



The Royal
Melbourne Hospital
Foundation

Royal *News*

Spring 2018

\$200,000 raised in record-breaking Winter Appeal

Erin Shi's courage and the overwhelming generosity of the Melbourne community provided a much-needed funding boost to our new Intensive Care Unit.

Erin, a survivor of the Bourke St Mall tragedy in January 2017, spent over 33 days at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, with the majority of her time spent unresponsive in a coma in our Intensive Care Unit.

"The doctors said Erin was unlikely to survive. And that if she did wake up, she may be seriously disabled. They didn't know if she would be able to talk, or even eat. They told me, 'Even if she does wake up, she still will be in danger,'" said Jiana Zheng, Erin's Mum.

With Jiana by her side, Erin was cared for by our tireless and steadfast ICU staff before she made her remarkable recovery, waking up after 25 days.

It was the kindness and dedication shown by the team of doctors and nurses that left no doubt in Erin's



Pictured: Intensive Care Nurse Unit Manager Michelle Spence and Associate Professor Chris MacIsaac, Director of the Intensive Care Unit, pictured with Erin Shi.

mind that if the time ever came, she would want to give back to the ICU.

Erin wanted to tell her story in the hope that it would raise urgently-needed funds for the ICU. She knew that the ward was in its final stage of redevelopment, and that by talking about her experience she would promote awareness of the important work the ICU do and people would respond generously. Erin readily agreed to feature in our annual Winter Appeal.

We are delighted to announce that thanks to Erin's bravery in telling her story, the RMH Foundation's Winter Appeal raised a record-breaking \$202,000 which will be used to fit out the last remaining Pod in our Intensive Care Unit. New equipment is already on order, which is very exciting. We're so thankful to Erin and her mum, Jiana, for sharing their story and we couldn't be more appreciative of our wonderful donors whose generosity made such a fantastic result possible.

Shantelle's brave fight gives hope to cancer survivors

Shantelle was just a normal 21-year-old when her life changed forever.

She was an adventurous and highly social young woman. She was studying, working, and enjoying life as most 21-year-olds do. Shantelle also had a grand plan to travel Australia in a camper van.

But in 2017, Shantelle noticed what looked like an ulcer on her tongue – it was only small. After undergoing a biopsy and multiple scans, doctors delivered the worst possible news. It was cancer.

Just 10 days later, Shantelle had surgery where they removed most of her tongue, some teeth and parts of her jaw, cheeks and even her tonsils. Surgeons removed tissue from her arm to create a new tongue – her face was literally being pieced back together.

What followed was many months of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and rehabilitation. The impact of the treatment on Shantelle's body was overwhelming. However, the treatment and care Shantelle received under



Pictured: Cancer survivor Shantelle Bentley.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital's Head and Neck Cancer team was the very best available and her doctors are optimistic that she will return to a near-normal life without cancer.

This kind of cancer doesn't only impact people later in life – Shantelle is just one example of how it can impact anyone, of any age, at any time. Another frightening aspect of this kind of cancer is that it can remain undiagnosed until it's too late.

More research is desperately needed into Head and Neck Cancers so we can find new and better treatments, and ways of discovering these cancers before it's too late. Shantelle has bravely decided to share her story in the hope of raising money and awareness for Head and Neck Cancer.

Director's Report



Dear friends and supporters,

Once again, thanks to the kindness and generosity shown by our loyal donors, the Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation was able to contribute to programs, research and equipment that improve the outcomes for our patients. We have raised \$16.5m over the last financial year – a truly phenomenal result. Of course, this incredible result is made only possible by you, our donors.

With your support, we have achieved some great things over the last year.

Our annual Winter Appeal for the Intensive Care Unit was the Foundation's most successful of all time. Featuring the incredible story of Bourke St Mall tragedy survivor Erin Shi, who spent 33 days in our ICU, the campaign raised over \$200,000 – more than doubling last year!

Many of you will be familiar with our Stroke Care Unit, a world-class facility currently being built right here at the hospital. The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation proudly contributed over \$9m towards the building of the Stroke Care Unit, and construction is well underway.

