

The Gift.

Local giving. Local Impact.
Investing in healthcare excellence, close to home.

Barwon Health Foundation

24
YEARS OF
IMPACT

Pioneer

Every healthcare innovation starts with a question.

Impact

What's in a name?
A legacy that lives on forever.

Vision

A new chapter for local healthcare.

A new era of care
– Barwon Women's
and Children's



Barwon Health
Foundation



Barwon
Health

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We, Barwon Health Foundation, acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We thank the Traditional Owners for custodianship of the land and celebrate the continuing culture of the Wadawurrung people, acknowledging the memory of honourable ancestors.

Letter from Zoe



WELCOME TO THE GIFT 2026 - A NEW ERA OF CARE

This is a remarkable moment in time for our region – and a deeply meaningful one for the Barwon Health Foundation.

Across Geelong and the wider Barwon South West, something powerful continues: a proud tradition of a local community stepping forward, not only to support healthcare as it exists today, but to shape what will be possible for generations to come.

At the heart of this momentum is the Victorian Government's more than \$500 million investment to deliver the Barwon Women's and Children's – the largest investment in women's and children's healthcare our region has ever seen.

Through the generosity of our community, we are also helping to equip our clinicians with additional, critical care equipment. In emergency and intensive care settings, this investment means faster decision-making and greater precision. It is a powerful reminder that philanthropy strengthens care not only in moments of joy, but also in moments of crisis.

For patients and families, this means, choice and opportunity, locally – delivered here, in our own community. For clinicians and researchers, it means the ability to attract innovation, talent and discovery to our region.

Behind every gift is a deeply personal story. Within these pages, we share just a few of those stories. Each one is a reminder that philanthropy is not abstract, it is human, it is personal, and it is transformative.

The role of the Barwon Health Foundation is to stand alongside our community – to listen, to honour intent, and to partner with Barwon Health donors, clinicians and health leaders to turn generosity into lasting impact.

To every person who has stepped forward to invest in better healthcare close to home – and to those who will in the future – thank you. Your belief in this region, in our clinicians, and in the power of community generosity is shaping a future where quality care is available when it matters most. Together, we are creating something enduring: better health, stronger families, and a legacy of care that will serve our community for generations to come.

I hope you find a quiet moment to sit back and enjoy reading about the people who partner with us to create a healthier future for all.

Zoe Waters

Executive Director
 Barwon Health Foundation

“ I hope you find a quiet moment to sit back and enjoy reading about the people who partner with us to create a healthier future for all. ”

The Board

Together for better health.



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 Director



CLARE AMIES
 Director



GLENN KING
 Director



Members of the Barwon Health Foundation Team

Barwon Health Foundation

– our goals for 2026

The Barwon Health Foundation remains deeply committed to one clear purpose, supporting the health of our region. Inspiring our community to play a role in a healthier future for Greater Geelong by supporting the work of Barwon Health. All while honouring the trust and intentions of every donor who chooses to support us. In the year ahead, our priorities are centred on impact.

Our 2026 Goals at a Glance

Advancing women's and children's health

We will launch the Barwon Women's and Children's Appeal, complementing the Government's more than \$500 million investment and uniting our community to support exceptional care for women and children, now and into the future.

Investing in research, innovation and better health outcomes

We will fund innovative research and clinical trials that improve outcomes for patients and bring leading-edge treatments to the Barwon South West region – including the expansion of clinical trials for breast cancer and other priority areas of care.

Supporting health across every stage of life

We will support care across the full life journey – from birth through to end-of-life care – supporting patients, families and carers at every critical health milestone.

Enhancing comfort, dignity and the patient experience

We will invest in the small but important initiatives that make a meaningful difference to the patient experience, improving comfort and supporting wellbeing during times of care.

Strengthening critical care and life-saving capability

We will fund state-of-the-art medical equipment and technology, ensuring Barwon Health is ready to respond when every second counts and every decision matters.

Supporting our community to create a legacy

By working in partnership with our donors to create a personalised lasting legacy plan that will continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our region, forever.



