



The Royal
Melbourne Hospital
Foundation

Royal *News*

Autumn 2019

RMH Foundation funded Stroke ward officially opened

Minister for Health,
The Hon. Jenny Mikakos
MP, officially opened the
new RMH Acute Stroke
and Neurology Ward on
27 February 2019.

More than 1,000 stroke patients are treated each year at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, a state-wide provider for endovascular clot retrieval, and the first hospital in Australia with a Mobile Stroke Unit.

The RMH Foundation funded the new \$9.3m 31-bed purpose-built stroke ward which contains a rehabilitation gym, and a ceiling mounted walking hoist for patients. Our dedicated team of nurses, doctors and allied health workers treat and care for the sickest patients when it comes to stroke, which is why our hospital now leads the way in stroke care and research, and truly offers a comprehensive stroke service for our community. The RMH Foundation held an afternoon tea with Professor Mark Parsons, Director of Neurology,



Pictured: CE Melbourne Health A/Prof Christine Kilpatrick, RMH Director of Neurology, Prof Mark Parsons, Minister for Health, The Hon. Jenny Mikakos MP, and patient, Kelton Young.

who conducted several tours around the new ward later that afternoon. Long term RMH volunteer and supporter, Barbara Haynes, gave our team wonderful feedback after the event.

“The tour gave us heart, and one can only hope that such advancement and technology will continue to spread widely. There is now so much available for those whose misfortune it is to have suffered a stroke. For me, it is yet another link in the wonder of The Royal Melbourne Hospital and confirms my wish to continue being part of the hospital.”

Nurse Unit Manager, Corey Swift, expressed his sincere gratitude to all supporters of the RMH Foundation and the RMH Home Lottery.

“To all the tens of thousands of supporters of The Royal Melbourne Hospital, and everyone who bought a ticket in the lottery, thank you very much. If you have ever wondered where the money is spent, you can see from this new unit it is directed to patient care to allow us to give patients the very best outcome.”

Thank you to our donors for your steadfast support — we simply couldn't build world-class facilities like our new Acute Stroke and Neurology Ward or conduct world-leading research without the help of our broader community.



Pictured: Dean, Laura and Jeannine McMahon.

Life-saving medical equipment purchased from Christmas 2018 Appeal proceeds

The RMH Foundation is delighted to announce that our generous donors contributed \$125,000 for our Emergency Department's Christmas 2018 Appeal.

Last year, Laura McMahon met with a terrifying car accident in rural NSW. Her boyfriend, Doug, was driving and turned a bend to find another car, heading straight towards them. Scans showed Laura had severe internal injuries including a broken back, lacerated liver, ruptured bowel and spleen. Her right arm was broken in two places, and her ribs were fractured. She also had a blood clot that caused a stroke.

After the accident, Laura's family thought they had lost her. The RMH trauma team battled to save her life, and after a series of operations, Laura spent eight days on a ventilator.

"We'd like to say thank you very much to the RMH for saving our daughter's life. It was a very traumatic experience we went through; it is every parent's worst nightmare. The staff looked after our daughter so well and made us feel so welcome. We are forever grateful for everything you've done for us," said Jeannine, Laura's Mum.

We're so thankful to Laura and her family for sharing their story. Donations from the appeal have already allowed us to purchase a new ventilator and ultrasound scanner. These vital pieces of equipment will give our trauma doctors and nurses the best possible chance to save lives.

Thank you! We couldn't have achieved this fantastic result without the generosity of our donors.



1,808
DONORS



\$125K
RAISED



**VENTILATOR AND
ULTRASOUND SCANNER
PURCHASED**

Director's Report



Dear Friends and Supporters

Since joining the Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation in December, I have had the pleasure of meeting many amazing, talented and highly motivated clinicians, nurses, allied health workers, and researchers across the RMH and NorthWestern Mental Health.

I am deeply impressed by their knowledge, skills, experience, and most importantly their passionate focus on positive outcomes for patients.