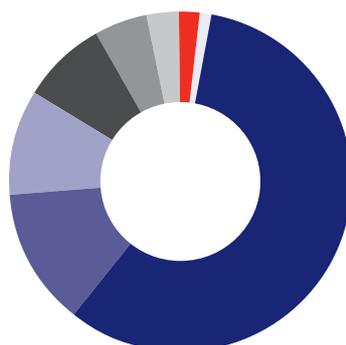
We must also attribute our success to the hundreds of people in our local community who fundraise on our behalf. Whether you went dry for July, rode in our record-breaking Ride to Recovery, or took part in any of our other community initiatives, we thank you for making our work possible.

Please enjoy reading how your donations, and unwavering support, has helped yet again to transform the lives of patients in Victoria and beyond. We hope you understand how grateful we truly are.

Alison Byrne
Interim Director, The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

Where our financial support came from:

- Home Lottery
- Bequests and Perpetuity
- Major Corporates
- Major Donors, Community and Third Party
- Direct Marketing and Other Fundraising
- Capital Campaign
- Events
- Trusts and Foundations





Pictured: ICU NUM Michelle Spence, Peter Simpson, ICU Director A/Prof Chris Maclsaac and CE Melbourne Health A/Prof Christine Kilpatrick with regular ICU patient and consumer representative Val Simpson.

Final Intensive Care Unit Pod officially opened

The Royal Melbourne Hospital's 42-bed Intensive Care Unit is now complete, with the fourth and final Pod now officially open.

Pod D, which is made up of 10 beds, will open to patients in a staged process.

The opening event was attended by Joe and Fiona Riewoldt, parents of Maddie Riewoldt who spent seven months in the old ICU on 2 South before she sadly passed away in 2015 from Bone Marrow Failure. Joe and Fiona were grateful for the opportunity to return to the ICU to visit the staff they came to know so well.

Regular ICU patient and ICU consumer representative, Val Simpson, also attended with her husband Peter and was given the official duties to open the unit.

Associate Professor Chris Maclsaac, Director of the ICU, said the opening of Pod D was the final piece to complete the state of the art 42-bed unit. He took the opportunity to thank everyone involved in this key milestone in the life of the RMH ICU, which first opened in 1972.

"I'd like to thank all of our ICU staff who are at the frontline, delivering outstanding patient care in this world-class facility every day, and I'd also like to thank the multiple teams across the hospital who have been on this journey with us over the last few years."

Funds generously donated to the RMH Foundation contributed to the newly-developed Pod, and thanks in part to the kindness of our donors, more patients are able to receive the critical care they need.



Pictured: Australian cyclist Matthew Keenan at the Ride to Recovery.

Ride to Recovery breaks event record

The 2018 Ride to Recovery has smashed the record set last year, more than tripling donations and finishing over \$90,000. What a result!

It was a magnificent event, with over 350 riders pedalling across multiple sites in Melbourne, and riders cycling furiously between 6am and 6pm. There wasn't a spare seat all day!

For the first time ever, the event was opened up to external organisations, with over ten businesses and schools getting involved. Bikes were located on site, with companies like Scanlan and Theodore, Linfox, Marshall Day Acoustics and the Little Group all getting on board.

Across the day we saw some local celebrities drop by as well — cyclist Matt Keenan (pictured), comedian Marg Downey and RockWiz's Brian Nankervis — just to name a few.

Offsite, the team from Marshall Day Acoustics raised an amazing \$11,650, taking out our highest fundraising award for a company. The unstoppable Team Scanlan won the team prize with an incredible \$10,710 raised.

Funds raised from the Ride to Recovery have gone towards advancing critical research into Atrial Fibrillation, and many other life-changing conditions.

Corporate partners shown impact of support

On the 3rd July, The Royal Melbourne Hospital welcomed some of our corporate partners onsite at the City campus for the first time.

These organisations partner with the RMH Foundation, and their incredibly generous contributions have a real and measurable impact on the lives of patients here at the hospital.

Over the past year, corporate philanthropy has supported many exciting projects at the hospital. This support has enabled the purchase of life-saving equipment for our



Pictured: Corporate partners at The Royal Melbourne Hospital at our annual Corporate Lunch.