With every initiative, every donation, and every community connection, the Barwon Health Foundation is turning vision into impact, supporting Barwon Health in delivering a healthier, stronger future for Greater Geelong.

Impact Snapshot

Working together to create impact

The Barwon Health Foundation supports Barwon Health to deliver better healthcare for our community.

Barwon Health provides exceptional clinical care, research and healthcare services across our region, while the Barwon Health Foundation exists to connect community generosity with the areas of greatest need and opportunity aligned with Barwon Health priorities.

Together we translate philanthropy into real-world impact – funding innovation, enhancing patient care, supporting our clinicians and investing in the future of healthcare close to home.



Barwon Health

2025 Impact



84,774

emergency department presentations



365,355

outpatient appointments



27,031

operations



102,480

inpatient admissions



5,447

telehealth consultations



9,442

staff members



2,916

babies born

Because of you...



Barwon Health Foundation



\$1.6M

committed to fund new clinical trials.



3,992

hours contributed by our volunteers



3,025

participants took part in vital clinical trial research.*



24

pieces of life-saving medical equipment purchased to support critical care departments.



Over 8,000

people joined a Barwon Health Foundation hosted event.



Over 740

music therapy sessions provided to infants, children and adolescents.



3,470

patient transport trips funded.



\$25,000

distributed via small grants to bring to life ideas that elevate patient care and experience.



200

nights of emergency patient stays.

*source: Barwon Health Research Report 2024-2025

Barwon Women's and Children's

The Barwon Women's and Children's is Geelong's largest-ever health infrastructure project - a more than \$500 million investment by the Victorian Government that will enhance care for women, children, and families across our region, for generations to come.

The Project

The Victorian Government is investing more than \$500 million to deliver the flagship Barwon Women's and Children's - the biggest ever health infrastructure project in Geelong. This includes a \$50 million contribution from the Commonwealth Government that will enhance care for women, children, and families across our region for generations to come.

The Barwon Women's and Children's is being built within the University Hospital

Geelong precinct and will provide a new children's inpatient unit, new neonatal and parent care unit, specialist clinics and more operating theatres.

Main works construction on the Barwon Women's and Children's got underway in 2025 and is expected to be complete in 2029.

The new Barwon Women's and Children's will integrate with existing University Hospital Geelong services and will deliver more capacity to meet increasing demand in the Barwon South West region.

The new facilities will provide more:

- maternity inpatient beds
- paediatric multi-day/same day inpatient beds
- special care nursery cots
- birthing suites
- operating theatres
- expanded paediatric and maternity specialist clinic facilities.



Artist impression of view from Myers Street



Artist impression of view from Bellerine Street

Impact at a glance

This once-in-a-generation project will create additional capacity to meet the needs of our growing community, including:



Expanded maternity and paediatric capacity.



Additional special-care nursery cots and paediatric beds for our youngest patients.



Innovative models of care that will keep mothers and babies together, even when additional levels of treatment are required.



New operating theatres, and with donor funding, the fit out of one theatre as a state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatre equipped for complex procedures and advanced surgical imaging.



Enhanced acute treatment spaces for women and children requiring specialised care (such as maternity, gynaecology and paediatrics).

A message from Barwon Health's Clinical Director

Every day, I witness the resilience of children, the courage of parents, and the extraordinary dedication of our clinicians. It is a privilege that reminds us why exceptional care must be available here at home, close to the people and communities who need it.



Associate Professor Dave Fuller Paediatrician and Clinical Director, Women's and Children's Directorate, Barwon Health

Thanks to the more than \$500 million investment by the Victorian Government, the new Barwon Women's and Children's will transform how we deliver care across our region. More than a modern building, it represents a shift in what is possible for women, newborns, infants and children. Purpose-built spaces, natural light, contemporary theatres, dedicated neonatal and paediatric hubs and family-centred rooms will all enhance safety, efficiency and compassion in the care we provide.

