

The Gift.

*The power of
community*

Sibling love
fuelling
Run4Geelong

Barwon Health Foundation
22
years of
giving

People

Meet inspiring
locals giving back
to the health service
that cares for them

Events

2023 success stories
and 2024 not to be
missed dates!

Impact

Fundraising to
support the comfort
and care of Geelong



Barwon Health
Foundation



Barwon
Health

The Board



DAN SIMMONDS
Board Chair



JOHN MILES
Chair - FRAIN Committee



RAYMOND FROST
Director



KYLIE STEEL
Chair - Grants Committee



KEN HARRISON AM
Chair - Leadership Circle



RORY COSTELLOE
Director



ROXIE BENNETT
Chair - Fundraising Committee



ASSOC. PROFESSOR DONALD ROBERTSON
Director



THERESA BEST
Director



CLARE AMIES
Director



IAN BROADWAY
Chair - Special Projects Director



ROBERT COSTA
Life Governor

Contents

5. BEQUESTS

Leaving a lasting legacy

8. PEER TO PEER FUNDRAISING

The power of people

12. CLINICAL TRIALS

Giving hope where previously there may have been none



12

16. MY GEELONG HOSPITAL

By guest columnist, Keith Fagg

17. MEDIMIME

50 years of philanthropy fun as told by Assoc Prof Don Robertson



8



17

22. THANK YOU

Celebrating those who share our vision



Published: March 2024
Printing: On Trak Marketing
Design: Paul Kelly Creative
Cover Image: Geelong Advertiser

You will now find us at our new Community Hub located directly opposite University Hospital Geelong. Thank you to Hughie Hughes Charitable Trust for making this dream a reality.

192 Myers Street, Geelong Vic 3220
(Corner of Myers and Bellerine Street)
03 4215 8900
barwonhealthfoundation.org.au
Follow us @BarwonHealthFoundation

Letter from Francis



WELCOME TO THE 2024 EDITION OF THE GIFT

Hello to our cherished community, supporters, partners and friends, but also to those who may be getting to know us for the first time.

In this edition of 'The Gift', you will gain an insight into the Barwon Health Foundation, an independent charity governed by a passionate and dedicated Board of Directors who are fiercely committed to supporting and enhancing the health of Geelong. Our Foundation aims to create happier, healthier local lives by investing in the life-saving and life-changing work of Barwon Health ... after all, Geelong deserves the very best!

This magazine is a reflection of some of our proudest 2023 moments, the amazing locals we've met along the way, the importance of giving and a snapshot of what's to come this year.

Alongside your support we've been able to achieve amazing things for our region's local health service and the comfort and care of local patients. An incredible \$2 million was been invested into the health and wellbeing of our region in 2023 – none of which would have been achievable without the support of you – our amazing community, partners, volunteers and Foundation friends.

Geelong is full of inspiring individuals and we hope the people you meet in the pages of this magazine show you that giving and the gift of philanthropy can help prevent, care and cure. Together, we can do so much.

On behalf of the Barwon Health Foundation Board, our Executive Director Zoe Waters and our outstanding team, we look forward to further sharing with you an impactful and warm hearted 2024.

Francis Trainor

Acting Executive Director, Philanthropy and Bequests Manager

Barwon Health Foundation



The Barwon Health Foundation is driven by a simple, yet powerful mission: to help you and your loved ones – our community – to live longer, healthier and happier lives.

Meet the Team

Left to right



STEPH O'DOWD

Digital Fundraising Lead

SHERRYN BENNETT

Relationship & Communications Manager

SHERI STEENHUIS

Administration & Finance Lead

FRANCIS TRAINOR

Acting Executive Director, Philanthropy & Bequests Manager

DANNI FLOWERS

Events & Community Manager

ELISE GIBSON

Corporate Partnerships Manager

MADDIE LAIDLAW

Events Coordinator

SARAH GRAY

Commercial Fundraising Manager

ON PARENTAL LEAVE >

Zoe Waters
Executive Director

Hayley Johnston
Fundraising Manager

Jemma Ryan
Communications Manager



Proud History

While the Barwon Health Foundation was formally established in 2002, the history of health care centred philanthropy in the Geelong region dates all the way back to 1849, when a volunteer committee chaired by Reverend Andrew Love raised funds to establish a public hospital in Geelong.

After fundraising for several years, the hospital first opened as the Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum in 1853. The facility was renamed the Geelong and District Hospital (Kitchener Memorial) in 1924, and later became known as Geelong Hospital in 1966. In 2014, the service adopted the name University Hospital Geelong to signify Barwon Health's position as a leading teaching and training provider.

Such was the influence of Reverend Andrew Love of Andrew Love on the health of Geelong, Barwon Health's cancer centre is named in his honour.

In 1998 Victoria's largest regional health service, Barwon Health, was formed.

The Barwon Health Foundation's soul aim is to compliment the work of Barwon Health in meeting the health needs of Geelong and the Barwon South West region, from Little River right through to the South Australian border, and everywhere in between.

Just as Barwon Health doesn't have one single health area focus, nor does the Barwon Health Foundation. The Foundation is a multi-focussed charity that works to support the health of all people in our region, through every stage of life and circumstance including fundraising for cancer, mental health, aged care, research, dental, maternity, cardiac, paediatric, stroke, motor neurone disease, end-of-life care and more.

We work with our community to fund world-leading research, clinical trials, medical equipment and patient comfort to enhance the care available at Barwon Health from birth through to death and every health milestone in between.