Neurosurgery Department and also the complete redevelopment of the Ward 7B Rooftop Garden, which provides a calming space for our cancer patients in their greatest time of need.

Our corporate partners were given a captivating presentation by Director of Neurosurgery Associate Professor Kate Drummond followed by a tour of the Ward 7B Rooftop Garden and the newly refurbished Intensive Care Unit. It was great to see them immersed in the hospital and shown the tangible impact of their unwavering support.

We would like to thank our corporate partners who attended the lunch, and for their ongoing commitment to improving the lives of patients both in our community and internationally: OPTUS, PACCAR, Plan B Services, Merz Australia, Smartsalary, S.O. Asher Consultants, First State Super, BankVic, Daniels Health, Commonwealth Bank and Morgan Stanley.

A booze-free July raises over \$58,000 for patients living with cancer

Over \$58,000 has been raised this Dry July to support cancer care at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

More than 160 people supported the RMH, either by giving up alcohol for the month of July and raising funds, or donating in support of our cancer services.

Peter, our 2018 Dry July ambassador, made it through the month alcohol-free and raised \$1000 towards our head and neck cancer services. Peter signed up to Dry July in support of his daughter, Shantelle, who was diagnosed with throat cancer at just 21.

"Shantelle is my inspiration. After everything she has been through with

her treatment, giving up beer is not a big thing." Peter said.

Peter and Shantelle weren't the only ones busy raising money during July, with Fiona, a Registered Nurse from Ward 7B, coordinating a range of activities in support of the patients she and her colleagues care for every day.

From a cookbook featuring a collection of recipes from Ward 7B staff, a Rooftop Garden Party Lunch, a delicious bake sale and their very own trivia night, the team from



Pictured: Shantelle and Peter Bentley, Dry July ambassadors.

Ward 7B raised over \$3,300 for Dry July.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Dry July this year, you are truly helping us save the lives of people we love.

Corporate partners join the cause

Corporate philanthropy continues to provide much needed support for equipment purchases and education, as the Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation establishes new partnerships with KLS Martin, Janssen-Cilag, Abbvie, Pfizer, Allanby Press Printers and Cook Medical.

KLS Martin have been providing the latest surgical equipment to hospitals worldwide since 1923. KLS Martin will be generously funding the work of Dr Britt Christensen, Head of Inflammatory Bowel Disease, over two and a half years to the value of \$175,000. Additional support from Abbvie, a global pharmaceutical research and development company will provide \$45,000 towards an Inflammatory Bowel Disease Unit. A further \$61,000 from Pfizer will fund a research grant looking at intestinal ultrasounds to predict clinical relapse in patients with Crohn's and ulcerative colitis.

In support of vital equipment purchases, Allanby Press Printers have committed \$39,000 for neurosurgical equipment and Janssen-Cilag, a global pharmaceutical company, have committed \$33,000 to support an educational course for our clinicians.

Furthering their support into a second year, Cook Medical are supporting a Gastroenterology Fellowship, aimed at providing excellence in care of gastroenterology patients with a focus on endoscopic management.

New corporate partnerships are vital to ensuring that the hospital is at the forefront of excellence in clinical care and treatment, is able to focus on ground-breaking research and is committed to ongoing learning and development of our clinicians. We are most grateful for the support of our new partners.



Pictured: The Ward 7B Rooftop Garden.

Ward 7B Rooftop Garden brings peace and respite to our special patients

On the 28th May, the RMH Foundation was delighted to officially open the Ward 7B Rooftop Garden, welcoming the generous supporters of the Garden, whose contributions made this very special project possible.

Ward 7B is the RMH's Haematology ward, where some of our most vulnerable patients spend their time.

Back in 2012, the Garden was simply a pipe dream. The hard-working and dedicated staff of Ward 7B thought about what they could do to improve the experience of their patients, and it became obvious that the dreary, grey concrete area that patients looked onto was a wasted opportunity.

Following years of fundraising, construction began on the Garden last year. The nursing staff set out to get feedback from patients and their families about what the space would mean to them, with one lady remarking that she felt concerned for the patients who lose their fight with cancer and have their last view of the outside world being a sad, empty, concrete space – devoid of any comfort.