Importantly, this development will allow more families to receive specialist treatment locally. By expanding capacity, introducing new technologies and supporting more complex care, we will significantly reduce the need for families to travel to Melbourne - easing stress and keeping women and children close to their support networks.

The facility will also strengthen Geelong's future as a centre for research, innovation and clinical trials. Modern clinical environments attract leading specialists and enable collaboration with university and research partners, bringing new therapies and advancements directly to local patients.

This is a once-in-a-generation investment in local healthcare. It will support clinicians to do their best work, enhance outcomes for women, babies and children, and help build a healthier future for generations to come.

Philanthropic leadership will help shape the Barwon Women's and Children's as a truly exceptional centre of care.

Role of Philanthropy

Philanthropy has always been at the heart of Geelong's most extraordinary community achievements.

The Barwon Health Foundation has proudly committed to a multi-million dollar fundraising effort to complement this major government investment, funding the additional elements that will come to life only through philanthropic generosity, supporting areas such as:

Innovative Models of Care

Fit out of dedicated space where mothers and babies who both require critical care can remain together – rather than being separated across different wards, as is often the case today.

Hybrid Operating Theatre

Donor funding will enable the fit-out of one of the theatres as a Hybrid Theatre which is a highly specialised surgical suite – the first of its kind for Barwon Health – it involves integrating advanced imaging technology to support complex procedures. This facility will benefit patients across University Hospital Geelong and will be fully fitted out through philanthropy.

Equipment Fund

Investment in additional cutting-edge medical equipment to future-proof care for the next decade and beyond.

Child and Family Wellbeing Spaces

Calming, restorative environments that support play, comfort and emotional wellbeing for patients and families – recognising the vital role that environment plays in healing and recovery.

A message from the Barwon Women's and Children's Appeal Chair

Geelong is a community that continues to grow with remarkable energy, optimism and possibility. Families are choosing to build their lives here because this is a place where people look after one another – a place where opportunity, connection and care are woven into the fabric of who we are.

The new Barwon Women's and Children's represents the next chapter in this story of growth and community pride.

It is an opportunity to create a modern, welcoming and culturally safe environment where women, newborns and children receive exceptional care, close to home.

As Chair of this Appeal, I am continually inspired by the generosity and spirit of the people of this region.

Our community has a proud history of coming together to create extraordinary things, and this moment is no different.

Philanthropy is what will elevate this landmark investment in Geelong's health infrastructure.



*Catherine Middlemiss
Chair, Barwon Women's
and Children's Appeal*

Together, we can help enhance the patient experience, support new and innovative models of care and bring to life additional features and equipment - the elements that turn outstanding care into extraordinary care.

Join the Circle of Care

The Circle of Care is a community giving collective, designed to make philanthropy both meaningful and shared. It is not simply about making a gift - it is about coming together, combining our generosity, and creating an impact far greater than any one contribution alone.

Through the Circle of Care, our community is invited to be part of this historic moment - standing alongside the women, children and families who will rely on this care for generations to come.

It offers a simple and powerful way for individuals and families to be part of something enduring - an investment in the future of healthcare in our region, and a legacy of care that will be felt for generations.

Choose Your Circle

Ambassador Circle \$50,000+ over 5 years

Family Circle \$10,000 per year for 5 years

Innovation Circle \$5,000

Heart Circle \$2,500

Healing Circle \$1,000

Recognition

Your support will be acknowledged in meaningful and immediate ways:

- Recognition on the Circle of Care website
- A personalised digital tile to share with family and friends
- Inclusion in a dedicated digital Circle of Care installation within the new Barwon Women's and Children's
- This installation will be proudly displayed for 12 months following the official opening

Your Circle's Impact

Every contribution through the Circle of Care will directly support additional medical equipment, enhanced patient care environments, and innovation within the Barwon Women's and Children's.

Your place in the Circle is more than recognition - it is a commitment to the health and wellbeing of future generations.

