

# BERRY MEDICAL CENTRE

22 Prince Alfred St  
Berry 2535

P: (02) 4464 1577

F: (02) 4464 2533

W: [www.berrymedicalcentre.com.au](http://www.berrymedicalcentre.com.au)



## Dr Neil Donovan

MB, BS (Hons. Syd.) DipPaed, DRACOG, FRACGP

## Dr Liz Cuninghame

BMed(Hons)

## Dr Ingrid Buchner

Dr.Med(Ger.), DipPaed, FRACGP

## Dr Lucie Stanford

BMed(Hons), FRACGP

## Dr John Thomson

MB, BS, FRACGP

## Dr Jessica Wilson

BSC(Hons), MBBS, FRACGP, DipChildHealth

## Dr Costa Boyages

MBBS BArts (Hons) LLB

## Dr Jodi Osborn

MBBS BSc (Med) MS (ORL)

## NURSING STAFF

Leilani Donovan (RN and midwife)

Louise Ochieng' (RN)

Debbie Cairns (RN)

## ADMIN STAFF

Leona Brooke (Practice Manager)

Linda Anderson (Reception Team Leader)

Lyn Burke (Receptionist)

Gail Norris (Receptionist)

Jodie Thompson (Receptionist)

Abbey Welsh (Receptionist)

Fiona Harrod (Receptionist)

## HOURS AND SERVICES

CONSULTATIONS by appointment:

**Monday to Friday** 8:30am–5.30pm

URGENT medical problems are dealt with promptly.

The practice provides a complete range of general practice care, including home visits, hospital and nursing home care.

AFTER HOURS: For urgent after-hours problems please call the surgery on 4464 1577

## SERVICES

- Diagnosis and management of short-term illness
- Surveillance of chronic illness
- Sports injuries
- Minor operative procedures (moles, ingrown toenails)
- Mirena and Implanon
- Palliative care
- Sutures and fractures
- Point of Care Ultrasound
- ECG (heart assessment)
- Iron infusion
- Q Fever Vaccinations
- Durolane Injection
- Microtoilet of ear
- Travel advice and immunisation
- Family planning
- Paediatrics
- Pregnancy care
- Newborn care
- Immunisations

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our Doctors aim to provide a comprehensive service. We aim to do more than just give you a script or write a referral. We are keen to look at your health, to discuss preventive steps and provide a more personal approach.

# YOUR DOCTOR

FREE!!  
TAKE ME HOME

eat less  
SALT!

OCTOBER 2018

## Be a part of the salt revolution

When was the last time you checked the salt content of the food you're eating? If you don't keep track of your sodium intake, it might be time to start.

Both New Zealanders and Australians are consuming too much salt on a daily basis, and it might be having a detrimental effect on your health. New Zealanders consume, on average, nine grams of salt per day – well above the World Health Organisation's five-gram target. Australian men, on the other hand, consume over twice the recommended amount at 10.1 grams. Australian women don't fare much better, averaging 7.34 grams per day.

High salt diets can have a negative impact on health, including a higher risk of cardiovascular disease and an increased risk of stroke, osteoporosis and kidney failure. Given that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death, reducing your sodium intake can only but be beneficial for your health.

However, reducing how much salt and sodium you consume is not just a personal goal for each person, it's a global goal to reduce cardiovascular disease. The World Health Organisation and its members have agreed on a 30 percent mean population reduction, aiming for five grams or less per person, per country. They expect to reach this goal by 2025, with many different nations putting steps in place.

An Auckland University and Heart Foundation study showed that manufacturers of low-cost staples in New Zealand were starting

to take action. Breakfast cereals had an average of 28 percent less salt, while canned spaghetti and bread had 15 and 14 percent less respectively. In Australia, salt levels in specific brands of margarine, biscuits, soup, and mayonnaise have also been reduced.

