeting was called in 1937 with the idea of purchasing this hospital as a bush nursing hospital. The proposal succeeded and in 1938 the hospital was bought.

After the Second World War, the Bush Nursing Hospital was unsuitable for a modern surgery and became overcrowded. In 1946, a public appeal was launched, resulting in the hard work of many to raise money for a new hospital. The Bush Nursing Hospital was purchased by the Baptist Church and became "Northaven", a guest home for the elderly.



Photo: Allamatta (1911) House that was on the site where Glenarm was built in 1979

1946

From the beginning

7th October 1946 was the first official meeting of the Kerang and District Hospital Board. This committee was then responsible for the planning and fundraising of the new hospital.

1953

Finance

In 1953 the Board of Management was mainly concerned with obtaining the adequate finances to continue the building of the new hospital. The amount allocated by the Hospital and Charities Commission to the building of the new Kerang and District Hospital was only fifty five thousand pounds. At the time of the Annual Report the situation was causing grave concern to the Board. The architects had reported that if no more money was available, building on the new Hospital would have to cease no later than December 1952. Such a stoppage would have seriously affected the future of the Hospital.

A delegation to the Commonwealth Bank in July 1952 asked for an advance of one hundred thousand pounds to enable building operations to be continued throughout the financial year. This delegation was favourably received by the bank, although at the time not a great deal of hope was held out that the loan would be granted. A prerequisite to the granting of the loan was an undertaking by the Hospital and Charities Commission that it would allocate sufficient money to the Kerang and District Hospital in the coming years to enable the load to be repaid within three years.

Christmas Day Appeal and Other Donations

The Christmas Day Appeal 1953 was conducted by the Hospital. The Appeal resulted in the collection of the sum of eighteen hundred pounds, of which eight hundred pounds was allocated to the Maintenance Account, eight hundred pounds to the Building Fund (New Hospital) and two hundred pounds to Reserve.

The Top Town concerts, which were conducted by the Apex Club, raised the sum of five hundred pounds for the Hospital. The Kerang Football Club raised the sum of twenty pounds at a chariot race at Gunbower, and the sum of one hundred and eighty pounds was received from the estate of R. McKay (deceased), and this was placed in Reserve as required by the constitution.

Furnishing the New Hospital

A tour of country hospitals was made by the Furnishing Sub-committee in August 1952, and a further tour of city hospitals in December. During the year it was decided that two local Architects should design and supervise the furniture to be installed. The estimated cost of the furnishings was approximately fifteen thousand pound.

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

In 1953 the Ladies Auxiliary relocated from the Bush Nursing Hospital.

1954

Houses

Two homes in Murrabit Street were constructed for the Engineer and the Secretary of the Hospital, and these were completed and handed over to the Board in February 1954.

New Hospital

The arrangement with the Hospital and Charities Commission was that the District was to find 28 per cent of the capital cost of the Hospital and the Hospital and Charities Commission the remaining 72 per cent. At the time that the arrangement was made it was estimated that the districts share of the capital cost of the Hospital would be approximately seventy-two thousand pounds, of which thirty thousand

pounds was to be raise in cash by the district before the Hospital was completed. The remaining forty-two thousand pounds would be by a loan arranged by the Commission. The increase in the cost of wages and materials after the contract was signed greatly increased the district's contribution towards the building of the hospital beyond seventy two thousand pounds. This caused some concern in the minds of contributors, but during the year the Commission announced: that when the district had raised its cash quota of thirty thousand pounds the rest of the cost would be met by the commission. This meant that the new Hospital building would be opened free of debt, other than for furnishings and some equipment.

In its Christmas Day Appeal the Board placed before the public a definite goal: that if the amount needed to furnish the Hospital was found, the new Hospital would be open debt free. A sum of just over ten thousand pounds was raised, and of this sum two thousand and eight pounds was allocated to Maintenance and the balance allotted to the new Hospital.

Staff

Staff shortages continued during 1954 with nursing staff running at an average of 75 per cent of the full number required. The Board made enquires overseas through the Agent General with the application being supported by the Shire President, Councillor W. J. McCann. Sixteen applications were received and as many as possible of the applicants were engaged for the new Hospital, and arrangements were made for the others to go to neighbouring hospitals. The approaching completion of the new Hospital had also necessitated the appointment of other staff.

Applications were called for the position of Engineer with sixty three applications being received. The building Sub Committee selected and recommended several of the applicants for interview. The number of applicants clearly showed the interest taken by prospective Engineers in the equipment of the new hospital. The Board was informed that the equipment was the best any of the applicants had seen.

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

In 1954 the Ladies' Auxiliary had branches in Murrabit, Lake Charm and Sandhill Lake. The ladies assisted in catering for Clearing Sales and at the Kerang Show. Monthly meetings were held at the R.S.L. rooms and the Opportunity Shop began operating for the C.B.C Bank Building in Victoria Street.

1954

The Opening of the New Hospital

The Hospital was formally opened by his Excellency the Governor Sir Dallas Brooks on the 20 September 1954. Other speakers at the opening were Senator Gorton, the Hon. D. J. Walters M.L.C., Cr H.V. Stirling M.L.A., Shire President Cr H. Lester Smith, and Mr H.E. Palmer representing the Hospitals and Charities Commission.



Photo: Official opening of Kerang and District Hospital His Excellency the Governor Sir Dallas Brooks

The interest taken in the Hospital was shown by the attendance of about 4,000 people, with the official afternoon tea attended by 250 people. After his Excellency had inspected the Hospital, nearly all those present were shown through the building. For those who were not able to make an inspection at the time of the Opening further parties were shown over the Hospital during week-ends for some weeks. Seven hundred school children had been shown through the Hospital before the opening.

The Hospital Ball held at the Regent Theatre on the night of the Opening was attended by His Excellency and Lady Brooks. A delightful supper was provided by the Swimming Pool Committee with the night producing a profit of one hundred pounds.

The new Hospital was occupied on Saturday 25 September 1954. Due to the nursing shortage only 36 of the beds were in use with a daily average of 20 patients. Due to Matron, secretary and other members of the Hospital staff the change-over was smooth and efficient. Board members also assisted in transferring furniture and equipment from the old hospital.