I have seen first hand that while our State Government funds us to be a good hospital, we really rely on philanthropic support to make us a great hospital.

In recent months, philanthropy has funded the opening of our new world-class \$9.3m Acute Stroke and Neurology Ward. It has enabled the replacement of \$1.4m of endoscopes used to check for Bowel Cancer and help treat Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Strong support of our RMH Home Lottery enabled us to allocate \$5.5m of funding towards the creation of two additional new state-of-the-art operating theatres. The total cost of the two theatres is \$9.5m with an additional \$4m funded by the State Government. This will bring our total number of operating theatres to sixteen, a significant increase in capacity, which will help us treat many more patients, as well as be better prepared for major incidents.

In closing, I would like to thank the many hundreds of supporters who responded to our recent Autumn survey with letters of support, encouragement, and donations.

Your feedback is always welcome, and your ongoing support is very much appreciated and inspires our team across the RMH and NorthWestern Mental Health.

Ed Smith
Director, Royal Melbourne
Hospital Foundation



Pictured: During brain surgery, A/Prof Kate Drummond uses some of the latest cutting-edge technology funded by our corporate partners.

Neurosurgery – Impact of Corporate Philanthropy

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Department of Neurosurgery is at the forefront of brain tumour treatment and complex surgeries in Australia. It is a leading centre for brain cancer and cerebrovascular, spinal and trauma-related surgeries, so access to the latest hi-tech equipment is vital.

Recently, several corporate partners funded the purchase of an Ultrasound Adaptor Array and Ultrasound System for the RMH Department of Neurosurgery. The Ultrasound Adaptor Array is a handheld device that provides real-time images during brain tumour removal and other complex surgeries. This is a critical adjunct to the pre-operative imaging, which becomes less accurate as surgery progresses.

The high-resolution, real-time images provided by the Ultrasound System, assist surgeons to detect if the brain has moved from the images taken pre-surgery. It integrates perfectly with other recently funded technology which has positioned the RMH Department of Neurosurgery as one of the most technologically advanced centres in Australia.

RMH Neurosurgeon, Dr Mohammed Awad, explained how this technology is already improving patient outcomes, and shaping the future of neurosurgery.

“When combined with the Brainlab navigation system, screen imaging is extremely useful to identify residual tumour that may otherwise be missed. Patients benefit from both safer surgery and more complete tumour removal, reducing the likelihood of a second operation, and increasing the survival rates in certain cases. In time, our goal is to understand how to translate the intraoperative information to its maximum potential.”

We would like to extend our thanks to the following corporate partners for their ongoing commitment: Optus Business, PACCAR Australia, Plan B Services, Allanby Press and Printers and S.O. Asher Consultants. These cutting-edge and life-saving technologies will vastly enhance outcomes and quality of life for patients by alleviating some of the risk associated with brain surgery, and other complex surgeries, and reducing the time patients spend in hospital.

RMH Quick Facts!

50% 
OF PATIENTS
SPEAK A
LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN
ENGLISH
AT HOME 

 **MORE THAN**
9,000
STAFF
ARE EMPLOYED
AT MELBOURNE HEALTH,
WHICH INCLUDES THE RMH
AND NORTHWESTERN
MENTAL HEALTH

APPROX.
980 
CLINICAL
TRIALS
ARE BEING
CONDUCTED AT THE
RMH TO HELP CURE
DISEASE AND IMPROVE
PATIENT OUTCOMES

 **47**
HELICOPTERS
LAND ON AVERAGE
EVERY MONTH ON
OUR ROOFTOP
EMERGENCY HELIPAD



Pictured: Foundation Senior Relationship Manager, Alison Byrne, Pat LaManna OAM, Helen LaManna and RMH Foundation Director, Edward Smith.

A philanthropic gift towards stroke and depression research

Pat LaManna OAM and wife Helen LaManna have spent a lifetime spreading kindness and generosity to those less fortunate or facing the challenge of illness.