If you're looking to make a difference to your health, as well as help the World Health Organisation reach its goal of a 30 percent worldwide salt reduction, there are many changes you can make. Firstly, take note of how much processed food you eat and take steps to reduce it. Around 75 percent of your salt intake comes from both packaged and processed food. By cutting back on these food items, you can then begin to include more whole grains, vegetables, and fruit into your diet.

It may also help to include a variety of lean meats, poultry, fish, seafood, nuts, seeds, and legumes – most of which are not processed or include added salt. Drink water instead of other beverages and select reduced-fat dairy products such as cheese, yoghurt, and unflavoured milk.

Finally, instead of adding salt to flavour your food, liven up your plate by using a mix of herbs and spices. You may just uncover a hidden culinary talent you never knew you had.

Making a conscious effort to reduce your salt and sodium intake is one step in the right direction of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease. If you require any advice or help to make dietary changes, consult your medical professional.

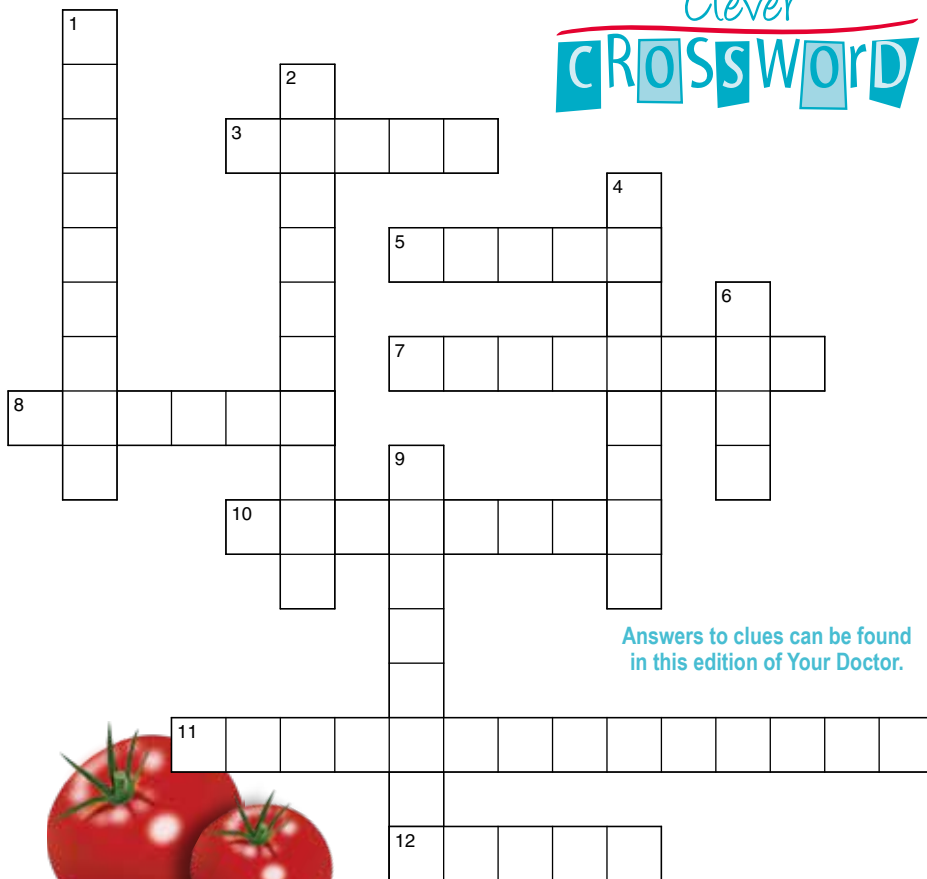
To try the latest RECIPE take me home...

**ACROSS**

3. The reactions to the death of a loved one. (5)
5. Only food with an eternal shelf life. (5)
7. Measurement of the pressure of your heart pushing blood through your arteries. (8)
8. Your GP may measure this as part of keeping your health records up-to-date. (6)
10. Vitamin C is necessary for the production of this. (8)
11. Having hypertension is the biggest risk factor for this type of disease. (14)
12. This type of yoghurt contains up to double the amount of protein than other types. (5)

**DOWN**

1. Around 75 percent of your salt intake comes from this type of food. (9)
2. A crucial part of GP healthcare. (10)
4. Antioxidant that is found in tomatoes. (8)
6. The number of grams of salt the World Health Organisation is aiming to reduce consumption to per person per day. (4)
9. You might have trouble doing this if you are grieving. (8)



Answers to clues can be found in this edition of Your Doctor.