“By supporting the Barwon Health Foundation, you are helping to enhance the health of Geelong, now and for future generations”.



A lasting legacy of hope and healing

Leaving a charitable gift in a will can be one of the most impactful acts an individual can do to support their community and ensure their legacy lives on.

LESLIE 'LES' DAWBER IS ONE SUCH LEOPOLD LOCAL, WHOSE LEGACY WILL LIVE ON BECAUSE OF AN INCREDIBLE BEQUEST HE LEFT IN HIS WILL.

Mr Dawber never shied away from giving back to the community he loved. Born and bred in Geelong, Mr Dawber was a volunteer of the local CFA for over 43 years.

A salt of the earth type man, Mr Dawber lived simply and was well-loved by his small circle of friends. Eight years ago, due to health complications, he underwent a leg amputation and spent a lengthy period as a patient at Barwon Health's University Hospital Geelong and the McKellar Centre. It was through this period, and during regular home visits from Barwon Health staff, that Mr Dawber developed an appreciation for the health service that cared for him.

In a final act of generosity, Mr Dawber left his Leopold estate to Barwon Health Foundation to recognise Barwon Health's care and to support the remarkable services of the McKellar Centre.

For further details on gifts in wills and leaving a legacy, please contact Francis Trainor for a confidential discussion on 4215 8900 or francis.trainor@barwonhealth.org.au

“Mr Dawber’s extraordinary generosity is just one example of a local community member giving back to the local health service that has supported them during their lifetime.”



Charity Auction



House4Health
Charity Auction

2024 will see the fulfilment of Barwon Health Foundation's single biggest fundraising activity in its remarkable 22 year history.

The House4Health charity house will be completed and the beautiful new four-bedroom home will be auctioned off to one lucky buyer. All with the end goal of supporting better health outcomes for our community in the north of Geelong through the Foundation's "Project North" appeal.

The project dream began after an incredible donation of land on O'Hallorans Road from Lara Lakes Estate. Lara West Director Lino Bisinella was inspired to gift the property as a means of giving back to the community he cherishes so much.

Additional partners have come on board including Hamlan Homes, Ray White Lara, Bendigo Bank and many supporting contractors and suppliers to help bring this ambitious dream to reality. The end goal is to keep all project costs, through discounts and donations of goods and services to an absolute minimum, allowing the majority of the sale price to directly support the cause.

Keep an eye on our social media and website for more details and dates of family fun events to celebrate this exceptionally special auction.

PARTNERS

Lara Lakes

LARA

HAMLAN

Bendigo Bank



House4Health is coming together beautifully!

Building a healthy future



Another exciting project due for completion in 2024 is “Project North”, a \$2.5 million appeal to support a healthier future for residents in the northern suburbs of Geelong.



Launched in 2021, the last two years have seen a groundswell of support with donations received from community groups, corporate partners, incredible individuals and philanthropy in support of the appeal.

Due for completion in mid-2024, Project North will see a new state-of-the-art dental facility open at Barwon Health North in Norlane, caring for Geelong’s northern suburbs residents.

Often dental care is mistakenly considered cosmetic, however poor oral health is associated with many major causes of illness and death including lung and oral cancers, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

The move of the dental service from Corio Community Health to the new Norlane facility will allow an additional 5,000 people to receive dental care annually and will ultimately move a step closer to closing a significant health gap that exists in our region.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROJECT NORTH APPEAL PARTNERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.



THE NEW WAY FORWARD

At Built, we never stop pushing ourselves to improve the way the world is built – to advance our industry forward, to create foundations for the future and to forge new pathways.

We are committed to having real impact in our communities. By targeting issues closest to us where we can make a tangible difference.

Our strong partnerships with grassroots organisations make a real difference to people in need. We focus on volunteering our skills, time and extensive supply chain partnerships to help.

Peer-to-Peer

The power of peer-to-peer fundraising flourished in 2023, when some amazing individuals harnessed their community in support of the Barwon Health Foundation.

From Run4Geelong, Dry July, Wish Upon a Star Christmas Appeal and Sharing Tulli's Smile, thousands of participants committed to supporting each campaign's cause. They set about gathering interest and donations from their networks of friends, family, colleagues and neighbours, helping raise funds in their name, for the health cause of their choosing.

The digital space is pivotal in peer-to-peer fundraising and instantaneously helps to drive awareness and support of different areas of our health service.

If you're interested in creating your own peer-to-peer fundraiser please contact Steph O'Dowd, Digital Fundraising Lead on 4215 8908 or steph.o'dowd@barwonhealth.org.au

Below are just some examples of the remarkable fundraisers who made an overwhelming contribution to Barwon Health in 2023.

Ditching the dreads

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD JAXX CHOSE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SAYING GOODBYE TO HIS BELOVED DREADLOCKS.

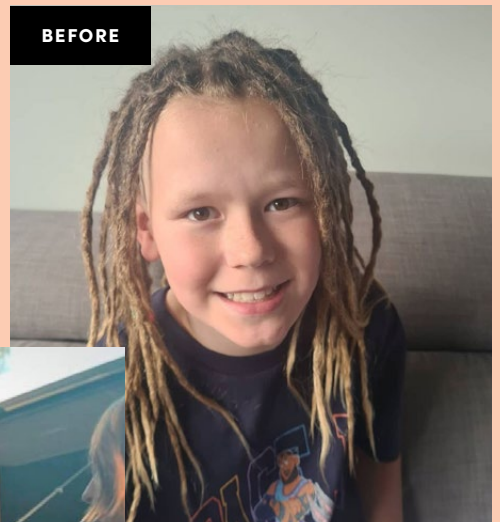
After growing his impressive locks for over 6 years, Jaxx wanted to help sick local children so he contacted the Foundation to create an online donation page.