1955

Christmas day Appeal and Other Donations

During the next 15 months ending June 1955, a total of fourteen thousand eight hundred and twenty pounds was received from donations. Most of this money was used for furnishing and equipping the new Hospital. A sum of two thousand three hundred pounds was allocated to Maintenance.

Peter MacCallum Clinic

In order to increase the facilities available at the Hospital, arrangements were made with the Cancer Institute Board to open a Clinic on 6 July, 1955. A radiotherapist visited the Hospital once every four weeks to diagnose and offer treatment for cancer and other ailments. Enquiries were also made by the Board in order to make available Specialist's facilities at the Hospital.



Photo: Theatre Lights

Egg Appeal

The appeal was a success and by October 350 dozen eggs were given to the Hospital by school children.

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies were busy with many activities, including helping with the Garden Party and providing afternoon teas at Clearing Sales. Some money that the ladies raised in 1954 was used to help furnish the 3 bed wards.

The Murrabit branch also helped to furnish three rooms. Some funding went to sponsor an entrant in the Miss Northern Victoria competition, which was held on New Year's Eve.

Occupancy

By end 1955 48 beds were opened and occupancy was 24+ with a reported 224 births. Beds consisted of 23 general, 17 midwifery and 8 geriatric.

1956

Poultry

In an attempt to keep down overhead expenses, the Board decided to establish its own poultry farm, and was grateful to the Ladies Auxiliary who agreed to pay for the cost of materials. The Board agreed to erect the pens by voluntary labour and donations of grain, further reducing costs.

1957

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies held their monthly meetings in the Church of England Hall. This marked 20 years for the Auxiliary.



LADIES AUXILIARY

Geriatric Patients

The board made the decision to no longer admit geriatric patients due to the high demand of beds

Poultry Pen

With the poultry pen now in full use 100 dozen eggs per month were received.

Matron Doris Hargraves

The Nurses Home was named the Doris Hargraves Nurses Home in memory of Matron Hargraves for her dedication and work at the Bush Nursing Hospital.

1958

Hospital Ball

A most successful ball was held in August, resulting in a net profit of two hundred and nine pounds.

Garden

The Hospital garden and areas surrounding the building were most impressive. The citrus trees were producing an increasing amount of fruit both for the patients and staff.

The Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary celebrated its 21st birthday. It was formed on the 13 July, 1937 with Mrs Pook as the President; Mrs Ferguson as Secretary, and Mrs Thomson as the Treasurer.

Training School for Nursing Aides

In August 1958 an application was made to the Hospitals and Charities Commission for registration as an affiliated Training School for Nursing Aides.

1959

General

On the 23 December the Kerang Town Band, assisted by Combined Church Choir, presented Christmas Carols on the lawns of the Hospital which were enjoyed by patients, staff and visitors.

1960

Finance

Government financial assistance received during 1959 amounted to nineteen thousand seven hundred and sixty seven pounds. On the 1 May, under instructions from the Hospital and Charities Commission, it was necessary for the Board to raise patient fees to twenty one pounds for public patients, twenty five pounds for intermediate patients, and thirty two pounds per week for private patients. The increase was in line with Hospitals throughout the State.

Maid in the Murray

This event was conducted by the "Sun News-Pictorial" and proved to be an outstanding social event. Belle of the Hospital Ball, Miss Hilary McGrath, travelled to Mildura and competed against several other Bells for the title of Maid of the Murray. Miss McGrath was crowned Maid of the Murray, winning five hundred pounds for the Kerang Hospital and fifty pounds for herself.



Photo: Miss Hilary McGrath presenting cheque to Board President

Facts and Figures

Did you know that during the year ending 30 of June 1960,

- 1,373 patients were treated at an average cost of 37 pounds and 16 shillings each?
- 52,000 meals were served?
- It cost 5 pounds, 18 shillings and 11 pence per hour to operate the Hospital?

Each 1 pound expenditure was spent as follows:

- Provisions: 1 pound, 11 shillings
- Surgery and Dispensary: 9d
- Domestic: 2/1
- Salaries and Wages: 13/11
- Miscellaneous and Administration: 7d
- Repairs to building, etc: 9d

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies catered for the dinner in honour for the winner of "Maid of the Murray". They also preserved 450 dozen eggs which were donated by the public and collected at all schools.

1961

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

A special meeting was held to discuss a training school at Kerang and District Hospital for Nurses' Aides. A Bedford Adult Model Doll was purchased for special practical training.

The ladies also assisted in different activities to raise funds for the Hospital, some of these activities included providing supper at the Hospital Ball, assisting with the Rag Drive and 550 Dozen eggs were preserved.

1962

Nursing Aide Training School

The Nursing Aide Training School, established in 1961 operated to capacity. During the year, the first trainee, Mrs M Bowden, successfully completed her course and obtained her Certificate. Following the establishment of a Nursing Aide School at the Bendigo Benevolent Home, it was decided to transfer affiliation from Melbourne Nursing Aide School, Toorak, to Bendigo Benevolent Home, and this was effected on the 25 June 1962.

Central Linen Service

On 15 March, the hospital began participation in the Central Linen Service based at the Bendigo Benevolent Home. As an indication of the magnitude of the undertaking, the Hospital received and dispatched from 1200 to 1800 pounds of dry weight of linen every week. The Hospital was credited with the sum of one thousand six hundred and sixty seven pounds for its linen stock.

1963

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

500 dozen eggs were preserved.

The ladies commenced awarding an Annual Prize for the Nurse Aide of the Year.

1964

Ancillary Services

A Regional Pathology Service to operate locally was organised. A Pathology Technician was employed with his services available to Cohuna, Pyramid Hill, Boort, Barham and Kerang Hospital.

Districts from where patients were admitted:

Appin South	2	Murrabit	54
Benjeroop	6	Murrabit West	12
Cannie	3	Myall	10
Capels Crossing	6	Mystic Park	22
Dingwall	18	Quambatook	73
Fairley	15	Sandhill Lake	11
Gonn Crossing	11	Shire of Cohuna	73
Kerang	640	Shire of Gordon	43
Koondrook	49	Swan Hill	22
Koroop	7	Teal Point	21
Lake Charm	26	Tragowel	25
Lake Meran	11	Interstate	60
Lalbert	10	Other Districts	10
Melbourne & Suburbs	14		

1965

Psychiatrist Service

A part-time Psychiatrist Service was commenced with the assistance of the Mental Hygiene authorities. The Regional Pathology Service commenced when a young medical scientist and his family from Scotland arrived in Australia. The Pathology Service became a major health service to the district over the years.