## What's being your doctor really about?

GP services are much more than just about curing you when you're sick.

In any given 12-month period, Australian taxpayers put forward \$16 billion for GP healthcare services. If you were to break it down for each Australian, that's close to \$700 per person.

But, what can you expect to get for that?

When you're sick, you expect to see your doctor to diagnose your illness and provide treatment options. They will usually examine the area that's sore or uncomfortable, then provide you with an option for alleviating the pain going forward. However, there is more to healthcare than solving problems. Your taxpayer dollars are spread further than you think.

Aside from diagnosing and treating your problems, GP

healthcare services are also there to help with ongoing issues, prevent illness and disease, and promote healthy living. Education is a crucial part of GP services as is having a caring, kind, and expert doctor who can be your advocate and alleviate concerns.

### Prevention and education

Your GP is trained to go above and beyond what you initially sought treatment for. While you might have only seen your GP for an earache, it's not uncommon for them to check your blood pressure, weigh and measure you, and ask about other health-related problems you've had in the past. Your GP often uses excess time in your consultation to ensure all is well with the rest of your health – not just your earache.

Prevention is a crucial part of GP healthcare, helping to detect often-severe conditions before they have a chance to progress. As a result, you may find that your file contains not only past medical events, but your blood group, family history, and any potential abnormalities that may be crucial to check for in the future.

It's clear to see that GP services are valuable, which means you also play a part in making sure everyone can

access them. Your GP can educate you on when is the right and wrong time to see a doctor. If you have a runny nose, they can provide education on how to be more comfortable at home without making an appointment, but they can also inform you about the importance of returning if symptoms develop far beyond expectation.

### Helpful information

Having access to your health records is vital – especially if you are seeing a new practitioner. If your files aren't digitally transferrable, you can request a hard copy.

Medicare, courtesy of the Australian Government Department of Human Services, is also a resource of which you can take advantage. It outlines information for claiming benefits, making payments, and accessing GP services, as well as how you can access your medical records. What's more, in conjunction with Medicare and your GP, you can also form health management plans.

Lastly, you should have faith in your doctor to guide you through the somewhat-complex healthcare system. If you have any questions or concerns, speak to a member of staff at the clinic.



## Hyper-what? What you need to know about hypertension

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is not something to be blasé about. In fact, the sooner you act, the sooner you can be back on the right track to better health.

Seventy-one percent of Australians with a blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg do not know they have hypertension. And, those who do know, may not know why. Understanding and being aware of your blood pressure, as well as getting regular checks, can make all the difference.

### What is your blood pressure?

A lack of understanding surrounding blood pressure readings can mean people don't take those readings as seriously as they should. The truth is, having hypertension is the most significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease – the world's biggest killer. As a result, it's crucial to take note of your readings and listen to your doctor's advice. Unfortunately, more than 30 percent of Australians 18 years and older have high blood pressure.

To get your blood pressure reading, your doctor uses a cuff to establish the pressure of the heart pushing the blood through your arteries (the higher number, systolic), and the relaxed rate (lower number, diastolic). If your readings are higher than 140/90 on three occasions, you have high blood pressure.

### Why is your blood pressure high?

Many things can cause high blood pressure or hypertension, but the leading cause is a poor lifestyle. If you don't exercise, or if you smoke, are overweight, drink a lot, eat a poor diet or have a family history of high blood pressure, you are more at risk. However, in some cases, hormonal and other conditions can be to blame.

### How to lower your blood pressure?

The first course of action is to see your doctor. Once you know you have high blood pressure, it's crucial to get regular checks.