Here he directed his friends, family, school mates and more, to donate to the departure of his dearly loved dreads!

Jaxx said, "I have had my dreadlocks for over six years and they have become a big part of my identity. I have had so many compliments over the years from people liking them. I never thought I would ever get rid of my dreadlocks, but I decided to make something good from it."

Jaxx's cause was in support of Barwon Health Foundation's Sharing Tulli's Smile Fund - a fund with a purpose to raise money for music therapy sessions on the children's ward at Barwon Health's University Hospital Geelong, in memory of Tulli Rose. These sessions bring precious joy to children often doing it tough in hospital.

At the Healing Harmonies fundraiser hosted by Sharing Tulli's Smile, Jaxx officially shaved his head while raising over \$5,000 in the process.



Thanks to Jaxx and his village of supporters.



The future of fundraising looks bright!



**RUN4GEEELONG AMBASSADORS.
GORGI COGHLAN & NIGEL RENDELL.**



Supportive siblings

A SPECIAL SIBLING DUO COMBINED FORCES TO MAKE A HUGE IMPACT TO 2023's RUN4GEEELONG.

Geelong local Nigel Rendell and his TV presenter sister Gorgi Coghlan rallied their community in support of Barwon Health's cancer services in recognition of the care Nigel has received as he battles Mantle Cell Cancer.

The father of two was the Run4Geelong 2023 leading fundraiser, generating an amazing \$23,000.

Sadly, Nigel had to miss the Run4Geelong event due to being hospitalised with an infection, but his passionate support crew were there running for him or donating to his cause virtually.

Nigel's sister, Gorgi Coghlan said the support shown to Team Rendell's Run4Geelong quest was a reflection of what an amazing person Nigel is and how loved he is.

"Particularly when you've gone through such a challenging chapter as a family, it's a really proactive, positive activity that's fun, gives back and raises awareness," she said.

A ray of sunshine for cancer patients

Thanks to an incredibly generous donation, Barwon Health Foundation has introduced new calming virtual skylights to two University Hospital Geelong radiation rooms.

Back in 2022, the Firefighters Charity Fund approached the Foundation with aspirations of supporting patients of Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and an exciting project to help bring calm to Geelong cancer patients was developed.

Fast forward to late 2023 and the installation of virtual skylights to two treatment rooms has created a visually pleasant space for patients while they undergo radiation treatment. The calming, peaceful environment created by the virtual skylights helps to enhance the relaxation of patients, which leads to less movement and more targeted treatment.

Radiation treatment rooms are often referred to as 'bunkers' and, whilst they are highly functional, they can be quite clinical and cold in appearance. The virtual skylights project a sunny blue sky surrounded by trees or cherry blossoms. The result is a feeling of openness and connection with the outside.

While patients are prepped for, and undergo procedures, the virtual skylight can become a focal point, bringing the same positive feeling like when laying under a tree on a summer's day.

Barwon Health Foundation acting Executive Director Francis Trainor said the Foundation is so thankful for the Firefighters Charity Fund's support and incredible \$60,000 donation.



“The Firefighters Charity Fund’s generous support will have immeasurable positive impact on the comfort and care of local cancer patients,” said Mr Trainor. **“For many these settings can be intimidating, however the innovation of the virtual skylights can help lessen the anxiety of patients and make the clinical environment more pleasant while doing so.”**

Anna
NURSE

CARING
for the
CARERS

Scan to find out more

SAVE UP TO \$20K*
with Villawood

As a way of recognising the hardworking Care Workers in our community, we are offering up to \$20,000* saving on land and house & land packages at Villawood Communities.

*Available as a rebate. Conditions apply. See [Villawoodproperties.com.au/care/](https://villawoodproperties.com.au/care/)

villawood properties

Toasting Geelong's giving spirit

Going Dry in July can have so many benefits and in 2023 one of those was a whopping, record breaking \$213,000 raised in support of the region's cancer patients.

“What a result it was for our Frothy Fund team! Not only does a month off the frothies have positive impacts for personal health and wellbeing, but we all banded together managing to exceed fundraising expectations while having an incredible impact on the health and wellbeing of cancer patients within the Geelong region. What a win!”

A triumphant three-peat was achieved by the 'Billy's Frothy Fund' team, finishing up the month as the number one Dry July fundraising team in Australia, for a third consecutive year.

209 community members, business leaders and current and past patients, went Dry to fundraise for Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and Cancer Services.

Barwon Health Foundation Dry July ambassador, Billy Brownless, captained his 'Frothy Fund' fundraising team to victory with over \$95,000 raised. Brownless, whose mother died of cancer, congratulated Geelong people for helping Geelong people.

Geelong put in an impressive performance on all fronts with community ambassador and Barwon Health Foundation Board Director, Rory Costelloe, also taking home the country's leading individual fundraiser title.

The Geelong United Basketball team raised an impressive \$30,000, Hoop City Ballers \$15,000 and Buxton Geelong also raised over \$6,000.

Since 2013, the Barwon Health Foundation and our extraordinary community has now raised over \$1.7 million through Dry July to enhance cancer patient comfort, care and wellbeing at Barwon Health.