1966

The Hospital started to experience accommodation problems caused by the ageing population. Land was acquired adjacent to the hospital in Burgoyne Street where the Board hoped to erect a Geriatric wing.

1968

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

The temporary home of the Opportunity Shop was in Wellington Street.

1969

Buildings and Equipment

In the Annual report of 1968, reference was made to the accommodation strain being experienced in the General Ward, yet the Midwifery Ward had empty beds. A division was placed across the Midwifery Corridor and with the addition of further toilet facilities, it was possible to hospitalise Medical/Surgical patients in the downstairs section of the Hospital.

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies raised funds to help purchase over bed lights.

1970

Geriatrics

It was accepted that when practicable, an Aged Care Unit should be provided at the Hospital. Approval was granted for fund raising activities to help finance the project. It was also pointed out that no date could be set for the commencement of the building as it was dependant on priorities and Government Funds. The Board of Management looked to the future when plans could be drawn and the building commenced.

1971

Ancillary Services

The Meals on Wheels Service commenced in September 1970, following a public meeting arranged by the Apex Club. At that first meeting a committee was formed to administer the service and the first meals were delivered a fortnight later. The meals were prepared by Hospital Staff in the Hospital kitchen and delivered by a team of voluntary drivers and other helpers. The containers for conveying the meals from the Hospital to the Recipients were all donated.

District Nursing

The District Nursing Services commenced in February 1971. The service had a slow start and did not expand as rapidly as was hoped. However, from humble beginnings the service has flourished to become a vital cog in the provision of health care in the Kerang District. The Lions Club of Kerang raised funds to donate a car for the District Nurse to use.

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The Opportunity Shop became the greatest source of income for the auxiliary with the takings amounted to \$934.12

1972

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The Opportunity Shop moved into the Arcade in Fitzroy Street. The ladies also held their Annual Rag Drive, which was a huge success.

1973

Buildings and Equipment

Although there had been no major building programme carried out during the year every effort was made to ensure that the present buildings were maintained in a satisfactory manner. The policy of gradual replacement of Hospital furniture had continued and further purchases of overbed tables, bedside lockers, chairs, bassinettes and window air conditioners were made during the year.

A start was made on the replacement of the beds in the Hospital with the modern height adjustable beds. This project received a great boost when funds became available from the Hospital Garden Party and Dr Marrow Fund. At this stage eleven beds had been purchased and new cots had been provided for the Children's Ward.

Some lighting improvements were also made with the installation of fluorescent lights in many areas and call buzzers were installed. The toilets and bathrooms in both the Hospital and Nurses Home were renovated during 1973

1974

Nursing Home

The major milestone during the year was the launching of the \$70,000 appeal for the twenty bed Nursing Home. The appeal opened with a magnificent donation of \$10,350.00 from the Kerang Lions Club.

1975

Nursing Home

The Budget brought down by the Australian Government dealt a severe blow to the Hospitals hopes of an early start on the project. The Department of Social Security advised that no further approvals would be issued prior to July 1976, due to the financial restrictions imposed by the budget. The Board of Management had carried out all requirements as requested by various authorities involved and so the situation certainly blindsided the Board.

The Government had already recognised the need for the project, however, similar projects were also stopped throughout Australia.

1976

Building and Equipment

A new Laboratory was built on the west end of the hospital.

New equipment was purchased during the year including a flame photometer, titrator, incubator and a high purity water still for the Pathology department. Also purchased were a short wave Diathermy Unit for Physiotherapy, a new exhaust canopy in the kitchen, an air conditioner, a ward dressing trolley and many other smaller items.

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies helped purchase a Flame Photometer to be used in the laboratory so that necessary work could be carried out in the Hospital, instead of having to send it away and wait for results to be sent.

1977

The architects were appointed to design the Nursing Home.

An X-ray Department was established on a part-time basis with new equipment installed.

1978

The Opportunity Shop returned to the C.B.C building in Victoria Street after leaving the shop in the arcade. The money raised from the street stalls and the rag drive was used to buy new chairs for the Hospital wards and the new Nursing Home.

1979

Day Care Centre

In January, the Hospital opened a Day Care Centre in Nolan Street. This centre proved to be a great success. It provided an opportunity for those confined to home due to illness or disability to get out and meet people, become involved in craft work and receive care provided by the Hospital such as Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. It also provided an opportunity to those caring for the aged or handicapped person to have time to themselves.

Glenarm Opening

On 26 April 1979, His Excellency Sir Henry Winneke, Governor of Victoria opened the new twenty bed Nursing Home. Several unforeseen difficulties occurred which delayed the occupancy of the building for several months, however the first patients were admitted on the 11 September 1979. The new home provided long term care for twenty residents and assisted in relieving demand on the in-patient beds in the Acute section of the Hospital.

The opening of the building must be remembered as a real milestone in the progress of this hospital.

1980

Glenarm Grounds

The Rotary Club of Kerang landscaped the grounds of Glenarm

Ancillary Services

Dr. Batistich from Bendigo commenced visiting the Hospital on a weekly basis to conduct Ultrasounds and Ophthalmologist Dr. Stewart visited monthly from Swan Hill.

The Day Care Centre was functioning to capacity.

1981

Ancillary Services

A full time Physiotherapist was appointed in September which enabled the Hospital to offer an improved service to the public.

1982

Exterior painting

The exterior of the Hospital was completely repainted at a cost of \$39,972.00

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

A flower roster was suggested, where ladies would follow a roster to visit patients and arrange flowers for them. They also helped to purchase a Medo-Gas machine.

1983

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies helped to purchase another Medo-Gas Machine

1984

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The flower roster was finished and it was followed by the flower club.

1985

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies helped to purchase more modern equipment for the Hospital.