Join the Circle of Care at
barwonhealthfoundation.org.au

Your generosity will complement the Victorian Government investment by:

Equipping this facility with additional advanced neonatal, paediatric, obstetric and gynaecological technologies

Create healing spaces that hold families with dignity, compassion and cultural safety

Support leading clinicians and future specialists to learn, grow and thrive

Keep more care local, reducing the emotional and financial burden of travelling to Melbourne

Enable research and clinical trials that bring cutting-edge care and innovation directly to our region

Ensure women, newborns and children receive exceptional care - today, tomorrow and for decades to come

All gifts pledged over \$50,000 before June 30, will be acknowledged live on stage at the Barwon Health Foundation Gala Ball at Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention & Events Centre on July 3.



From First Concern to Special Care

For any parent, having a baby is an intensely human experience – full of wonder, anticipation, and sometimes fear. Autonomy can be constantly tested, and having a trusted healthcare team to partner with is vital during this life-changing time.

At Barwon Health, families are supported from the very first moment something doesn't feel right, through to specialist care when it's needed most.

Serena Pellizzeri – Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) coordinator, Barwon Health Maternity Assessment Unit (MAU)

“The Maternity Assessment Unit (MAU) is one point of contact for women and birthing families. For some, a visit to MAU brings reassurance and peace of mind; for others, it's where urgent care begins.

Here, a team of skilled midwives and doctors ensures the right care is delivered at the right time. Rapid assessment and intervention – including life-saving ultrasounds – helps keep both pregnant women and babies safe. Each day, the MAU can see hundreds of families, reducing unnecessary hospital admissions while supporting safe discharge home.

For many in the Geelong community, the MAU helps people feel supported as well as treated. Families consistently express gratitude for the access and support this vital service provides, knowing someone is there to listen and act swiftly when it matters most.”

Arnie Krishnan – Nurse Unit Manager, Barwon Health Special Care Nursery

“Some journeys from the MAU lead to unexpected arrivals. Babies may be born earlier than planned or need additional support after birth. The Special Care Nursery (SCN) at Barwon Health is a Level 5 newborn service, caring for infants over 31 weeks gestation and 1250 grams.



Serena Pellizzeri and Arnie Krishnan

Specialist nurses and doctors provide intensive care tailored to the most vulnerable patients. Some babies require ventilation, CPAP, or High Flow Nasal Cannula Oxygen Therapy, while most need help gaining weight and regulating their temperature — always in close partnership with their parents.

In 2025, over 3,030 babies were born at Barwon Health, and more than 600 received care in SCN. While no parent expects to need this level of support, families report feeling safe, heard, and

truly cared for. The SCN team ensures parents are part of every step of their baby's journey, combining expertise with compassion to make even the most stressful moments manageable.”

Your support of the Barwon Health Foundation helps support the teams and services that protect and nurture Geelong's newest lives when it matters most.



Investing in Tomorrow

Every medical advancement once began as a small, untested idea. A question asked in a ward, a theory discussed over coffee, a clinician wondering if there might be a better way. What turns those moments of curiosity into progress is often one thing: the chance to begin.

This year, the Barwon Health Foundation is strengthening that first step by establishing a dedicated seed funding program to support local research and innovation. The initiative recognises that some of the most important discoveries start modestly and close to home.

Through the program, seven seed funding grants of \$20,000 will be awarded to emerging and established researchers working across Barwon Health.

These grants are designed to support the earliest phase of research: testing an idea, gathering preliminary data, and exploring

whether a concept has the potential to grow. For many projects, this initial support can make the difference between an idea remaining on paper and one that moves forward.

The new program was announced at the 2025 Barwon Health Research Symposium, where clinicians, researchers, and health professionals gathered to share their work and ideas. Since the symposium, research teams have begun shaping proposals, forming collaborations, and laying the groundwork for projects that may later attract larger competitive grants.

Seed funding plays a vital role in the research ecosystem. It bridges the gap between inspiration and evidence, giving researchers the time and resources to refine their approach and demonstrate early

impact. Without this early stage backing, many promising ideas never reach the point where they can be fully realised.