We're keen to defend our title and build an even stronger 2024 Dry July team. You can register your interest at barwonhealthfoundation.org.au/events or call us on 4215 8900 to see how you can get involved.



Giving hope where previously there may have been none



Barwon Health is saving lives and creating global impact through clinical trials and research at the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre.

Thanks to the generous philanthropy of Geelong's Costa Family, Barwon Health's Adrian Costa Clinical Trial Centre allows our region's patients access to innovative research and treatment across a broad array of health service areas, including allied health, cardiology, mental health, neurosciences, pharmacy, paediatrics, palliative care, emergency care, infectious diseases and oncology.

As Victoria's first regional clinical trials centre, this facility is a dedicated space for trial coordinators, researchers, support staff, patients and their families.

In mid-2023 the Foundation team was delighted to tour three generations of Geelong's Costa Family through the centre that was named after the late Adrian Costa.

The evening allowed the Costa family to witness first-hand the incredible and impactful outcomes of their amazing \$2.5 million donation and the significant impact that their support continues to have on the region.

Would you like to support our amazing Clinical Trials Centre? Contact Francis Trainor on 4215 8900 or francis.trainor@barwonhealth.org.au

160

CLINICAL TRIALS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY ACROSS BARWON HEALTH'S CLINICAL TRIAL TEAMS WITH MANY TRIAL TREATMENTS NOW BECOMING STANDARDS OF CARE.

HERE'S JUST ONE STORY ABOUT THE AMAZING WORK TAKING PLACE AT THE ADRIAN COSTA CLINICAL TRIALS CENTRE.



TOURING THE ADRIAN COSTA CLINICAL TRIALS CENTRE

The gift of time - Wendy's story



Meet Wendy West, an inspiring friend of the Barwon Health Foundation.

Throughout 2023 Wendy West, a current patient of Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre, generously shared her amazing story in support of various Foundation campaigns and events from clinical trial awareness, Dry July and helping us fundraise for new video endoscope tower radiotherapy equipment to help care and treat those receiving radiotherapy.

In December 2021 Wendy thought she wouldn't ring in the new year. Now, over two years on, Wendy has been discharged from the Palliative Care Service and credits Barwon Health care and a Barwon Health clinical cancer trial with keeping her alive.

Here's a glimpse of Wendy's inspiring story, in her own words...

My name is Wendy West, I am undergoing a clinical trial at Barwon Health's Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre. This is a new trial, and I was the first person in Geelong to have been lucky enough to meet all criteria for this treatment. In July 2021 it was discovered I have terminal cancer by chance.

I fell and fractured my back; this was when scans revealed I had terminal cancer. The doctor advised that I had small cell lung cancer that was not curable.

We were all so shocked. They said I had 12-18 months to live. At one stage, the one cancer in my brain turned into three cancers in just a seven-week period. As the cancers were growing so fast, they didn't think any treatment could work.

It was the first week of December 2021 and they didn't know if I would make it into 2022. My partner plays in the Glitter Gang Band and proposed to me on stage and I planned our wedding in just three weeks!

There was a time in hospital when I had the most extreme pain in the whole of my body, thinking I was going to die then and there. Four nurses came running, reassuring me that they would not leave me and that I was not going to die. I looked into their eyes and I could see tears and pure compassion. I will never forget how much they cared for me, as if I was their own mother.

It's so nice to know there are still such caring people in this world and the teams at Barwon Health, from across the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre, Andrew Love Cancer Centre, and the McKellar Centre, have all shown me that.

My family and I have grieved, but then I said let's stop grieving now. I don't want to be sad for the rest of my time. Let's get out there and enjoy the rest of my time being happy, holidaying, gardening, dancing, doing things with my family, going to work, and doing all the 'normal' things I did before.

I believe this attitude has helped me get this far, but it's the doctors, nurses and researchers of Barwon Health who have saved my life to date.

I urge you to help us raise funds to support the amazing work that is taking place at Barwon's Health Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre.

With every donation, you are helping patients like me live a longer, more fulfilling life. I'm lucky that my life has been extended because of a clinical trial.

I've been given the greatest gift of all ... more time.

Many thanks,

Wendy West



WENDY WEST & HER HUSBAND DAVE

Life Long Caring

There's not a single Geelong resident in the Geelong region who won't have their lives touched by the work of Barwon Health in some way through their lifetime.



We are here for you and your future generations of your family, when you need us most. Jayne Tomkins of Grovedale shared her story of how Barwon Health has been caring for her family for generations.

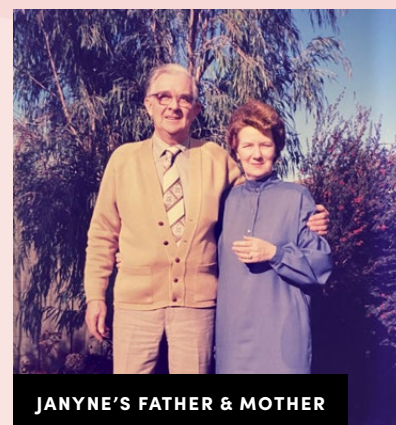
The care we have received at Barwon Health has been nothing but exceptional through our generations. First my husband was born at Baxter House. My father was treated at the Geelong Hospital for lung cancer, and in the eighties and nineties I had my three daughters at Baxter House. My first grandson was born at University Hospital Geelong, and needed to attend the special care nursery because he was five weeks premature. He received exceptional care and came out of it fit and healthy. My second grandson was born at University Hospital Geelong, a beautiful little healthy boy. We couldn't have asked for a better outcome.