Day Care Centre

The centre was re-named W.D. Thomas Day Care Centre in recognition of the services of former Board member Mr. Des Thomas.

1986

Equipment and Buildings

The pathology Laboratory was enlarged. The extensions of the building enabled the staff to extend the range of work offered and provided working space for some new and replacement equipment. These purchases included a Haematology Analyser (\$28,000), Biochemistry Analyser (\$49,000), Centrifuge (\$3000) and Facsimile machine (\$2800) plus several smaller items.

1987

Land Purchase

During the year the opportunity arose to purchase the block of land immediately adjacent to Glenarm. The board felt obliged to make the purchase for future developments

1988

P.A.B.X. Telephone System

A new P.A.B.X. telephone system was installed at the of cost of \$30,000.00. The system proved internal communications and saved considerable operator time.

1989

District Nursing Services

The District Nursing Service was extended to cover seven days per week, thus providing a more realistic service to the public, and a further extension covering the entire shire improved services to the wider community.

Floor plans were completed for a new Day Care Centre.

1990

Service Provision

K.D.H played a major part in establishing the Northern District Community Health Service. The Nurses Home building was used by Kerang Community Resource Centre. The planning for the Day Care Centre building commenced.

1991

Activity and Financial Performance

A Health Service Agreement was entered with the government. The document set occupational goals and activity targets.

New Day Care Centre

Seven Years of planning and negotiating culminated in the completion of the purpose build Day Care Centre adjacent to Glenarm which was opened by the Regional Director, Mr. John O'Neill on the 30 June 1991.

The new facility was funded from Hospital capital reserves and a substantial bequest from the estate of S.J. Tarrant, together with other generous community support. In recognition of the substantial bequest by the late Sammy Tarrant a memorial therapy garden was constructed at the centre.

A grant was obtained through the Home and Community Care Program to purchase a second hand bus to assist with the establishment of the Mobile Day Care Service.

Further improvements were:

- Completion of the Nurse Heating Project,
- Furnishing the new Day Care Centre
- Renovations of the main Office/Reception
- Upgrade Glenarm Air-Conditioning controls
- Cot sides for hospital beds
- Citizen band radios for the District Nurses and Day Care Bus
- New washing machines
- Additional Computer hardware and software
- Upgrade of lights in Hawthorne Wing
- New examination light (Midwifery)
- Monitoring and other medical equipment
- New resuscitation Unit Trolley
- Renovation of High Dependency
- Piped Oxygen Facilities in General Ward

New Services

The Geriatric Assessment Team visited bi-monthly to process the number of requests for assessments relating to longer term or permanent accommodation of the frail aged.

Hospital Redevelopment

Early stage of the study confirmed role and function projections that bed mix should consist of 30 Acute and 30 Nursing Home beds.

Public Authorities (Equal Employment Opportunity) Act 1990

At the beginning of the year the Northern District Community Health Service became a body corporate in its own right, no longer requiring cheque signing authority and other administrative controls by hospital executive staff.

K.D.H Auxiliary

The ladies helped to purchase an Intravenous Electronic Drip Counter.

1992

Accreditation

Accreditation for the Hospital was to be pursued by the end of 1993. This prompted a continuing process of thoroughly examining what was done, how it was done and whether it was done well.

Equipment and Building

Work commenced immediately on preparing for:

Stage 1: the extension to the Nursing Home by 10 beds, and

Stage 2 Study: to construct a new ground floor accommodation 20 beds, an Operating Theatre and an Accident/Emergency complex. It also included remodelling of the Midwifery wing to provide more modern facilities, and the relocation of Administration to the first floor. It was decided to appeal to the public of Kerang and district to assist in meeting the cost of the Glenarm extensions.

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The Opportunity Shop moved to the former Water Commission (now the Assembly of God Church) in Victoria Street. The ladies helped to purchase hairdryers for the salon in Glenarm.

1993

Hospital Redevelopment

One of the major highlights for the year was the completion of Stage 1 of the Hospital's redevelopment. This was finishing of the ten bed extension to the Nursing Home.

Services

With the cooperation of the Shire of Kerang and the Shire of Gordon, the mobile Day Care Service was extended to Pyramid Hill. This service commenced on 1 July 1993.

1994

Glenarm

The extension adding the additional 10 beds to Glenarm was completed. Approval from the Commonwealth and State to increase the Nursing Home bed numbers to 30 was received in July 1993.

Ward Relocation and Theatre Development

The Hospital had been working steadily towards realising Stage 2 of the Hospital Master Plan. A new operating Theatre was built on the ground floor and the contract for construction was signed on the 30 June 1994.

Fundraising

May, a fund-raising campaign was launched. The target was to raise \$300,000 within the community. Funds raised would be put toward the Ward Re-location Project, and help replenish the Hospitals, Capital Reserve.

By Laws

New By Laws were approved by the Department of Health and Community Services and adopted by the Board of Management during 1994. This allowed the Board to establish committees to assist in monitoring the quality of services and procedures. Such committees included the Patient Services and Review Committee, and the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee.

1995

Ward Relocation and Theatre Development

The Development of the Theatre and the Ward relocation was completed.

Board of Management

The Board examined its method of operation and in November 1994, started holding two meetings per month and dispensed with the Physical Resources and Finance Committee.

Small Rural Hospital Task Force

The Board sub-committee was established to consider the Small Rural Hospital Task Force Report. As a result of the Committee's work, a future vision for the Hospital was developed and incorporated into the Hospital's Business Plan. In addition, regular meetings to discuss common issues were held between Kerang and Cohuna District Hospitals.

An informal meeting discussed the possibility of merging with the Northern District Community Health Service. The Hospital intended to make a formal proposal for a merger early in 1997.

1996

Quality

As part of its activities in pursuit of providing quality care, the Hospital embarked upon the 16 Australian Council of Health Care Standards (ACHS) and the accreditation process. This process involved much work, dedication and commitment on the part of all the hospital staff, doctors and the Board of Management.

Home and Community Care Services

The Hospital continued to provide Home and Community Care Services. The major service was District Nursing and the need for this service continued to grow. During the years the Hospital became the auspice body for the Adult Day Activity and Support Service (ADASS). Kerang alongside Cohuna Hospital won the tender to provide Meals on Wheels Service.