Recently they contributed \$150,000 for stroke research managed by Professor Mark Parsons, Director of Neurology, and \$150,000 towards depression and mental health research led by Professor Nicola Lautenschlager.

Mr LaManna was born in Italy in 1932, and his family first moved to Colac in Victoria after World War Two. At the age of 20, he purchased his first fruit shop in West Preston and spent the next 25 years retailing fruits and vegetables. After this time, he sold the fruit shops and began selling bananas wholesale, where he went on to become the largest banana wholesaler in Australia with warehouses across Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

The RMH Foundation is humbled to receive this gift from the LaManna family. It will support important research priorities in stroke and depression that impact the lives of thousands of patients and their families.

21 new treatment chairs for 5 West Day Medical Centre

Thanks to the kindness of our donors 21 brand new treatment chairs recently arrived at our 5 West Day Medical Centre, which provides infusions and transfusions to over 9,000 patients each year.

Nurse Unit Manager, Nicola Taylor, explained that the new chairs replaced the team's six-year-old chairs, which were severely worn.

"I cannot thank the RMH Foundation enough for helping us improve the lives of our patients with this tremendous gift. The seating is extraordinarily comfortable and mobile. It even has a USB port for

laptops or phones, allowing patients to complete work while receiving an infusion. Our focus is to keep patients well so they can remain functioning members of society."



Pictured: RMH 5WDMC Nurse Unit Manager, Nicola Taylor.

Record numbers attend Young Onset Dementia lecture

Professor Dennis Velakoulis, Director of Neuropsychiatry, delivered our final RMH Foundation 2018 public lecture on Young Onset Dementia (YOD).



YOD is associated with genetic mutations and diagnosed in people under the age of 65. In Victoria, there are 8,000 diagnosed cases of YOD.

The primary challenge faced by patients is the delay in diagnosis due to the cracks within the Victorian healthcare system. Our RMH Telehealth team received a grant to use telehealth to support patients with YOD from rural and regional Victoria, helping to bridge service gaps and reducing the need for costly trips to Melbourne.

Jodie, a patient diagnosed with Posterior Cortical Atrophy, and her husband Leigh, joined Professor Velakoulis, to share her journey with YOD.

“My diagnosis of YOD has enabled me to carry on and feel safe. I could not continue working, but I now give regular talks at the police academy, teaching cadets to understand and effectively support people with YOD.”

Professor Velakoulis emphasised that every patient's journey is different, and the need for others to understand the impact of the disease, as well as focus on the individual, their cognitive strengths and broader circle. While there is no cure for any of the dementias, several drug trials are currently being undertaken.

The Public Lecture Series is an opportunity for community education on current advances in treatment and understanding of specific diseases, delivered by leading RMH medical professionals and researchers.

We invite you to attend our next RMH Foundation Public Lecture for 2019 on advanced medical technology.

DATE: Wednesday 22 May 2019

TIME: 12noon-1pm

WHERE: Charles La Trobe Theatre, Ground Floor, RMH City Campus

Pictured: Professor Dennis Velakoulis, Neuropsychiatrist and Director of Psychiatry at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.



Pictured: Melissa Chen and her mother, Elizabeth Chen.

Mill's Kitchen ICU Event

Mill's Kitchen is a community fundraising platform established by Melissa Chen, to raise vital funds for The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Melissa started fundraising when her late brother-in-law was treated at the RMH for a brain tumour at the age of 31. Through her love of food, Melissa hosts fundraising events for hundreds of people – the focus is providing delicious Chinese food for dinner parties, cocktail parties and Chinese cooking classes.

Mill's Kitchen has raised over \$50,000 for equipment and patient care items, and Melissa is now determined to raise a further \$100,000 to transform the current RMH Intensive Care Unit (ICU) waiting room into a welcoming and calming family space. The space Melissa has designed, using her interior design background, will allow families to gather, reflect, and support each other.

In June 2019, Mill's Kitchen and the RMH Foundation will hold a collaborative event, with Red Symonds as the host and Associate Professor Chris MacIsaac, ICU Director, to showcase the important work of the ICU. Guests will enjoy a three-course Asian inspired fine-dining experience.