I am the proud daughter of Joyce Johnson, who was a volunteer at Barwon Health for over 30 years. As one of the health service's longest volunteers, she started helping the Cancer After Care Group raise funds for the Andrew Love Cancer Centre following the death of my father in 1986 of lung cancer. In this time there were no facilities in Geelong to treat his illness and we had to travel to Melbourne for the help and care he needed. My mum was a very driven lady, being a school teacher in her time, she wanted the best for Geelong and the best facilities for people that were suffering with cancer.

Up until her 90th or early into her 91st year, she gave 110% and always strived to do the best she could. I feel privileged and honoured that I have a mum who has not only helped look after the Barwon Health Foundation, but also has received the care when she needed it most. In 2022 my daughters and I attended the Catwalk4Cancer first time without my mum. The annual Catwalk4Cancer was something we all would look forward to attending every year. My daughters and I are honoured to continue attending in honour of our mum and grandma.

At some stage of your life you may need the care of Barwon Health. Whether that be hospital, emergency, cancer treatment, the joyous time of having a baby or a grandchild come into your life.

Please continue to consider supporting the life-changing work of Barwon Health.



JANYNE'S FATHER & MOTHER



JOYCE WITH DAUGHTER JAYNE & THREE GRAND DAUGHTERS

Funding *vital* equipment

Each year the Barwon Health Foundation supports the funding of pieces of vital equipment that are central to the care of local patients. Geelong deserves the very best and funding equipment helps patients access the best expertise and care close to home.

From equipment to support MND patients, to equipment that supports the detection of small cancers, there has been some wonderful developments and support shown in recent times.

Most people will know “The Beast” that is Motor Neurone Disease (MND) through blue beanies and Fight MND’s iconic big freeze event.

What most don’t know, is that Geelong has its own dedicated and highly experienced team who help patients facing their own battle with MND.

In October, the Barwon Health Foundation presented Power Up 4 MND, an event that was inspired by the late Brian MaCafee, an

incredibly warm man who inspired so many to give and support MND patients in our region.

Hosted by Jo Stanley, the evening aimed to raise vital funds to support the purchase of practical aids and equipment required by MND patients as they progress through the various stages of the disease. Aids and Equipment that make life easier for MND patients and their carers and allow them to continue to live in their own homes with dignity.



BARWON HEALTH MND CLINIC PATIENTS & EVENT GUESTS



THE NEW ROBOTIC SURGERY ULTRASOUND DEVICE

Recent support saw the funding of a \$175,000 Robotic Surgery Ultrasound Device, thanks to generous giving from the Rosemary Norman Foundation, Gentlemen of Geelong, the Estate of William Rickard and the community of Geelong.

This equipment will be used for robotic kidney, liver and pancreatic surgery and is a minimally invasive technique that can allow for more precise tumour removal and carries substantial benefits for patients.

Mr Richard Grills, Director of Urology at Barwon Health is thankful for the support that made this happen,

“The addition of this piece of vital equipment will be truly wonderful and will help assist the outcomes of delicate procedures. Future treatment and costs associated will also be lessened for patients for treatments like dialysis. It’s a fantastic outcome for our region.”

To support the purchase of much-needed medical equipment for Barwon Health please visit www.barwonhealthfoundation.org.au

Proudly bringing the BHF brand to life.

Barwon Health Foundation creative partner since 2019.



Our town, our hospital

By Keith Fagg, Guest Columnist

“ My first experience of Geelong Hospital was when I was about 10 years old. This would have been around 1965 but I doubt whether medical records go back that far to verify! I was admitted with suspected appendicitis.

In those days, my memory of the Geelong Hospital Children's Ward was of a very long, wide open space – more of a hall really – with beds lining each side as far as the eye could see.

The bathroom was way down one end, a cold walk without slippers. The colour 'scheme' was, well, a bland light green – clearly the hospital sourced a job-lot of this ubiquitous colour and liberally painted it everywhere!

All this was a tad daunting for this young fellow with an annoying pain in his side.

I was admitted for 'observation', which I think they did through a hole in the ceiling (sorry, that's a classic Spike Milligan joke!)

Being potentially a candidate for surgery, I was not allowed to eat anything which was real downer as all the kids around me – most of whom had just had their tonsils removed – were being plied with jelly and ice-cream!

My recollections also include:

- Nurses wearing alarming hats, with upside down watches pinned on their uniforms.
- Cold thermometers put in one's mouth on regular occasions.
- Children crying for their mothers overnight – no parents allowed to stay in those days! I am sure the nurses did their best to placate and soothe their fears but no doubt they were run off their feet.

And nothing much to do – we were strictly required to stay in bed!

All this is, of course, such a far cry from the way University Hospital Geelong and Barwon Health in general now cares for young patients. The contrast to today's approach is so stark, it really bears no comparison – we certainly live in a far more enlightened era.



Together with amazing, skilled staff, UHG Children's Ward features friendly small rooms, private bathrooms, bright colours, sofa beds for parents to stay overnight, together with a large playroom and playground where the kids can even play too!

The more recently built children's rehabilitation centre at McKellar is a further enhancement of what can be done for children who need such specialised support.

This wonderful project which resulted in a state-of-the-art centre was of course funded entirely via the Barwon Health Foundation through generous corporate donations and significant community fundraising over many years, including through Run Geelong and other events. Long may such enthusiastic support continue!

As for that 10 year old, things settled down nicely and he was much relieved to be released back to his parents. He still has his appendix 58 years later but wonders if he ever did need that out – or at least his tonsils – could he still have that ice-cream?!