Performance

During the year the Hospital entered into certified agreements covering staff. These agreements resulted in pay increases in exchange for productivity savings. In addition, the Hospital entered into a three year fee for service contract with each Visiting Medical Office. This resulted in an increase in fees.

Pathology and Radiology Services

During the year the Board of Management decided Pathology Services should be privatised. Consequently, tenders were sought for the new provision of Pathology Services and St. John of God Hospital Ballarat was successful. The new service commenced on the 1 February 1996. Scientific staff were employed by the St John of God Hospital and administrative staff were redeployed within the hospital.

The Board of Management Sub-Committee continued to investigate the provision of Radiology Services and a result was formulated early into the next financial year. The Hospital entered an agreement with Bendigo Radiology Centre for the provision of services till the 30 December 1996

1997

Governing Body

The Hospital received three years accreditation, which was an accomplishment in the Hospital's History.

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies raised funds to help purchase special wheelchairs for Glenarm.

1998

Building and Equipment

The following projects were to take place:

- Installation of the new PABX system,
- New consulting Rooms,
- Accident and Emergency Area,
- Ambulance Entrance area,
- Ambulance Entrance,
- Waiting Rooms,
- Change over of the Day Care Bus.

These Projects were completed during the year:

- Waiting Room Furniture
- Dishwasher for Day Care
- Hot Water System Replacement
- Swooper Wet Mopping Machine
- Main Driveway Resealed
- New Car Park – Glenarm
- Double Cuff Electronic Tourniquet
- Cholecystectomy Clip Applicator
- Refurbishing Staff Dining Room
- Heating
- Anaesthetic Equipment
- Companion Pump
- Fencing
- Analyser
- Hot Water Storage Tanks

Pathology and Radiology Services

On 1 January the Hospital privatised Radiology services with Bendigo Radiology being the successful tenderer. Over the next six months the new service settled in. Through privatisation the Hospital has been able to gain additional ultra-sound and radiology services.

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The Auxiliary's main source of income from the Opportunity Shop. The ladies received a certificate in appreciation of the many years of faithful service to the Hospital.

1999

HealthStream Agency

The Hospital had been pursuing HealthStreams status for several years. In February 1999, Mr Rob Knowles, Minister for Health, visited the hospital and announced the approval of the HealthStream Agency. By becoming a HealthStream Agency, the hospital achieved greater flexibility in the use of its Acute Services resources with the ability to redirect funding towards community type services.

Building and Equipment Programme

The programme continued to operate successfully. Several project, carried over from the previous year were completed, these include the purchase of a delivery bed and renovations to Midwifery and the Conference Room.

General

The hospital's achievement in training and education was recognised when we became one of three State Finalists in the relevant category for the 1998 Victorian Training Awards. In May 1999, the Minister for Tertiary Education and Training presented a certificate to the Hospital recognising a "Partners in Excellence" relationship between Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE and the Hospital.

2000

Building and Equipment Programme

Highlights of the programme this year included:

- A new Accident and Emergency trolley
- Clothes labelling machine for Glenarm
- Neurological high/low couch for physiotherapy
- Additional telephone base situations to extend the telephone system
- Change over of the hospital ute (vehicle)
- Patient Lifting Machine
- New instruments for Operating Theatre

Staff/Services

The Gannawarra Neighbourhood House became part of Kerang District Hospital at the end of the financial year.

Quality

Recognition was given to the quality of our services. Early in the year the Hospital received notification that it had been re-accredited for a further three years by the Australian Council of Health Care Standards.

A presentation of the Certificate occurred on the 15 October 1999, in addition, Glenarm received three years accreditation under the Commonwealth Government's Accreditation System.

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The Opportunity Shop moved from Scoresby Street to the old Board room in the Nurses Home.

2001

Building and Equipment Programme

With the assistance of a capital grant of \$ 54,000 from the Department of Human Services the Hospital was able to replace the majority of its radiology equipment.

2002

Name Change

In November 2001, after careful consideration by the Board of Management, an application was made to the Minister of Health to change to organisations name from Kerang and District Hospital to Kerang District Health. Although there had been no major changes made to services offered at Kerang, the Board believed that the organisation offered much more than hospital services to the community e.g., Residential Aged Care, Community Care and Community Health Services. After several months of meetings and discussions involving Board Members and Staff a new logo was agreed upon and officially launched in December 2002.

Capital Works

With the financial assistance of the Department of Human Services, the major work was the Fire Safety Upgrade. The total cost of the contract was \$399,722 of which \$342,585 was funded by the Victorian Government.

Purchase of Shops

During the year, the Health Service purchased two small shops in Fitzroy Street. One to be used by the Ladies Auxiliary Opportunity Shop and the other to be used by the District Nursing Service.

Food and Domestic Services

The Food and Domestic Services continued to provide a high level of food service to clients, and the domestic services maintained the cleanliness throughout the facility. The Kitchen provided 1500 meals per week, both within the facility and in the community.

2003

Accreditation

In January 2003, Kerang District Health received confirmation that "Glenarm" Residential Aged Care Facility was compliant with all 44 Aged Care Standards. Glenarm received the maximum three-year accreditation by the Aged Care Standard Agency.

Building and Equipment

During the year \$202,400 was received from the Department of Human Services for the removal of asbestos contaminated in the soil in the sub floor space under the kitchen. \$87,500 was received to upgrade the security system, patient ramps and lifting equipment.

Orchard

The citrus trees in the orchard were planted by the community when the Hospital was built in 1954, and with assistance of two local orchardists, the area was replanted given its historical association with Kerang District Health.

Australian Training Award

Kerang District Health was nominated for the Victorian Training Awards and although the nomination was unsuccessful, it was forwarded to the Australian Training Awards held in Brisbane. In November Kerang District Health was awarded the Community Services and Health Industry Award.

K.D.H. Ladies Auxiliary

Money raised	\$ 9,176.00
Through the Opportunity Shop	<u>\$88,523.00</u>
In the last 50 years	<u>\$97,699.00</u>

Over 3,167 dozen eggs were donated through egg drives.

2004

Early in 2004 with the financial support of local service clubs and local contractors, a designated landing area was built for the Rural Ambulance Victoria Helicopter.

