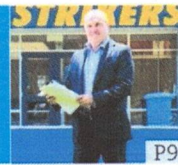


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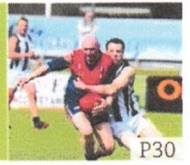
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CLINIC A CLASS ACT

A Wynyard medical clinic has been named the country's best by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Its owner, Dr Jim Berryman, also received recognition at the weekend's awards.

SANDY POWELL reports, Page 7

EIGHT YEARS

A North-West Coast man has been jailed for eight years for raping his partner multiple times throughout their relationship. Justice Stephen Estcourt said the man's crimes were "thoughtless, selfish and brutish".

SANDY POWELL reports, Page 8

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Clinic diagnosed excellent

BY SANDY POWELL

A COASTAL GP has attributed winning a national award to his clinic's philosophy of invoking a calm, non-medical atmosphere.

Jim Berryman is the practice principal and co-owner, with his wife Rebecca, of the Saunders Street Clinic at Wyndard.

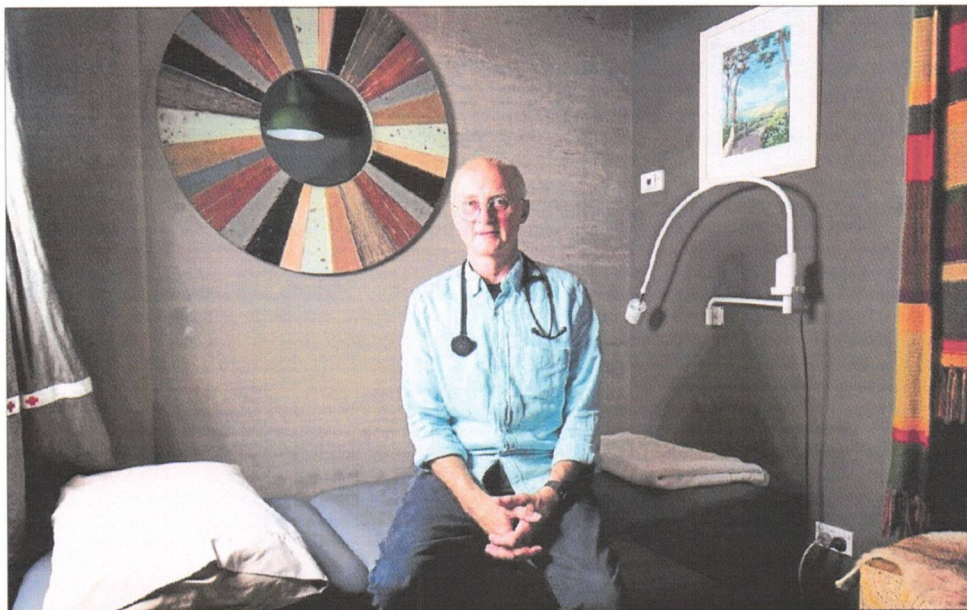
At the weekend, the clinic took home two significant gongs at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners National Awards.

The clinic was awarded the prestigious general practice of the year award after taking out the state round in October.

And Dr Berryman himself was awarded GP supervisor of the year for his work training and mentoring younger doctors.

Dr Berryman said it was a privilege to win the state round, which the practice had won before in 2017, but said he was honoured to have picked up the national award as well in 2020.

"Our philosophy is that we don't want people to feel like they are at a medical centre,"



CALMING: Dr Jim Berryman and his wife Rebecca know that people usually do not want to go to the doctor, but they hope the clinic they co-own has a calming atmosphere which is welcoming to staff and patients. **Picture:** Brodie Weeding

Dr Berryman said.

"People do not like going to the doctor so when we were designing the practice we wanted to look at it from the patient's point of view."

The waiting room of the

clinic feels more akin to the set of a bombastic Broadway musical or someone's eccentric grandparents' living room than a doctor's surgery, and that is intentional.

Dr Berryman said his wife

and co-owner was responsible for the interior design.

"We've avoided using white paint and avoided medical posters and medical television. We want people to feel as relaxed as possible.

"We thought we would make a clinic that is calming and relaxing.

"And also family-focused so people would feel comfortable bringing their children here."

And just as Dr Berryman wanted his patients to feel comfortable, he wanted his staff to feel just as relaxed and comfortable.

"We want it to be welcoming and calming and a good place to work, as well."

And this aspect is likely to have, in part, landed Dr Berryman the GP supervisor of the year award.

The GPs he has trained nominated him for the role, and he said that was particularly flattering.

In the nomination, a previous trainee (known as a registrar) wrote that the success of the clinic spoke to Dr Berryman's ability.

"I think Jim's retention of medical students as registrars, then registrars as GPs speaks for itself," they wrote.

"The clinic's doctors are nearly all local graduates - some of who were here in the early years of medical school and wanted to come back."

Dr Berryman also said that it was the employment and retention of locals as clinic staff who were able to provide a "continuity of care" which helped his practice excel.

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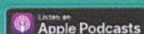
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