



The Royal  
Melbourne Hospital  
Foundation

# Royal *News*

Autumn 2018



*Pictured: Melbourne Health CE Christine Kilpatrick, Professor Jonathan Kalman, Lloyd Williams, Professor Leanne Grigg, Fiona Gillies and Lindsay Fox.*

## Melbourne Philanthropists Lloyd Williams and Lindsay Fox tour new Heart Rhythm Centre

On Thursday 8th March, The Royal Melbourne Hospital was delighted to welcome Lloyd Williams and Lindsay Fox on a tour of Stage 1 of Melbourne's new Heart Rhythm Centre.

Both Mr Williams and Mr Fox were among the first supporters to commit to the fundraising campaign.

The tour of the new donor-funded facility was conducted by Professor Jonathan Kalman (Director, Cardiac Electrophysiology), Professor Leanne Grigg (Director, Cardiology) and Melbourne Health Chief Executive

Professor Christine Kilpatrick, Fiona Gillies (RMH Foundation Director). Both were thanked for their generous philanthropic contribution and given an update on the construction of Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the facility.

Cardiovascular disease is a major cause of death in Australia, with 43,603 deaths attributed to

cardiovascular disease in Australia in 2013. Cardiovascular disease kills one Australian every 12 minutes.

An abnormal heart rhythm, called an arrhythmia, is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest deaths. The most common arrhythmia, atrial fibrillation, affects an estimated 240,000 Australians and increases the chance of someone suffering a stroke by five times.

The Heart Rhythm Centre will treat more than 2,500 people per year, making a huge impact on their quality of life and reducing their risk of stroke, heart failure and death. More than 3,000 people require coronary care every year at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, making this new facility vital to the health of Victorians.

Whilst the State Government has supported Stage 1, around \$4 million in funding from the community is still needed to develop Stages 2, 3 and 4.

With the rising prevalence of arrhythmia, donated funds are urgently needed to develop the Heart Rhythm Centre – not only to treat people currently suffering from arrhythmias, but the critical breakthroughs that will possibly lead to a cure.

During their personal visit, Mr Williams and Mr Fox were enthusiastic about our planned facility and understood the importance of The Royal Melbourne Hospital's standing in the Royal Parade Biomedical Precinct. Both Mr Williams and Mr Fox encourage other Melbourne philanthropists to join them in their support.

## OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, THE FOUNDATION HAS GIVEN AWAY \$15M IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WE'VE FUNDED  
VARIOUS PROJECTS,  
INCLUDING:

**\$700k**

TOWARDS  
EQUIPMENT + PATIENT  
CARE ITEMS, INCLUDING  
HOSPITAL BEDS

**\$110k**

IN FUNDING TOWARDS  
RESEARCH PROGRAMS,  
INCLUDING STUDIES  
IN COLORECTAL MEDICINE

**\$150k**

TOWARDS  
REHABILITATION  
MEDICINE

**\$229k**

FOR THE  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
PROJECT



We provided close to  
**\$2m** in funding towards  
the redevelopment of our  
state-of-the-art Stroke  
Ward. **We really are world  
leaders in this space.**



Over **\$87k** raised in  
our Christmas Appeal  
to purchase urgently  
needed equipment for the  
Emergency Department.



**\$865k** to fund a beautiful  
Rooftop Garden for our  
cancer patients. We hope  
this will make their time  
here more relaxing.

WE'VE FUNDED  
\$1.1M IN GRANTS,  
INCLUDING:

**\$35k**

IN UPGRADES TO  
THE ROYAL PARK CAMPUS

**\$142k**

TOWARDS URGENTLY  
NEEDED EQUIPMENT

**\$48k**

FOR A TELE-HEALTH  
DROP-IN CLINIC

**\$12k**

TO SUPPORT ONGOING  
EDUCATION

We also provided  
**\$1.3m** in funding to help  
further develop the new  
Intensive Care Unit.