2005

In August 2005, the Department of Human Services announced that it would fund the completion of a Master Plan for Kerang District Health. The Master Plan considered options around the facilities needed to deliver acute hospital, aged and community-based health care to the Kerang community into the future and was expected to be completed in the latter half of 2006.

Also, in August 2005, work was completed on a Day Surgery Recovery Room built adjacent to Theatre at a cost of \$372,322.00.

Oncology

The Oncology Department received an award from the Gannawarra Business Council for the Best Professional Service.

Men in Shed

The Men's Shed is a new program funded by the Department of Victorian Communities. Activities such as Woodwork, fishing trips, learning computer skills, metal work and photography.

Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE have allowed the program to use their shed and Kerang Technical High School has been supportive in assisting the men.

Accreditation

As part of the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program with the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, Kerang District Health completed its Self-Assessment in November 2005.

Also "Glenarm" was audited against 44 expected outcomes of the Accreditation Standards and received compliance on all 44 expected outcomes.

Buildings and Equipment

Improvements made which include:

Buildings:	Glenarm
Day Surgery Recovery Room	Computer Software
Replacement of Main Switchboard	Desktop computer X2
Fence to Shadforth Street House	Acute Ward
Administration	Vital signs monitor
PABX Telephone system upgrade	Bathroom Modifications
Desktop computer – "Medical Director"	Recliner Chair
Motor Vehicles	Information Technology
Vehicle Replacement X 3	Cisco Switches
	Uninterrupted Power Switch X 2

2006

K.D.H Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary continued their loyal support to the Health Service with their donation of \$35,000. The Opportunity Shop remains the main source of income.

Volunteers

Kerang District Health has dedicated support from Volunteers with day to day operations in areas such as Day Activity Centre, Men's Shed, Glenarm, Opportunity Shop and our two Neighbourhood Houses.

Domiciliary Midwifery

This service provided lactation advice and support, post-natal monitoring and education, parent craft education and support. Baby massage classes, First Aid and Emergency Care and child safety information was also provided.

Hospital in the Home

Kerang District Health provided acute care in the community with education, monitoring and support of patient and family via the District Nursing Service. This service allowed people to remain in their home and be provided intravenous antibiotics, complex dressings and other acute treatments.

2007

Nancarrow Park

A meeting was held with the Gannawarra Shire Council and following this, the Board of Management decided to invite quotes from Planning Consultants with the view of making a formal application to

acquire the Crown Land known as “Nancarrow Park”. The thought was to develop the site for future aged care accommodation and services.

Catering & Domestic

The Catering Department provided approximately 69,000 meals in the year. The Catering Department also catered for Senior Citizens monthly social day for up to 80 people.

Also, for special events in Glenarm (Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter, Christmas, residents’ birthdays, Melbourne Cup etc.) and special resident cooking days, barbeques and making slices or other special treats.

2008

Theatre

Kerang District Health continues to provide a full range of surgery to the community with the assistance of visiting surgeons and local medical officers. An arrangement with Bendigo Health enables local community members on the Bendigo waiting list, to have joint replacement surgery at KDH.

Accident and Emergency Response

Our service provides emergency and outpatient care on a 24/7 basis to our community with the assistance of our registered nurses and the visiting medical officers who are rostered to assist in emergencies. Three of our senior nurses undertook the Rural & Remote Advanced Primary Care Certificate.

Chemotherapy

Cancer services are administered most days allowing the community members to receive treatment locally. Chemotherapy service draws its clients from the Shires of Gannawarra, Swan Hill, Loddon, Buloke and also parts of NSW (Wakool Shire).

2009

Nancarrow Park

In November 2009, Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia Pty Ltd were appointed as planning consultants and are currently in the process of completing a formal planning application to Council.

Kerang Medical Clinic

Discussions with Dr. Greg Keogh and representatives of Health Financial, a business arm of the Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association with the view of purchasing the Kerang Medical Clinic. Discussions involved establishing a shared management arrangement of the Clinic upon the retirement of Dr. Keogh.

The Board of Management was very supportive of the need to maintain two medical practices in Kerang. The shared management arrangements commenced on 5 October, 2009. Two new General Practitioners were recruited to Kerang to consult from the practice.

Visit by the Governor of Victoria

On 15 July 2009, Kerang District Health were fortunate to receive a visit by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David De Kretser and his wife Jan. The visit was part of a regional tour by the Governor and was very well received by patients, residents and staff.

Accommodation for Medical Students

During this time, Kerang District Health negotiated an agreement with the University of Melbourne to provide accommodation to medical students in Kerang. The agreement for seven years will see two medical students housed in Kerang every six months.

2010

Capital Master Plan

In May of this year, the Victorian Government as part of the state Budget allocated Kerang District Health \$17.85 million to fund Stage 1 of the proposed capital works. A week later, the Commonwealth Government as part of the Health & Hospitals Fund allocated Kerang District Health a further \$18.393 million for Stage 2. Construction of the buildings is projected to commence in early 2012 with completion in mid 2015.

2011

Kerang Floods

In January, following substantial rainfall in the surrounding district, the Kerang township was isolated for four days. Emergency planning was initiated and the Kerang Emergency Management Committee set up operations in our Conference Room on the first floor.

During the four days, approximately 50% of staff were unable to attend the workplace due to their inability to travel in and out of Kerang. The Governor General of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, was one of our many visitors. During this period, Kerang District Health received amazing support from staff, volunteers, local community, neighbouring health services, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Government

Building & Equipment

In May 2011, the State and Federal Governments announced combined capital funding of \$36.25 million for the redevelopment of Acute and Aged Care facilities.

The Department of Health provided funding of \$185,600 to refurbish the property at 98 Nolan Street, previously occupied by NDCH, to be used for accommodation for visiting medical officer, nursing students and staff.

Donations & Bequests

In 2011/12, \$179,470 was received in donations and bequests, with major contributions received from the Ladies Auxiliary - \$61,000, Murray to Moyne Committee - \$8,500, Fishers IGA - \$965, Kerang Croquet Club - \$724 and Kerang Boot Scooters - \$300.