By launching this program, the Barwon Health Foundation is supporting local clinicians and acknowledging the power of research. Barwon Health will conduct a rigorous selection process to ensure funding is awarded to projects with strong potential, with successful recipients to be announced in the second half of 2026.

Supporting the Seed Funding Program is a way to actively contribute to the future of local healthcare, helping turn ideas into knowledge, and knowledge into improved health outcomes.

To learn more or make a contribution, contact the Barwon Health Foundation on 4215 8900 or email foundation@barwonhealth.org.au.

What's in a name.

The Legacies That Have Shaped Geelong Healthcare

A name can be much more than a word on a wall.

Across Barwon Health, names etched into buildings, wards and services quietly tell the story of our community – of the individuals and families whose generosity, leadership and vision helped shape the healthcare we rely on today.

These names are not simply acknowledgements of the past, they are reminders that modern care is built on foundations laid by those who came before us.

What's in a Name explores some of the people behind the names – the pioneers, philanthropists and community leaders whose contributions continue to influence how care is delivered across our region. Their legacy lives on in every patient supported, every clinician empowered and every family cared for within the walls that bear their names.

By honouring these stories, we recognise that the future of health care is inseparable from its past – and that today's impact is often made possible by yesterday's generosity.

Dr Mary De Garis. Trailblazer in Women's Health.

De Garis House honours Dr Mary De Garis, Geelong's first female doctor and obstetrician. After serving as a WWI surgeon, she returned to provide women with safe, expert care at a time when childbirth carried great risk. She advocated tirelessly for a new hospital maternity ward, ensuring antenatal and postnatal services for all women. From 1931 to 1941, she led the maternity ward, later serving as Honorary Consultant until 1959, overseeing more than 1,000 births without maternal death. Her legacy remains foundational, shaping compassionate care for women and children across Geelong today.



Mrs Patricia Heath. A Life of Service & Vision.

Mrs Patricia Heath OAM has devoted decades to nurturing Barwon Health's growth and culture. Beginning as a nurse, she became a tireless advocate, philanthropist, and volunteer leader. Joining Geelong Hospital's board in 1968, she guided its evolution into University Hospital Geelong, serving as Board Chair from 1979 to 2000. She has championed women's health, ensuring fundraising has supported female-focused services, and pioneered Barwon Health's volunteer program. Honoured through the Patricia Heath Wing, her influence continues to shape the hospital's culture of compassionate care. Her living leadership reminds us that dedication, foresight, and quiet determination can leave a lasting imprint on an entire community.

Percy & Hilda Baxter. Generations of Compassion.

John Percy Hamilton Baxter OBE was a devoted Geelong philanthropist whose generosity helped transform healthcare in the region. Born and raised in Geelong, Percy built a successful career in real estate and local business, remaining deeply committed to community welfare throughout his life. In 1942, he donated £6,000 to purchase land for a new healthcare development and secured funding for the construction of a maternity hospital, leading to the creation of Baxter House, which opened its doors in 1954. In 1949, Percy established the Percy Baxter Charitable Trust, a lasting philanthropic vehicle that has since funded countless initiatives focused on health, community wellbeing, and medical research throughout Victoria. Though he sought no fame in giving, Percy Baxter's name remains a lasting symbol of compassion and civic spirit across the region.



Ernestine & Catharine McKellar. Sisters Enduring Gift.

In 1944, sisters Ernestine and Catharine McKellar transformed care in Geelong by donating their Bell Park estate. Their gift honoured their late mother, Grace, and provided support for the city's elderly and most vulnerable residents. Their gift became Grace McKellar House in 1959, later evolving into the McKellar Centre. Over decades, the Centre has expanded from aged care to rehabilitation, palliative care, mental health, and early parenting support. The sisters' commitment to compassionate, practical care has endured for generations, showing how a single act of generosity can touch countless lives and strengthen the community for decades.



Dr Frederick "Doc" Wallace. Pioneer in Aged Care.