## Director's Report



It's been another hugely successful six months for the Foundation, thanks entirely to the generosity of you, our kind and loyal community. Your support, whether it be through a donation to our Christmas Appeal or a ticket in our Home Lottery, has once again been integral in ensuring the hospital is able to provide the very best patient care, and continue the ground-breaking research we do each and every day.

In 2018, we are especially focused on our campaign to build a world-class Heart Rhythm Centre, which you might have read about last year. We were so pleased to welcome Lloyd Williams and Lindsay Fox to tour the site of the new facility in February. As ever, something like this wouldn't be possible without your support.

We are also incredibly grateful to those who responded to our Supporter Survey, which accompanied our last Royal News.

It gives me great pleasure to report that since July 2017 the Foundation has given away \$15m. What an incredible privilege it is to be able to help those in need.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Royal News.

Best wishes,

Fiona Gillies  
Director, The Royal Melbourne  
Hospital Foundation

## Campania's Generous Gift

Campania Sport and Social Club were formed in 1975 by a group of Italian men who previously lived in the Campania region in Italy.

The men met each week for social activities, to relive memories of their homeland and ensure their traditions and culture were passed on to the next generation. They also encouraged people from other cultures to join their group so they could share and learn from each other.

The members decided to dissolve the club in December 2016 and sold the building they owned in Preston. The Campania Club had always been involved in fundraising and had raised money for many community causes and appeals, so the members elected to split the funds between four hospitals, with one being The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Through this gift of kindness, The Royal Melbourne Hospital is able to replace the current outdated radiology imaging machine in one of the busiest Radiology departments in Victoria.

The department performs over 600 inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and therapeutic procedures every day. The new machine will improve patient outcomes and safety, as well as increase workflow and productivity. The Royal Melbourne Hospital thanks the members of the Campania Social Club, who are really making a difference to the lives of our patients.

## Survey Results

Thanks to all our loyal supporters who provided feedback in our recent Supporter Survey. We thought we'd share with you some learnings...

### COMMUNICATION



You told us that you'd like to hear more about where your donation goes. This year, we'll be developing new and exciting content which will show you exactly how you are helping.

### AREAS OF NEED



Most of you are happy for us to use your donations to support whatever is considered to be in the greatest need, however many of you noted the importance of research, and the increasing need to fund it.

### WHAT YOU LIKE TO READ ABOUT



The majority of you enjoy hearing about gains made in various fields of research.

### DONATIONS



Most of you are comfortable with the amount of times we ask you to support us, but noted that you would like more flexibility on how you can give. We are now offering both AMEX and Paypal as payment options.

### YOUR STORIES



We were overwhelmed with incredible stories from you about your experiences at our hospital. Thank you so much for sharing.



## Merz Australia donates in support of Rehabilitation Services at Royal Park

A significant contribution from Merz Australia will support new and ground-breaking research into improvement of spasticity treatment at The Royal Melbourne Hospital's Rehabilitation Centre.

Merz Australia has a long history of supporting clinical research to address the key needs of patients in therapeutic areas, and innovation is the cornerstone of their success.

In funding Rehabilitation Medicine, Merz Australia has demonstrated their commitment to ensuring Victorians in need receive the very best care, and that researchers are fully supported in their mission to discover new and better treatments for patients. This funding has also allowed for the appointment of an additional physiotherapist at our Royal Park campus to help manage the increasing number of patients in need of care.

*"Merz Australia recognises and supports the outstanding work of the Australian Rehabilitation Research Centre, specifically the research conducted to improve patient outcomes through the treatment of spasticity."*

— Jeannine Hill, Managing Director, Merz Australia and New Zealand

Professor Fary Khan, Director of Rehabilitation Medicine at The Royal Melbourne Hospital (pictured above) explains the complexity of the work performed by the team.

"Rehabilitation Medicine provides targeted medical treatments to people with a range of disabilities, including spasticity Management. Patients are active participants and are part of the team and decision-making process. All clinical goals are set to maximise functional independence and societal reintegration. Therefore support from organisations such as Merz Australia ensures that our teams work can continue. We are so grateful."