You then need to make some lifestyle changes. Exercise more, make healthier food choices, lose weight, stop smoking, and reduce your alcohol intake.

Your doctor may also prescribe medication which can be a temporary solution while you make lifestyle changes or a permanent solution. It may also take time to find the correct dose and medication to help.

Even if you feel no symptoms, which people rarely do, it's crucial to see your doctor for blood pressure checks at least once every two years. If you are suffering from headaches or dizziness, make an appointment to see your GP immediately.



## Salmon with roasted tomatoes

(serves 1)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 fresh salmon fillet – boned, skin on
- 100g cherry tomatoes
- Thyme – 1Tbsp of dried, or a handful of fresh, chopped
- Oil, coconut or olive
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped or crushed
- ½ red onion, finely sliced
- Black pepper
- 1 lemon

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 180c. Toss tomatoes, thyme, oil, garlic and onion in a roasting pan. Roast for 15 minutes until tomatoes are soft.

Add the fillet to the pan. Bake a further 8-10 minutes depending on thickness of fillet. Add pepper to taste, and a squeeze of lemon juice.

## Tomatoes: under the skin

It has only been two centuries since tomatoes were thought to be poisonous in the United States. Now, however, they are the fourth-most popular market vegetable.

Tomatoes, while delicious and exceptionally versatile, are also more beneficial for your health than you may think. They can help to protect your body against cancer, keep your blood pressure healthy, and even support a range of bodily functions. What's more, as they contain lycopene and lutein, they also help to reduce the risk of light-induced eye damage.

If you want to improve your heart and skin health or take better care of your eyes, tomatoes may be of assistance. Containing a wide range of vitamins, antioxidants, and nutrients, tomatoes are well worth adding to your diet.

### Heart health

Tomatoes contain choline, folate, vitamin C, fibre, and potassium – all key players in promoting better heart health. What's more, including high potassium in your diet is linked to a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.