2012

Theatre

During this year, a total of 427 surgical cases were performed at Kerang District Health by our visiting surgeon who was greatly valued for providing excellent service in our rural setting.

Midwifery

Midwifery antenatal clinics were offered in collaboration with the GP Obstetrician for pregnant women who have low risk pregnancies wishing to birth locally.

Building & Equipment

The first stages of the building program, the "early works" commenced in June 2012. As part of the Building Project, a decision was made to move to a new telephone system. Known as VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), the system allowed for free local calls and other calls within the Loddon Mallee Rural Health Alliance using internet rather than landlines. When introduced, there was a reduction in ongoing telephone costs.

Men's Shed

During the year there was a fire that disrupted the Men's Shed. The coordinator and the men worked with the insurers to ensure that the shed was reinstated and activities could continue.

2013

Aged Care

An Aged Care review was undertaken late in 2013. This was a process whereby the Executive considered the future of Aged Care Services for our community in Kerang. Input was received from staff forums, volunteers, family and friends' meetings and the aged care residents.

This plan was implemented and involved the reallocation of some staff to better provide for the future of our Aged Care Services through a change management process. This process better prepared staff for decanting into the new facility in 2015/2016.

Occupational Health and Safety

In the second half of 2013, a decision was made to re-form an Occupational Health and Safety Committee. Following the election of OH&S representatives, the first meeting of the Committee was held in November.

2014

Acute Ward

The transition from the old acute into the new temporary acute building occurred with a few minor teething problems. The staff were extremely adaptable over the months, coping with disruption and upheaval and still providing excellent quality care.

Aboriginal Health

The support of the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer supporting Aboriginal outpatients and inpatients to navigate the health system was a welcome quality initiative. The AHL worked collaboratively with the Murray District Aboriginal Service (MDAS) along with the Gannawarra Shire and NDCH. A number of projects had been carried out throughout the year including developing designs for a Koori Garden.

Accreditation

Kerang District Health successfully achieved Acute Services accreditation along with aged care accreditation in Glenarm during September and December respectively. This was a great achievement for the organisation and staff in the midst of the building project.

2015

KDH Strategic Planning

The late part of 2015, the Board of Management, Executive and staff commenced development of a new Strategic Plan for Kerang District Health for 2016 - 2018. The planning process involved meetings with key stakeholders, local community groups and staff providing Kerang District Health with a new Vision, Values and four strategic Objectives: Our People, Service Provision & Partnerships, Leadership & Governance and Infrastructure.

Men's Shed

The existing shed extensions are slowly taking shape and will conclude in the near future as an additional shed bay size additional to their current space. The men have continued with their many and varied interests and programs. A focus during the year has been on men's mental health with a successful breakfast run with local tradespeople, and also 4 of the men, and the staff attending a Mental Health First Aid course run by NDCH.

2016

Maintenance

The Maintenance Officer has managed the ongoing maintenance requirements of the organisation with other maintenance staff members along with liaising with the building contractors.

Glenarm

The residents settled into their new facilities and have enjoyed the various garden areas attached to the new wing. The open living space has been well favoured by the residents. Everyone was pleased regarding the opportunity to maintain a sense of community by coming together for various activities in the open space.

WDTAC

Exercise classes have continued to steadily increase, with people taking advantage of the strength base training and individual programs. Day Activity and Mobile Activity groups continued to run, with some very successful annual events as big draw cards.

Theatre

Whilst we have had a number of changes within our surgeon and anaesthetic team, we continued to maintain theatre days consistently at around 7 a month.

2017

Partnering with Consumers Committee

During the last twelve months our Quality Improvement Coordinator, the Partnering with Consumers Committee has become more active with monthly meetings taking place. Kerang District Health is fortunate to have a consumer representative on both the Board of Management and the Quality Management & Risk Committees.

Accreditation

In June 2017, an organisation-wide accreditation survey was carried out by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards against the new Nation Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. Kerang District Health complied with all 10 Standards and no major recommendations were identified.

Education

Our clinical placement program for student nurses and clinical support staff was a busy one, and an avenue for prospective employees to do a placement at Kerang and apply when they have graduated for work. We expanded our education equipment to a family of resuscitation dolls for staff and students to attend simulation exercises. A fabulous learning potential.

2018

District Nursing

District Nurses now visit the Op Shop volunteers and do health checks regularly for this service. District Nurses have expanded their services to include routine ECGs and 24 hr Halter Monitors. They now attend to the post-op phone checks from theatre, which allows them the opportunity to follow up promptly if required.

Donations and Bequest

In April Ms Esther Kirby, Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer and well respected Aboriginal Elder, presented Kerang District Health Board of Management with a 30-skin Possum Cloak which was hand-made by the community members, residents, patients and clients from WDTAC over the last twelve months. This now stands in the foyer at the top of the stairs to Administration.

2019

Visit by the Minister for Health

Kerang District Health was honoured to have the Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos MP visit the health service in March. The visit gave the Board of Directors and Executive staff the opportunity to show the Minister our new buildings and discuss with her health issues impacting on Kerang District Health.

Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies Auxiliary continue their loyal support to the health service and their donation of \$85,000 to the Board of management confirms the dedication and commitment to improving facilities for patients, residents and clients at Kerang District Health.

Community Garden

The community garden has a group of dedicated supporters, and continues to produce an abundance of fresh produce throughout the seasons. Plots are available for any interested green thumbs and can be arranged through some of the Men's Shed participants who take an overseeing role in this area.

2020

COVID-19

There is no doubt that 2020 will be remembered as the year COVID 19 arrived in Australia and had a significant impact on the way Australians live and work and the way we as a health service deliver health care.

Restrictions as expected were placed on the movement of staff, inpatients, urgent care patients, residents and clients within the community along with the movement of visitors and the general community attending the health service.

Our theatre closed in late March and resumed in June due to the situation.

Partnering with Consumers Committee

The committee conducted a very successful "Pop Up" stall in the main street, to promote the services available at Kerang District Health and enable the community to share their knowledge and understanding of what is available. This has assisted Kerang District Health to choose the domains to work on within the Partnering in Healthcare Framework.