Keith Fagg, OAM

Community Leader



THE GEELONG HOSPITAL C.1970



THE GEELONG HOSPITAL APPROX .1986

50 years of Medimime

By Assoc Prof Donald Robertson, Guest Columnist

In 1974, having been enthused by the great success of the inaugural 1973 'Geelong Hospital Revue' Gerald Hayward, Chief Radiographer, John Zelcer and I, both resident doctors, decided to spread our wings and throw caution to the wind by introducing the Geelong population to a pantomime, drawing on a cast largely made of hospital staff, with any proceeds directed to Geelong Hospital.

Under the banner Z.R.H productions we hired the old Geelong Plaza Theatre and presented 'Cinderella' to resounding applause. The show's \$2,000 profits were used to support the local hospital with the purchase of a Bennett Respirator for the Intensive Therapy Unit. Named after founding members John Zelcer, myself and Gerald Hayward, Z.R.H productions morphed into Medimime Productions in 1975 and has been bringing joy, laughter, questionable jokes and so much support to Geelong's local health service ever since.

Some of my fondest memories of the early days of pantomime and the Plaza Theatre are of the simplicity and fun of our productions. Of singers having to stop mid-performance because the Geelong clock striking so loudly, of incontinent pigeons who resided in the fly tower over the stage and relieved themselves mid performance, of the building care taker having to hammer down seat arm rests prior to performances, of the crew changing light bulbs three stories high (what OH&S?), of Sir Henry Bolte, the Premier of Victoria joining the grand opening performance at the Ford Theatre in 1981 by directing the balcony in the inevitable competition with the stalls in the Dames song.

Just last year I attended the Medimime performance of 'Sleeping Beauty' and marvelled at the generational support as I met a grandmother who was involved with productions in the seventies and was in the audience with her own child and grand-child.

The 44 pantomimes staged over the past 49 years have undoubtedly provided great entertainment for the Greater Geelong Community and in-turn raised more than \$500,000 for Barwon Health and the vital health services they provide our region.

Scott Graham, current President of Medimime Productions credits the support of the Geelong community with keeping Medimime's magic alive.

"It's hard to believe we are celebrating 50 years of Medimime this year. This is a significant achievement for any community group let alone an amateur theatre company staging pantomimes in regional Victoria.

"This achievement shows how important Barwon Health is to our community and how as a community we come together to support important causes," said Scott.

Medimime has always had a way of bringing everyone from the hospital and community together, from doctors, nurses, support staff and now the wider community who have a love of pantomime.

It is philanthropy in its simplest form – people having fun while doing good, all for the benefit of Barwon Health.

Donald Robertson

Associate Professor (retired)

Director Barwon Health Foundation Board

Medimime's 50 year milestone will be celebrated with an enchanting production of Snow White at the Geelong Arts Centre this November.



You can follow along on Facebook and Instagram for updates and news @medimime



MEDIMIME FUN OVER THE YEARS

The power of community

The striking thing about our community is that locals possess a sense of hometown pride that knows no bounds. The collective culture of giving back and passion for supporting our own is Geelong's super power.

We're always so grateful when we receive a phone call, email or knock at the door from a local club, school or sporting group who have so kindly chosen us as their charity of choice for their fundraising activity.

Every year we see book fairs, golfing competitions, footy colours days and more held across the local region to give back to the health service that cares for so many. We're shining the spotlight on a small snapshot of community heroes we were so fortunate to have support us in 2023.



CLIFTON SPRINGS GOLF CLUB



BLEND'D CAFÉ



GEELONG WEST ROTARY



LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES



LARA GOLF CLUB



OCEAN GROVE BOWLING CLUB

Harcourts



A Local, Family Business
Supporting the
Community
since 1991.

Proudly offering a full suite of Real Estate services, specialising in:

- Residential Sales
- Property Management
- Owners Corporation Management
- Commercial Sales & Leasing
- Short Term Stays

northgeelong.harcourts.com.au | 03 5278 7011

Champion recognition

The best gift is you! One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time and there's some amazing local personalities who continue to do that year in and year out in support of our Foundation.

Isaac Smith

It was a big year for Isaac Smith! Not only did the Geelong Cats superstar hang up his boots for retirement, he pounded the streets of Geelong as the 2023 Run4Geelong ambassador.



Smith said, "Having young kids has made me realise how important it is to have such vital health services close to home. You just never know when you may need to call upon our local health service for the care of your loved ones, or even yourself."

Isaac also kindly attended the Geelong Building and Construction Industry Nights of Nights fundraiser for the Barwon Health Foundation where he spontaneously auctioned off one of his 2022 winning Premiership football boots, raising a whopping \$4,000.

Kylie Blackney

Forever friend of the Foundation, Kylie has been both volunteer and fundraiser for Barwon Health Foundation over the years. 2023 saw her create 'Kylie's Karaoke for Cancer' event, gathering her community in support of Geelong's own Andrew Love Cancer Centre and raising over \$5,700.



Libby Bate

Libby works tirelessly to raise funds for improved cancer care in Geelong. As president of the Cancer After Care Group Geelong since 2009, Libby is a passionate advocate for cancer patients in the region and you will spot her at so many Barwon Health Foundation events and fundraisers.

2023 saw Libby recognised as a Westfield Geelong Local Hero winning \$5,000 in support of Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre.