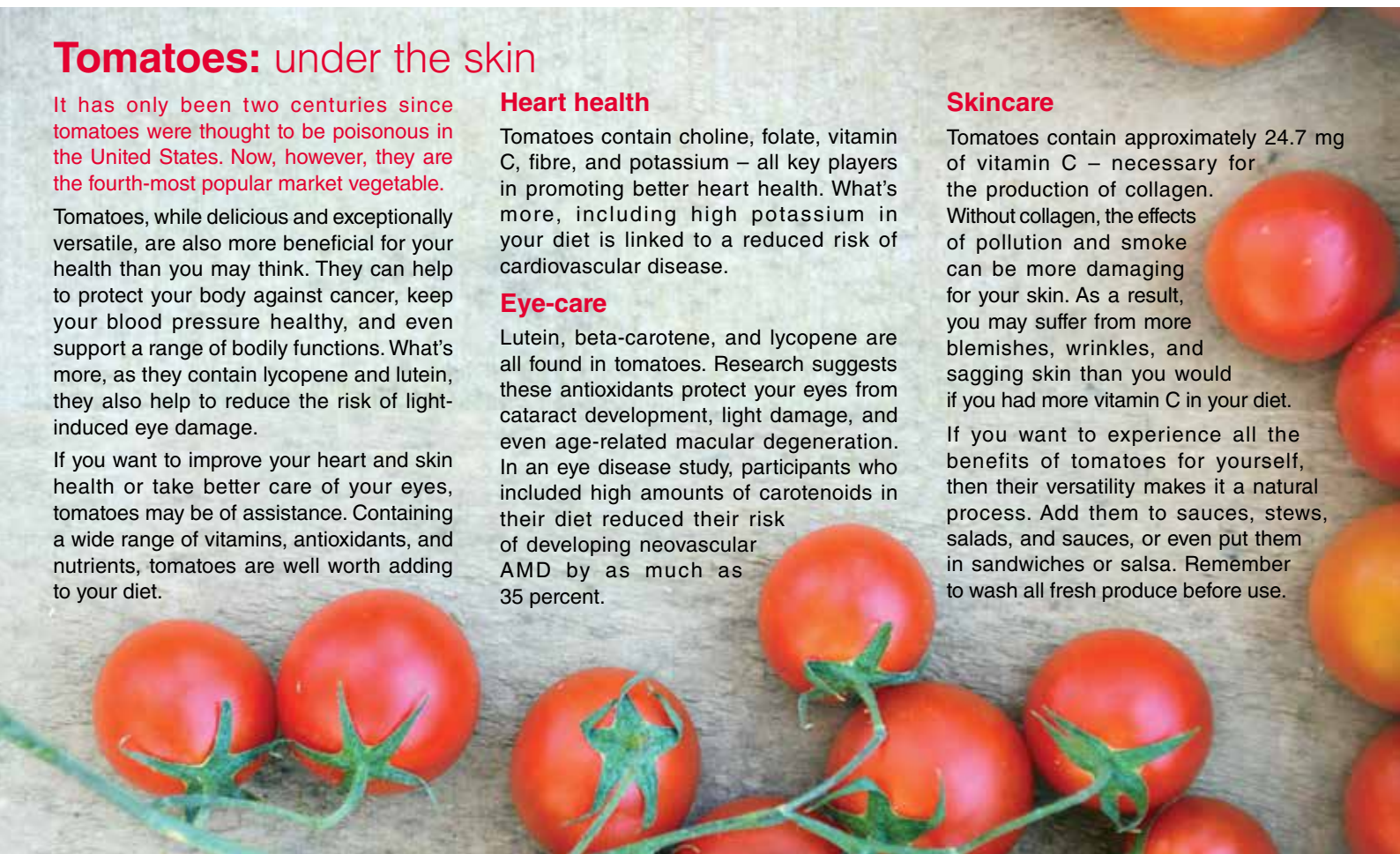
### Eye-care

Lutein, beta-carotene, and lycopene are all found in tomatoes. Research suggests these antioxidants protect your eyes from cataract development, light damage, and even age-related macular degeneration. In an eye disease study, participants who included high amounts of carotenoids in their diet reduced their risk of developing neovascular AMD by as much as 35 percent.

### Skincare

Tomatoes contain approximately 24.7 mg of vitamin C – necessary for the production of collagen. Without collagen, the effects of pollution and smoke can be more damaging for your skin. As a result, you may suffer from more blemishes, wrinkles, and sagging skin than you would if you had more vitamin C in your diet.

If you want to experience all the benefits of tomatoes for yourself, then their versatility makes it a natural process. Add them to sauces, stews, salads, and soups, or even put them in sandwiches or salsa. Remember to wash all fresh produce before use.



# Life after loss: coping with grief

Losing someone you love can change your world. You miss the person who has died and want them back.

You may feel sad, alone, or even angry. You might have trouble concentrating or sleeping. If you were a busy caregiver, you might feel lost when you're suddenly faced with lots of unscheduled time. These feelings are normal. There's no right or wrong way to mourn.

The death of a loved one can affect how you feel, how you act, and what you think. Together, these reactions are called grief. It's a natural response to loss. Grieving doesn't mean that you have to feel certain emotions. People can grieve in very different ways.

People often believe they should feel a certain way, but such 'shoulds' can lead to feeling badly about feeling badly. It's hugely important to give yourself permission to grieve and allow yourself to feel whatever you are feeling. People can be quite hard on themselves and critical of

what they are feeling. Be compassionate and kind to yourself.

Experts say you should let yourself grieve in your own way and time. People have unique ways of expressing emotions. For example, some might express their feelings by doing things rather than talking about them. They may feel better going on a walk or swimming, or by doing something creative like writing or painting. For others, it may be more helpful to talk with family and friends about the person who's gone, or with a counsellor.

Grief is a process of letting go and learning to accept and live with loss. The amount of time it takes to do this varies with each person.

Although the death of a loved one can feel overwhelming, many people make it through the grieving process with the support of family and friends. Take care of yourself and accept offers of help from those around you. Additionally, if you are having trouble moving forward in your own life, mention it to your doctor.