Dr Frederick Hilton "Doc" Wallace JP, OBE, helped shape Geelong's aged care with foresight and dedication. As Mayor during WWII and Chairman of the Old Folks Home Committee in 1944, he advocated for better support for older citizens, helping bring Grace McKellar House to life in 1959. As President of its management committee until 1971, he instilled a philosophy of dignity, respect, and community. Today, Wallace Lodge at the McKellar Centre honours his vision, providing quality aged care while reflecting his warmth and humility.



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Geelong's Most Generous

We're proud to introduce you to some of our community's true heroes. They gave their time, passion, hearts and voices to help improve the health of our region. In our eyes, that makes them some of Geelong's most generous.



Camp4Cancer volunteers

Camp4Cancer

The incredible team and volunteers behind Camp4Cancer are driven by heart and community spirit. In 2025, their inaugural Geelong event raised a phenomenal \$28,684.82 for Barwon Health's cancer services. Cancer has left its mark on many involved with Camp4Cancer, giving their efforts real meaning and purpose. It's a weekend of connection, fun, and shared support for people from all walks of life.

Firefighters Charity Fund

The Firefighters Charity Fund, run by Fire Rescue Victoria volunteers, has made a real difference for patients at Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre. In 2023 and 2025, their donations funded digital skylights in radiation therapy rooms, transforming stark ceilings into calming visuals. For those lying still through daily treatments, the skylights offer a brief escape and a moment of comfort, helping to lessen the anxiety that a clinical environment can sometimes bring.



Firefighters Charity Fund visits Andrew Love Cancer Centre

Geelong Cross Country Club

The Geelong Cross Country Club knows how to turn early mornings into something extraordinary. In 2025, their dedication helped raise \$22,000 for the Andrew Love Cancer Centre.

The Club saw an incredible turnout at their 2026 Half Marathon event in April, and are set on raising even more this year, continuing to turn that dedication and teamwork into tangible support for the Barwon Health Foundation, proving that running can truly change lives.



Geelong Cross Country Club



Shane Lowther and Trav Seabert

Shayne Lowther

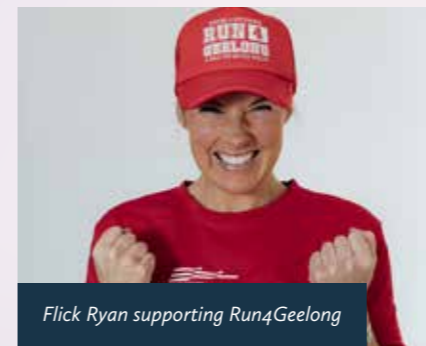
Local hero Shayne Lowther took on the 'Marathon for Music,' walking lap after lap of Lara's You Yangs from sunrise to sunset. His incredible effort raised over \$20,000 for Sharing Tulli's Smile, bringing music therapy to children and families at University Hospital Geelong. Every step was fuelled by heartfelt messages from patients, clinicians, and community supporters cheering him on. Shayne's determination helped create a harmony that reaches far beyond the finish line.

Rory Costelloe

Geelong business leader and Barwon Health Foundation Board Director, Rory Costelloe, continues to set the standard for community generosity through his participation in Dry July. In 2025, he was once again recognised as Dry July's number one individual fundraiser nationwide, raising vital funds for the Andrew Love Cancer Centre and cancer services. Over five years, Rory has personally raised more than \$216,000 by going dry each July, driven by the impact cancer has had on his own family.