2021

Staff Health and Wellbeing

Kerang District Health experience our first significant COVID exposure in late September with a huge impact on the workforce. Throughout this time, staff provided exceptional quality and safe care to patients, consumers and clients through extremely challenging circumstances. The introduction of rapid antigen tests along with mandatory vaccination gave staff an added sense of protection coming and going from the workplace. Ongoing COVID-19 infections and other respiratory viruses are still causing staff illness.

General Practitioners/Visiting Medical Officers

General Practitioners provide a vital acute medical and urgent care service to our local community by participating in the on-call roster 24/7. The dedication and commitment to both the health service and the community cannot be underestimated. Some of the GPs also provide valuable education and training to clinical staff.

2022

Kerang Floods & the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

Another challenging year for the KDH workforce with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks in mid to late 2022 and a major flood event with an unprecedented five-and-a-half-week Code Brown crisis affecting workforce. KDH has 45% of the workforce living outside of the Kerang levy banks who could not get into the hospital.

Glenarm

Glenarm garden space project was possible due to the generous donations and small government loan we received towards equipment and infrastructure. We were able to design a state-of-the-art garden in line with the Dementia Australia Guidelines. The plans were drawn up with the assistance of our aged care residents.

Donations also allowed additional items and features such as a chicken coop, a water fountain, areas of tranquillity and sensory enhancing spaces.

Oncology

The Oncology Service has kept busy throughout COVID and the flood event, with more and more haematology services being provided. KDH and Swan Hill District Health worked together to ensure both services were able to be fully operational during the flood period with pharmacy supplies being brought in via chopper to Kerang.

2023

Urgent Care Centre

The Urgent Care Centre has been busy with 2,300 presentations for the year. Our staff continue to upskill and provide excellent nurse-lead services. Some quality improvements currently in progress for the urgent care centre are the introduction of a computer on wheels for bedside documentation along with the ongoing implementation of IPM for urgent care presentations.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary raised \$90,000 which went towards the purchase of a new colonoscope, tourniquet machine and stand, new outdoor chairs for Glenarm, three computers on wheels, an urgent care trolley for UCC and outdoors patio blinds for the WDTC Centre.

2024

Workforce

During 2024, clinical services have slowly returned to an increasingly face to face model with the transition from COVID-19 model of care. Staff have continued to provide high-quality and safe services close to home, with a persistent focus on the individual person when developing plans of care. KDH remain committed to quality improvements with all aspects of clinical care services. International Nurses Day saw celebrations across the service recognising the depth of skills and expertise KDH Nurses demonstrate.

Infrastructure

KDH were successful with \$3 million Regional Health Infrastructure Funding to upgrade the CSSD department, extend the post anaesthesia recovery bays and update aged CSSD equipment. The new upgrade will ensure legislative compliance of sterilisation and reprocessing of reusable instruments including a new Reverse Osmosis system.

KDH was also successful with a \$500,000 funding grant through the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program (EIRP). This funding will provide KDH with backup potable water supply and involves the installation of a large water tank and related infrastructure.

One of the Board's key strategic governance projects has been a five-year housing strategy. The housing crisis is only getting worse and this affects recruitment and retention of staff, including GP's. KDH has been successful with a sizable grant through the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund to build three new properties (two townhouses and a two-bedroom unit) on the vacant Shadforth St block behind the WD Thomas Centre.

KDH has also been successful with an Aged Care Grant and is currently underway with a much-needed upgrade to Hargrave House nursing and student accommodation.

Clinical Services

Acute services remained busy with consistent and increasing presentations to the Urgent Care Centre. Staff have transitioned from My Emergency Doctor virtual services to the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) to support the urgent care centre when GP VMO's are not available. Clinical Services are participating in a regional Loddon Mallee Emergency Department/ Urgent Care Centre Project aimed at improving access, patient flow and care for people attending these departments. This project has developed collaboration, consistency and improvements for ED's and UCC's across our region.

Partnerships

Kerang District Health is a proud member of the Loddon Mallee Health Network and is a member of the Murray Health Partnership which sits under the LMHN.

KDH has been one of seven proud founding members of the local medical workforce initiative Connecting the Docs since its inception.

KDH work collaboratively with many services in delivering programs and services to the local community, along with an increased emphasis on working together to attract and retain key staff in both clinical and non-clinical workforces.

Listed below are our key partners:

- All Loddon Mallee Health Network health service partners
- Loddon Mallee Shared Services
- Northern District Community Health
- Murray Primary Health Network
- Buloke, Loddon & Gannawarra Health and Wellbeing Executive Network
- Department of Health
- Ambulance Victoria
- Gannawarra Shire Council

The past 70 years has seen Kerang and District Hospital now known as Kerang District Health, grow into a health service employing in excess of 180 staff with an annual operating budget of \$9.3 million.

This book has been carefully updated year on year and we acknowledge staff who have preserved this historical booklet for Kerang District Health and community members to enjoy.

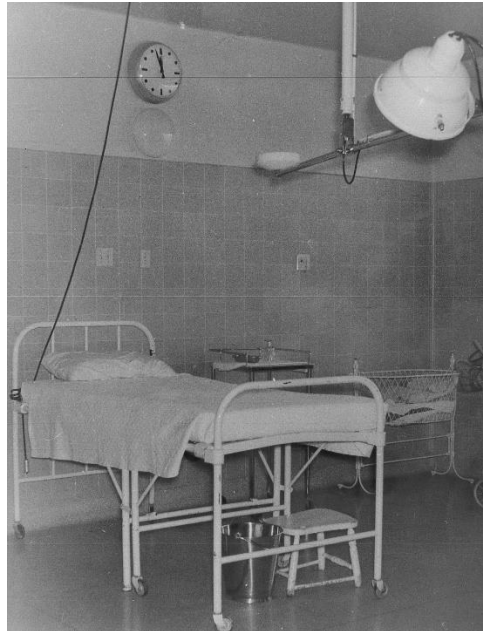
We are excited to continue this journey and trust we will be celebrating an 80-year milestone in 2034!



Hospital under construction



New kitchen in use



Midwifery Ward



Matron Elliott and Student Nurses



Bird Mk 8 Respirator in use



Gift to mother of 1000th child delivered at Kerang and District Hospital



Donation of test doll by Ladies Auxiliary

Kerang District Health now (2024)