Since 1978 Geelong's Cancer After Care Group have donated more than \$4 million to Barwon Health's cancer services. If you would like to support the Cancer After Care Group, please contact the Foundation on 4215 8900 .



Bek Seabert

Bek is a true angel of University Hospital Geelong's children's ward. It is here she spent many years with her daughter Tulli Rose, who sadly passed away at just 8 years of age from the health conditions she was born with. It's also here that Bek sprinkles the magic of music therapy for sick children, in memory of her daughter through the "Sharing Tulli's Smile Fund".

Sharing Tulli's Smile fundraises to provide music therapy sessions to the children's ward of Barwon Health, bringing joy to children doing it tough in hospital. Bek hosts an annual fundraiser – Harmonies for Healing, participates in Foundation events, manages raffles, sells merchandise and more in support of Sharing Tulli's Smile mission.

You can learn more here:
www.sharingtullissmilefund.org.au

Events

2024 Dates for your diary

Geelong's Longest Lunch

We could not have dreamed of a better day for our region's ultimate culinary experience. The sun was shining on over 300 guests, local chefs and restaurants, sponsors and partners and they helped us to raise an incredible \$80,000 for Project North.

Catwalk4Cancer

Our most fashionable fundraiser was an amazing night, held at the new look Geelong Arts Centre in September. Hosted by local personalities, Demi Duncan and Mel Baxter the event featured Catwalk shows from Westfield Geelong, Vow Studio, Bird Skin, Pearls and Roses, SUKii Boutique and Cercle Lifestyle. Over 200 guests attended and over \$48,000 was raised – Geelong's generosity always shines bright!

Night of Nights

For the fourth consecutive year, key stakeholders of Geelong's Building and Construction Industry combined forces to fundraise \$120,000 to support Barwon Health Foundation's 2023 Wish Upon A Star Appeal. The construction industry made up of members of construction unions and their members, builders and local and non-local subcontractors and other associated industry entities generated most of the funds from an industry 'night of nights' event held at GMHBA stadium. The generous funds will help support the purchase of vital equipment needed right now at University Hospital Geelong to support the tiniest and most vulnerable patients.

Harmonies for Healing

In August, "Sharing Tulli's Smile" presented Harmonies for Healing, an afternoon of fun and fundraising for the children's music therapy program at University Hospital Geelong, in memory of beautiful Tulli Rose. Sharing Tulli's Smile Fund and the Harmonies for Healing event are inspired by one brave and strong soul, Tulli Rose, who passed away in November 2019, aged eight. Born with a number of medical conditions which affected her body and the way it worked, University Hospital Geelong became Tulli's second home. During this time, Tulli's family witnessed first-hand the power and impact music had on her life. Over \$40,000 was raised to help bring some joy to the unwell children of Geelong.

GEELONG'S
**Longest
Lunch**

15 March

Giving Weekend 21-23 June

DRY JULY

July

C4C

17 August

**RUN4
GEELONG**

10 November

*Festive
@ the Fed*

6 December



Run4Geelong

A sea of red Run4Geelong t-shirts took over Geelong's iconic waterfront on November 13 as the popular community event raised over \$133,000. The sun made a welcome appearance as 2,800 participants of all ages and abilities tackled the 10km, 5.5km and 1km kids courses. Among them were a number of grateful patients, healthcare workers, Geelong Cats stars and then-acting Prime Minister and Member for Corio, the Hon. Richard Marles MP. The event, supported by the Geelong Advertiser, saw 100% of every registration fee donated to a health area of the participant's choice. The course took in the sights of Eastern Beach, the city centre and the Geelong Botanic Gardens with live music and an optional colour station to enjoy along the way. Post-race, Richie Boulevard was abuzz with free face painting, entertainment, smoothies, massages and food to refuel.

Events of 2023



LONGEST LUNCH



NIGHT OF NIGHTS



RUN4GEELONG



LONGEST LUNCH



GIVING MONTH



CATWALK4CANCER



CATWALK4CANCER



RUN4GEELONG

Heartfelt *Thanks*

Thank you to the wonderful key partners and all members of the community for your contribution and support in 2023.

Media Partners

Bay FM
Geelong Advertiser
KRock
Moo Media
Monika Berry
On Trak Marketing
Paul Kelly Creative
Print Media Group

Corporate Partners & Sponsors

ABS Concrete Pumping
Active Feet
Active Geelong
Apex Building Surveying
Ardreagh Formwork
Austral Bricks
B&P Builders Geelong
Barwon Timber
Barry Medew Building Supplies
Bay City Legal Property Law
Bayside Technologies
Besix Watpac
Bendigo Bank
Berry Clean Homes
Brax Window Treatments
Built
Buxton
Byars Packaging
Calibre Workforce
Cancer After Care Group
Caroma
Caruso Bricklaying
Ceasarstone
Ceres Life
CFMEU
Charles Rose
Chromagen Solar Australia
City of Greater Geelong

Classic Fireplaces & Outdoor BBQ's Geelong
Clipsal
Coastal Bin Hire and Mini Bins Geelong
Coast Scaffolding
Consolidated Energy
DM Property
DFS Cabinets
Electrical Trade Union
Fagg's Mitre 10 & Belmont Timber Geelong
Fitzgerald Construction
Floorworld
Garland
Gawk
Geelong & Coastal Hire
Geelong & Coastal Inspections
Geelong Connected Communities
Geelong Group Services
Geelong Safety Rail
Geelong United Basketball
GMHBA
Haley Hire & Sales
Hanlon Industries
Hardings Hardware
Harcourts
Hamlan Homes
Hamilton Group
Haymes Paint
Hoop City
HR4Business
Hume Doors
IGBY Productions
Incolink
James Hardie
JH Stevenson & Son
Koroneos Group
KPI Construction
Lara & District Community Bank
Lara Lakes
Malloys Plastering
MB Pre-Fab