Rory Costelloe



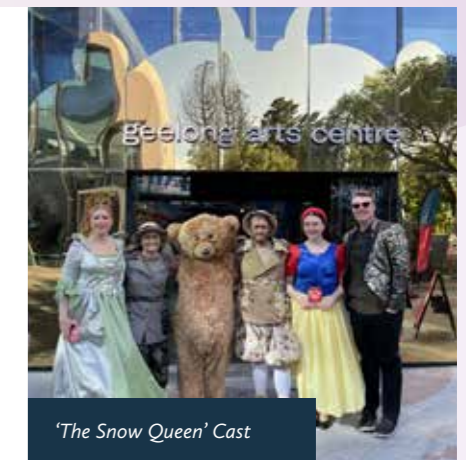
Flick Ryan supporting Run4Geelong

Flick PT

Flick Ryan, or as she's known to many – Flick PT, is one of the Bellarine Peninsula's most respected fitness trainers. Over the past two years, she has been a standout Run4Geelong community ambassador, activating her own network with energy, generosity, and heart. In 2025, FlickPT and Happy Hour Run Club became the second-largest team in the record-breaking event, showing the power of community in action. Flick has a gift for inspiring others, bringing people together, and using fitness as a force for good while supporting local healthcare along the way.

Medimime

Medimime's incredible 51-year legacy isn't just about putting on unforgettable pantomime performances, it's also about giving back. Over the years, the community theatre group has consistently supported Barwon Health, helping to fundraise over \$500,000 for essential equipment and services. In 2025 their stellar season of 'The Snow Queen' brought joy and laughter, while also making a real difference.



'The Snow Queen' Cast



Heather, Dry July Ambassador

Heather LA

Heather wears many hats in the wellness space as a mentor, pilates and yoga instructor but in 2025 she truly shone as a Barwon Health Foundation ambassador. Heather activated her community for both Dry July and Run4Geelong raising funds and gathering support for both causes. A highlight was Heather's Dry July Mat Pilates Fundraiser during July with over \$3,000 raised for the Andrew Love Cancer Centre and Cancer Services.



Libby Bate OAM

Libby Bate

Libby Bate OAM has devoted decades to transforming cancer care in Geelong. Recognised in the 2026 Australia Day Honours, Libby's leadership as President of Geelong's Cancer After Care Group has driven extraordinary outcomes, helping raise \$4 million for Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre. Her tireless advocacy, boundless energy, and unwavering compassion have ensured countless local patients receive vital care close to home. Libby's OAM is a fitting tribute to a life spent making Geelong healthier, stronger, and kinder.



Joanna and Rebekah

Honouring Rebekah Bainbridge

Rebekah “Bek” Bainbridge was many things to many people. To her two young boys, she was Mum. To her family, a daughter and sister who loved fiercely. To her friends, the one who danced, laughed and made space for others. And to the Barwon Health Foundation, she was a woman who chose to turn her own difficult journey into something that could help others.

After Bek was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2023, she and her sister Joanna connected with the Barwon Health Foundation. From the beginning, Bek was clear about what mattered to her. She wanted her experience to create awareness and change.

When she became a Foundation Ambassador, Bek did so with remarkable courage. Even while navigating treatment and uncertainty, she found space to advocate for better cancer care close to home. She spoke openly and generously, creating conversations that mattered and impact that will continue on.

Bek passed away on 10 January 2026, aged 44. Her memorial service at Pirra Homestead in Lara reflected who she was – grounded in nature, filled with love, gratitude and connection.

It was a day shaped by quiet moments and shared memories.

Throughout Bek’s illness, Joanna found her own way to support her sister. Fundraising became a form of love, a way to act when words weren’t enough. Through Barwon Health Foundation campaigns including the Ceres Life Love Tees, Dry July, Catwalk4Cancer and

cancer appeals, Joanna has honoured Bek with determination and heart, bringing people together in her name.

Legacy isn’t about time. It’s about resonance. Bek’s legacy lives in her children, her family, her friends, and in the care and generosity she helped grow within our local community.

At the close of her memorial, Bek’s own words were shared – written with her dear friend Cat in a quiet moment, intended not as a farewell, but as a powerful reminder:

“Someday is just a thought. It never gets any closer. I encourage you to do the things you want to do and leave your mark on the world now.”

And whenever you become complacent, remember Bek. Remember the precious gift you have been given to be here in this moment and cherish it.

Join Barwon Health Foundation Fundraisers as They Take on the New York City Marathon

For a small group of Barwon Health Foundation supporters, a lifelong dream is about to meet a powerful purpose.