## Emergency Christmas Appeal raises over \$87k

This year, the Foundation ran its annual Christmas Appeal to fund our incredible Emergency Department, and we are delighted to announce that to date we have raised \$87,400.

There is no such thing as “Opening Hours” for ED, they are always open – and with 74,000 patients needing urgent treatment every year, it isn’t slowing down. They need to have the equipment to be ready for any emergency that comes their way. As one of Victoria’s two Emergency and Trauma Centres, The Royal Melbourne Hospital often handles a lot of the state’s major incidents and also the accidents that we all think won’t happen to us.

Your support helped us purchase vital medical equipment for the Emergency Department. Over 1,200 supporters generously donated this Christmas – we are so lucky to have such a loyal and big-hearted community supporting Victorians in their greatest time of need.



## Beanies for Geoff

Geoffrey Hamilton, an RMH patient who is battling leukaemia, has been knitting beanies to raise money for The Royal Melbourne Hospital. He shares his story below.

“My wife Jan and I recently moved from Wagga Wagga in NSW to a farm 60 minutes south of Launceston in Tasmania. Previously we had spent 25 years in Wagga, which is near where I grew up on a farm. I am an engineer but have been involved in a range of businesses over the last 20 years including an aviation tourist business based in the Kimberley, WA. I am a pilot and fly both aeroplanes and helicopters. I also play the bagpipes – but think they might be a bit too noisy for Ward 7B!

I was diagnosed late in August totally out of the blue, in the local medical clinic at Campbelltown

in Tasmania – but I soon relocated to Melbourne for the best treatment available. I was lucky that a friend was able to fly down from Wagga in a private aircraft and re-locate me to Melbourne the day of diagnosis.

Why beanies? I have never knitted before but Jan encouraged me to learn to knit to help pass some time. If you follow the instructions knitting is not that difficult!”

Proceeds from Geoff’s beanie drive will go towards renovating the garden in Ward 7B. Read all about it on page five!



## Joe Barbara's Lasting Gift

Joe Barbara was just 68 years old when he was diagnosed with leukaemia for the second time but he remained positive. Joe was one of 23 children and a keen fisherman. He appreciated the good things in life and thought his room at The Royal Melbourne Hospital was luxury.

Joe enjoyed giving back to charity and sincerely appreciated everything the staff at the hospital had done for him. He was full of praise at how well the staff and volunteers had worked as a team. Due to the wonderful quality of care and treatment received, Joe urged his family and friends to sign up for the annual Dry July campaign to raise funds for cancer services at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Sadly, Joe passed away in October 2017 but his memory will live on. Joe's daughter Andrea was married in March 2018, and chose to give a donation for each of the guests attending. Funds raised will go towards leukaemia and bone marrow research at the hospital in Joe's honour.

We are very grateful to Andrea and her family for keeping Joe's memory alive.



## New 7B Garden ready to bloom

After many years in the planning, the new Rooftop Garden Retreat is close to opening its doors to our patients and families.

The environment of The Royal Melbourne Hospital in a highly urbanised area restricts access to the outside world, particularly for admitted patients. The only current option for our patients to head outside is the hospital main entrance, on a busy street now filled with cars, trucks, buses and construction vehicles, and is an area lined with discarded cigarette butts, with visitors constantly entering and exiting the building – not a welcoming space for those seeking rest and solitude.

The new Rooftop Garden Retreat will add to the comprehensive care available at our Cancer Centre, and will assist greatly in the provision of high quality patient-centred care in our hospital. The duration of time that patients undergo treatments and supportive therapy for cancer in hospital can be extensive, with patients often spending weeks, and sometimes even months continuously admitted to hospital for intensive treatments such as chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants. Being confined inside for extended periods of time without exposure to the outside or direct daylight is known

to be a trigger for affective disorders, and can adversely affect patient outcomes, particularly at a time of significant stress.