## PRACTICE FEES

We are a fee for service practice. Unfortunately, the Medicare rebate has failed to keep pace with costs of general practice, which means that your out of pocket expenses may have increased. Our fees will remain in line with AMA recommended fees.

## MEDICARE REBATES

Our practice offers the facilities for your Medicare Rebate to be deposited immediately into your bank account.

## SKIN CLINIC

Dr Neil Donovan and Dr Ingrid Buchner have undertaken post graduate training in skin cancer detection and management. Our Practice also has the latest skin cancer digital diagnostic technology (MoleMate). The clinic runs on a Tuesday and Thursday by appointment.

## PRACTICE NURSE

We have Practice Nurses on site every day. This means that we can provide better access to health screening and management of long-term health problems like diabetes and heart failure.

## HEALTH CHECKS

If you are making an appointment for a health check, please book a long appointment. It may best be preceded by a visit with the nurse, fasting blood tests and perhaps an ECG of your heart.

## PRESCRIPTIONS

Unfortunately we cannot issue prescriptions to patients without seeing them. It is illegal for an Authority prescription to be issued unless it is accompanied with a consultation. Please make sure that you make an appointment ahead of time so that you do not run out of medications, and give us the time to help manage your medicines in a safe manner.

## PATHOLOGY & RESULTS

Southern IML Pathology collect samples in the surgery Monday to Friday, mornings from 8am to 12pm. Appointments are not necessary.

Receptionists are unable to give specific results to patients over the phone or in printed form. It is a legal requirement that results are reviewed by the ordering doctor and discussed with the patient by the doctor. We can, however, let you know if your results require action. Please call for results between 2:30pm and 4:00pm.

## NEED A LONG APPOINTMENT?

Being late is annoying for patients and stressful for staff and doctor. One of the causes is that our consultations often run over time. Just four minutes extra per consultation means that the doctor is one hour late at the end of the morning. You can help by being aware that your time with the doctor will be about 12-15 minutes, which is usually only enough time for one problem. If you have more than one problem, longer appointments are available - please ask our receptionist when you make your appointment.

## COMPLAINTS

We value patient feedback and take your concerns seriously. If you have a suggestion or complaint, please feel free to use our suggestion box or talk to our Practice Manager. If you have a problem you wish to take beyond this practice, you can contact:

The Health Care Complaints Commission





Locked Bag 18

Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Regional Free Call: 1800 043 159

<http://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au>

## Did You Know? 10 Food Facts

1. Apples are made of 25% air, which is why they float.
2. Apples, pears, cherries, plums, apricots, raspberries, strawberries and peaches all belong to the rose family. 
3. Bananas contain high levels of tryptophan, which converts into serotonin - a type of chemical in our brain that influences mood. 
4. Peppers have a chemical compound known as capsaicin that tricks your sensory nerves, causing you to feel like your mouth is being burned.
5. Cucumbers contain electrolytes, which are minerals that include calcium, chloride, magnesium, phosphate, potassium, and sodium, which helps your body restore what it may have lost through dehydration.
6. Almonds are actually a seed, not a nut as we know it. They're the seeds of a flower and they're directly related to the botanical families of orchids and roses.
7. Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D. 
8. Greek yoghurt contains up to double the amount of protein than other types.
9. Honey is the only food with an eternal shelf life. 
10. Kale is the most nutritiously dense vegetable. Just one cup of raw Kale has only 33 calories yet it contains 684% of vitamin K, 134% of vitamin C, 206% of Vitamin A as well as iron, folate, omega-3s, magnesium, calcium, iron, fibre, and two grams of protein.

ACROSS 3. GRIEF 5. HONEY 7. SYSTOLIC 8. WEIGHT 10. COLLAGEN  
DOWN 1. PROCESSED 2. PREVENTION 4. LYCOPENE 6. FIVE  
11. CARDIOVASCULAR 12. GREEK  
9. SLEEPING  
**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

Take me home to complete our PUZZLE - check inside!