Middleton's Geelong Heating & Cooling
Mindray Medical Australia
Missta
NAB Geelong
Nicolson Construction
Oceanview Plumbing
Optus
PJ & T McMahon's Excavation
Plan Group
Plenary Group
PPTU
Profeet Podiatry
Profinish Fire Protection
Rauland
Ray White Lara
RC Designer Gardens
RMA Civil Construction
Rooftek Plumbing
S Gill Construction
SkinMD
SMEG
Southern Star Group
Specified Steel Fabrications
Stegbar
Swim Sport & Leisure
TAC
The Laminex Group
The Salary Packaging People
Times News Group
Toohey's Form-crete
Trifecta Landscape Designs
Tuckers Funeral & Bereavement Service
Victoria Blinds
Villawood
Volare Concepts
Waurrn Ponds Shopping Centre
West Carr and Harvey
Westfield Geelong
Westgate Community Initiatives Group
Wettenhalls
Symal

Community

Bridge 2 Bridge
Cancer After Care Group Geelong
Clifton Springs Golf Club
Community Care Chemist
Country Womens Association Lara
Dennis Family Ashbury Community Fund
Dry July Foundation
Eric Young Memorial Golf Day
Geelong Central Fidelity Club
Geelong Cross Country Club
Geelong Racing Club
Geelong Sikh Association
Geelong Transport Drivers Social Club
Geelong Women in Business
Gentlemen of Geelong
Hope Bereavement
Kiwans Club of Geelong
Kylie Blackney
Lara Golf Club
Life Activities Club Geelong
Lifestyle Communities
Lions Club of Hamlyn Heights
Medimime Productions
Morgan Stanley Golf Day
Ocean Grove Bowling Club
Power Up for MND
Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes
Royal Geelong Yacht Club
Sharing Tulli's Smile
St Leonard's Golf Club
The Fresh Food Merchant
Uncle Bob's Club



Make a difference

There are so many ways to give back to Barwon Health.

- 1 Regular giving**

Regular gifts allow you to support the work of Barwon Health and provide you with a way of planning your giving through the year in one simple step. You can choose weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually for just the cost of a coffee.
- 2 Attend an event**

The Foundation hosts an array of events annually, so just by enjoying a fabulous day or evening with friends can be a form of giving back. Keep an eye on our social media for ticket details.
- 3 Host an event**

Hold your own community fundraiser and make us your charity of choice. You can even select which area of Barwon Health you would like to support. From sausage sizzles, golf days, morning teas, casual dress days – the inspiration is endless! We've even got an online donation platform to get your circle involved. Contact Danni for our community fundraising kit danni.flowers@barwonhealth.org.au
- 4 Volunteer**

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time – they just have the heart. Join us for tin shaking opportunities, gift shop customer service, sausage sizzles, event marshalling, call rooms and more. There's so many opportunities to lend a hand throughout the year just by emailing foundation@barwonhealth.org.au
- 5 Corporate Partnerships**

Our Partners share our passion for health and work closely with the Barwon Health Foundation to build a happier, healthier future for the people of our community.

Contact Elise Gibson to learn more about partnership and sponsorship opportunities on 4215 8900 or elise.gibson@barwonhealth.org.au
- 6 In memoriam**

Honour a late loved one through in memoriam donations. You can choose a specific cause or service area within Barwon Health as a lasting gift and in recognition of care provided. We can help you set up an online memorial page or provide memory donation envelopes in lieu of flowers.
- 7 Leave a gift in your will**

Give the gift of good health. By making a planned gift in your will you will be leaving a legacy of inspired care and amazing research. It doesn't matter how large or small your gift might be, each and every gift can make an enormous positive impact on the region's future healthcare needs. Please contact francis.trainor@barwonhealth.org.au for a confidential legacy discussion.

Gifts for good

Shop much loved local brands knowing 100% of your purchase goes back to supporting patient comfort and care across Barwon Health.

Barwon Gifts is located on Level 3 at the Main Entrance of University Hospital Geelong, Monday – Friday, 10am – 2.45pm.

SHOP ONLINE



Online gift options



\$35

A personal hygiene pack for at-risk youth

\$45

A sanitary pack for a new mother



\$49

An Andrew Love Cancer Centre Care Pack

\$150

A night's accommodation for a parent



monika berry





The team at **HR4Business** are proud supporters of the **Barwon Health Foundation**

HR4Business is locally owned and specialises in delivering Human Resource Management Solutions and Advice for Business.

- Outsourced HR Consulting Services
- Onsite HR Support
- HR Compliance and Payroll Auditing
- Modern Award Interpretation
- Essential document Packages including contracts of employment, policies, procedures, employee handbook, performance management guidelines, appraisal forms
- Mediation and Investigation Services
- Training and Development
- Performance Management Advice and Support
- Recruitment and Selection Services
- Industrial Relations Support, including management of matters such as unfair dismissal complaints
- Enterprise Agreement Preparation and Negotiation
- OHS and Workers Compensation Support
- Outplacement Services

Professional
Practical
Proactive

Contact us: 03 5222 6695
info@hr4business.com.au
www.hr4business.com.au
Level 1, Suite 3, 55 West Fyans Street,
Newtown