The RMH Foundation wishes to thank Melissa for her amazing commitment and enthusiasm to realising this dream. We are looking forward to the prospect of providing a much improved physical environment to families that matches the state-of-the-art clinical environment where our patients are treated.

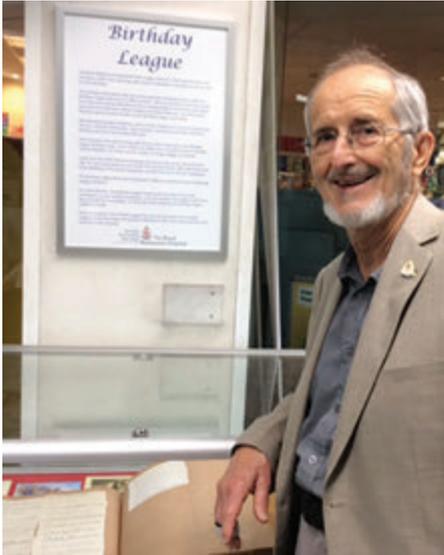
DATE: Thursday 13 June 2019

TIME: 7pm onwards

WHERE: Maia, Central Pier, Shed 14/161 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands VIC 3008

If you are interested in supporting this event, please phone Sandie Baskin at the RMH Foundation on **03 9342 97111**, email sandie.baskin@mh.org.au or go to trybooking.com/BBIJX

We'd love to see you there!



Pictured: Professor Richard Fox visiting the RMH Birthday League.

Platinum anniversary for Birthday League member!

Professor Richard Fox visited The Royal Melbourne Hospital on his 79th birthday with a generous donation. A birthday league member for 70 years, he was signed up by his school teacher.

The Birthday league was introduced in 1922, and each member donated to keep the hospital running for one minute, which was two shillings and six pence. Stickers were given to represent the number of minutes a member had supported the hospital. Today, funds from the Birthday League support the Music Therapy program.

Professor Fox reminisced about the excitement upon receiving these stickers at school. As a teenager, he had his appendix removed at the RMH and expressed his gratitude for the care provided. He later became a Law Professor at Monash University, and his philanthropy continued when he signed up his two Airedale terriers, Hamilton and Harry, to the Birthday league. Thank you, Professor Fox, for your ongoing and dedicated support of the RMH over so many years!



Pictured: Oscar and Lucy with their Certificate of Appreciation.

Young philanthropists give to Dialysis Unit

Over the recent summer holidays, 10-year-old Lucy and her eight-year-old brother Oscar decided to give back to The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The siblings set up a stand outside their Coburg residence and sold refreshing lemonade and delicious baked goodies. Lucy designed and distributed flyers around their neighbourhood to gather the crowds. In one day they raised \$130. They wanted the funds to go towards the Dialysis Unit, where their grandmother had received excellent care and treatment for many years.

The RMH Foundation and Dialysis Unit are incredibly grateful for the support from these next-generation philanthropists Lucy and Oscar.



Pictured: Royal Park Aged Care nurse, Rebecca Noller is delighted with the Sara Steady aid.

Another successful year for the RMH Online Auction!

The RMH Online Auction was a great success last year with over \$20,000 raised towards patient care items and equipment.

Our charitable partner organisations and businesses donated over 200 amazing prizes and experiences such as VIP music festival tickets, holidays, luxury accommodation packages and restaurant and experience vouchers. A special thanks to SAXE Restaurant and the many other businesses that supported the RMH Foundation with prize donations last year.

Our 2017 Online Auction funding round helped purchase an electrocardiograph, patient seating, wheelchairs and mobility aids such as the 'Sara Steady', and many more essential items.

Stay tuned to hear how our 2018 Online Auction funds have been distributed within the hospital. Thank you to our spectacular staff, volunteers, their families and friends for their overwhelming support.

Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

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thermh.org.au/support-us

 The Royal Melbourne Hospital  @TheRMH