

**F** *We are here* **Y**  
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*And, your Family*



## **PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT** **City of Onkaparinga Group** **South Australia**

**An affiliate Member of the Prostate Cancer  
Foundation of Australia, and a member of:-  
The PCFA Central Australia Chapter**

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**OUR GOLDEN RULE:** We do not give medical advice, your GP, your Urologist and Allied Health Professionals are the only people who are legally qualified to give you medical advice.

**We do however give you our wholehearted support.**

Thank you to Noarlunga Community Hospital for allowing us to use the Boardroom for our meetings. Thanks also to our Sponsors: Southern Primary Health and to all who support us.

**APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER (No 125)**

**Your own local Newsletter**

**Our Editor John Shields accepts responsibility for the content of this newsletter.**

**Present: 15**

**Apologies: Brian & Rhonda, Gladys, Jeanette, Ian, Robert & Margaret and Mary.**



**Our Guest Speaker for the April meeting was unable to attend.**

**As a diversion from our Prostate Cancer, members suggested some topics for guest speakers**

**Bone scans before treatment.**

**Pelvic floor exercises.**

**Please continue to suggest topics and Guest Speakers, as we would love to hear from you. Check with your friends, who may recommend a Guest Speaker on any interesting topic.**

**The date for lunch at the Aussie Inn is Saturday 6th June 2015.**

**Many thanks to Beverley for forwarding the following news item to me.**

**THE ADVERTISER - 11 APRIL, 2015**

**Robotic Scholarship to help cash in on new da vinci surgery robot, BUSINESSMAN philanthropist Gordon Pickard is catapulting South Australian surgery into the future, in a generous move set to benefit thousands of public and private patients.**

**A substantial donation by Mr Pickard has allowed St Andrew's Hospital to purchase a \$3.3 million da Vinci Surgical Robot, one of only three models of its type in Australia.**

**The new model vastly expands the range of surgical procedures that can be done robotically and the types of specialties which can guide the machine to perform delicate operations.**

Surgeons sit at a console using a 3D-vision system to control interactive robot arms that scale, filter and translate the surgeon's hand movements in minimally invasive, highly accurate laparoscopic surgery. The benefits for patients include less pain, less blood loss and reduced recovery time in hospital.

Adelaide Urologist Dr Peter Sutherland said the new machine would make surgery easier because of the advances in instrumentation and the improved vision system.

"This means we will be able to expand what we are doing and take on more difficult cases," he said.

"We can expand our urology work, the gynaecologists are very interested and the ENT surgeons are doing somersaults about the possibilities while colorectal surgeons are showing plenty of interest."

SA's first surgical robot was donated by Mr Pickard in 2004 after he became one of the first men to have surgery to have his prostate removed by a da Vinci robot in Melbourne.

However, such work needs training - so Mr Pickard has now established The Gordon Pickard Robotic Surgical Scholarship, which is worth up to \$75,000.00 a year for surgeons interested in developing and extending their robotic surgery skills.

The scholarship will provide up to six young surgeons a year with travel, accommodation and access to the best robotic surgeons and the various robotic sub-specialties.

That first surgical robot purchased by Mr Pickard, has treated thousands of patients over ten years at Royal Adelaide Hospital. The States public robotic program then moved to St Andrew's Hospital where a contract with the State Government allows it to be used on about 140 public patients a year. The hospital's previous da Vinci Robot was mainly used in Urology, ear nose and throat and gynaecological surgery, particularly the treatment of cancers.

Professor Martin Oehler, RAH's director of Gynaecological Oncology, said the new technology would allow surgeons for the first time to operate robotically "in all quadrants of the abdominal cavity".

"That will assist us with treating patients with ovarian cancer, as the disease frequently spreads throughout the abdomen," he said.

Newsletters received with thanks from:

Andrology Australia, Prostate Melbourne, Prostate Heidelberg, Sydney Adventist Hospital PCSG and Hobart & Eastern Shores PCSG'S.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON  
WEDNESDAY MAY 6th AT 6.30PM  
AT NOARLUNGA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
OUR GUEST SPEAKERS ARE:-  
STEVE DUNN & VERITY Mc AVANEY  
FROM BLACKWELL FUNERALS**



**We are still working toward having a PCFA Click for Prostate Cancer website. A Staff member from our National Office, said that she would keep this in mind for a new website being developed by PCFA, that will be launched later this year.**