The outdoor space will additionally provide capacity for patients to access other therapies, such as music therapy and supportive psychotherapy in a calming and natural environment – the implications for this are far reaching and will enhance care provided to patients and carers considerably and measurably.

The garden has been kindly funded by:

- Optus
- Miles Atkinson Hurley
- Dry July Foundation
- Geoffrey and Jan Hamilton
- Plan B Services
- Greek Senior Citizens Club (Gladstone Park and Tullamarine)
- Brown Baldwin Accountants
- Family and Friends of Madeleine Oakes
- Community Supporters

*Joe*

As a symbol of our love & gratitude, we have chosen to donate to The Royal Melbourne Hospital, for Leukaemia Research as well as the Haematology & Bone Marrow Transplant Ward 7b, on your behalf.

Treasure this pin as we treasure you and the Memories you helped create on our wedding day.



*Frank & Andrea Maxwell*

Saturday 17th March 2018



## Online Auction hits record high

The Royal Melbourne Hospital's Online Auction was a huge success last year with a total of \$19,055 raised towards patient-centred care, nearly doubling our 2016 total.

Over 150 items were listed online and within 40 minutes of the auction opening, we had already raised \$10,000.

Our partners and suppliers generously provided us with many prizes such as holidays, accommodation packages and restaurant and experience vouchers. Funds raised from our online auctions go towards patient-centred projects at the hospital. Stay tuned for our next newsletter update when we will share how our 2017 Online Auction funds will be used.

We would like to thank our wonderful staff, their families and friends for their fantastic support last year. If you know any businesses that would like to donate new items to the Foundation for this year's auction in December, please contact us on 03 9342 7111.



## Foundation staff profile

Gareth Scott,  
Corporate Partnerships Manager

### Tell us about your role here at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

As General Manager of a golf club in my previous role, I never thought I'd end up in health, let alone the not-for-profit sector. I've worked here for over six years. I'm really lucky in that as Corporate Partnerships Manager, my role allows me to engage with some fantastic businesses and companies who are driven to make a difference for our patients.

**How will your work impact or change people's lives?** Thanks to the support of our corporate partners, the hospital is able to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment, fund infrastructure projects and research programs and stage key fundraising events. Our office is located right in the middle of the hospital, which gives me the ability to personally witness the impact this support has.

**What are your favourite things to do outside of work?** I enjoy spending time with my wife and two boys and I love to cook. I also like to play golf, follow the NBA and watch the mighty Melbourne Demons during the AFL season.



## The Future of Fundraising

Chloe Gorman (pictured above with Foundation Director Fiona Gillies), age 8, has been doing some fundraising of her own for The Royal Melbourne Hospital. This bright and friendly future fundraiser has been encouraged by her father, Dr Keiron Gorman, Consultant Intensivist at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. "She came home from school this week with a plan to bake cookies and sell them for charity. She wants to donate the money to the hospital "to help sick people". Since then, she has raised \$74. If all goes well she should have around \$140. I am quite proud of her self-determination and the effort she has put into this." Thank you so much Chloe, you are an inspiration!

## Ride to Recovery 2018

The annual Royal Melbourne Hospital Ride to Recovery returns on Friday 20th April and it's bigger and better than ever! We are excited to announce that this year, in addition to the bikes on site at the hospital, there will be budding cyclists all over Victoria taking part. Stationary bikes will be installed at multiple locations throughout Victoria, with many kind and generous companies offering to have one on site. Between 6am-6pm we are aiming to keep the wheels spinning while raising money for crucial medical research. It's not too late to get involved! If you, or your organisation, would like to take part or sponsor this exciting event, give us a call on 03 9342 7111.

### The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

Locked Bag 800, Carlton South VIC 3053 | T (03) 9342 7111 | E [info@rmhfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@rmhfoundation.org.au)

[thermh.org.au/support-us](http://thermh.org.au/support-us)

 The Royal Melbourne Hospital  @TheRMH