The Garden now represents a calming, welcoming and relaxing space, with one patient commenting that she felt at peace and loved looking at the incredible sculptures.

It was through the generous financial support of several patients, families and corporate partners that this project came to fruition, starting with a gift from the Will of the late Miles Hurley, whose family we were delighted to welcome at the launch.

Our corporate partners – Optus, Plan B Services and Brown Baldwin Accountants were instrumental in making the Garden happen. We also would have been unable to complete this project without the incredibly generous contribution of the Dry July Foundation.

Thank you also to Ward 7B patient Geoffrey Hamilton and his wife Jan, the Greek Senior Citizens Club, the family and friends of the late Madeline Oakes, and our other wonderful Community Supporters, Mischa Barr and Silvana Bianchi.

The Ward 7B Garden is now officially open, and we hope it provides an enriching and positive experience for our most important guests – our patients.



Staff Profile

Dimple D'Mello,
Administration Manager

Tell us about your current role here at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, and how you came to work at the Foundation.

Many responsibilities fall under my role as Administration Manager such as processing donations, attending to the main phone line, managing our home lottery and craft stall volunteers.

Can you think of one time in particular where you felt like you really made a difference?

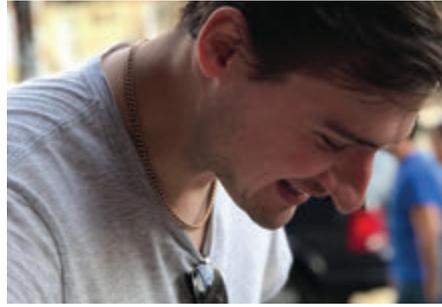
I was once making my way down to the hospital car park when I noticed a man leaning to the side of the corridor wall looking very unwell. I asked him if he was ok, and needed any assistance. We got one of our fantastic hospital volunteers to assist him with a wheelchair and I remember thinking that what took only five minutes of my time probably made a huge difference to his day.

What are your favourite things to do outside work?

My husband and I enjoy taking our adventurous three year old out to the park on the weekends. When play is done, we usually indulge in chocolate milkshakes and a good coffee.

If you could teach a class full of students one thing (other than about your current job) what would it be?

My family have always told me that I am a great party host; so I would teach my class 'How to be a Hostess with the mostest'. I prep the house from a week ahead giving lots of attention to detail. I then plan the food menu for the day – with dessert being the most important dish! I then finish up with party games that definitely bring on the laughter.



Family honours beloved son with special gift

Julian Richardson Simpson was only 30 years old. After university, he gained a graduate position with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, spending four years in Canberra.

Julian's first posting, to the Australian Mission to the United Nations, seemed like a dream come true. Two years into his posting, he was enjoying his work and life in New York City when a tragic accident claimed his life.

To honour Julian's memory, Julian's family and friends chose to support the ICU at The Royal Melbourne Hospital in his name.

Julian's family had previously seen the skilful and dedicated work of the ICU. They hoped that small donations in his name could help others, especially young people, benefit from the best in crisis care and the latest innovations in trauma medicine.



Announcing The Royal Melbourne Hospital Margaret Henderson Women in Research Fellowship

A much loved and respected member of staff, Dr Henderson graduated MBBS in 1938 and was a Resident Medical Officer in 1939–40.

Following wartime medical service, she became an honorary physician in 1947, and in 1959, became the first woman on the Senior Medical Staff, a pioneering position she held until her retirement in 1981.

Sadly, last year Dr Henderson passed away, but her last act of kindness was to bequeath a very generous gift in her Will to The Royal Melbourne Hospital to be used for research.

The opportunity to do research has been limited for women and yet female clinicians are highly represented in the healthcare workforce. To address the gender imbalance we have launched The Royal Melbourne Hospital Margaret Henderson Women in Research Fellowship to create opportunities for young female scientists and clinicians to undertake research as part of their careers. The \$50,000 grant will enable the recipient to carry out further research in their area of expertise. We are truly grateful to Dr Henderson for her generous gift; the Fellowship will ensure her legacy lives on.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

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 The Royal Melbourne Hospital  @TheRMH