In 2026 and 2027, local marathon fundraisers will take on the iconic TCS New York City Marathon – one of the world’s most sought-after races – while raising funds for Barwon Health. Each runner commits to an extraordinary 42-kilometre physical challenge and a minimum \$6,000 fundraising goal for a Barwon Health area close to their heart. While racing through the streets of New York, these fundraisers won’t just be ticking off a bucket-list goal, they will be making a lasting difference to local healthcare.

If you’re keen to take up a physical challenge in support of the Barwon Health Foundation expressions of interest are open at foundation@barwonhealth.org.au



With nearly 30 years in real estate, Joe Grgic has built a career marked by leadership, dedication, and community spirit. Director of Harcourts North Geelong and a familiar face at charity events and auctions, he is now taking on the ultimate challenge – the 2026 TCS New York City Marathon. “I want to push myself beyond what I thought possible and turn every step into something meaningful for Barwon Health,” Joe says.

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Because of You:

Eight Stories of Impact

Just a snapshot of some of the amazing initiatives your support helps us to fund

1

Volunteer Transport Program

At the Barwon Health Foundation, we know access to care begins with the journey. Last year, volunteer drivers supported nearly 400 trips each month, helping reduce missed appointments and keeping patients connected to vital care.

Thanks to funding from the Dry July Foundation, the Rotary Club of Geelong West and the Rotary Club of Geelong East, we have helped put another vehicle on the road and introduced new scheduling technology to improve efficiency. Together, these upgrades are expanding the reach of Barwon Health's Volunteer Transport Program, ensuring more people can access care, no matter their circumstance.



Volunteer Transport Program

2

Breast Cancer Clinical Trials

Thanks to a donation from an anonymous donor, together with our Love Tees collaboration with local fashion brand Ceres Life, the Foundation was able to make a \$1.65 million pledge towards an exciting innovation in breast cancer research.

Every person with a Love Tee or cap hanging in their wardrobe should feel incredibly proud - your support has powered this important initiative and is helping drive real progress.

This funding is enabling the development of a new research program, while also supporting additional collaborative breast cancer clinical trials - bringing us closer to better outcomes for local patients now and into the future.



Breast Cancer Clinical Trials

3

Infant Resuscitation Warmer

A newborn's first moments can change in an instant - and thanks to KidzFix, University Hospital Geelong is supported for those critical seconds. Their \$45,000 contribution has funded a specialised infant resuscitation warmer in the children's emergency area, giving babies immediate access to warmth and life-saving care when they need it most.

On their rally from Lithgow to Mallacoota, the KidzFix team stopped in at Barwon Health, bringing along a very excited special guest, Bluey.

This generous support strengthens care for our region's youngest patients when every second counts, giving families reassurance in their most critical moments.



This generous support strengthens care for our region's youngest patients.

4

Cancer Wellness Programs

Because of the incredible community members who take part in Dry July, Barwon Health Foundation is proud to continue to fund the full range of wellness programs at Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre. From art therapy and massage to oncology physiotherapy, healthy cooking, yoga, and meditation, these programs complement medical treatment and support patients and their families.

Dignity-based initiatives like the wig library and care packs provide comfort and choice. "Personally, I would like to say a massive thank you to the community and the Dry July Foundation. Their support is why we can support our patients, families and loved ones," says Wellness Lounge Assistant Shelley Neilson.



Cancer Wellness Programs



Cancer Wellness Programs

Eight Stories of Impact *continued*

5

Music Therapy for Sick Children

Thanks to the generosity of the community, Sharing Tulli's Smile Fund has reached a remarkable milestone. The music therapy program at Barwon Health is now full-time and weaves its magic across the Children's Ward, the Children's area of the Emergency Department and the Special Care Nursery.

What began in memory of Tulli Rose to support sick children has grown from weekly sessions into daily, permanent therapy, bringing comfort, joy, and distraction from painful treatments.

Designed to nurture emotional and physical wellbeing, the program is entirely funded through donations and fundraising, reflecting the power of community.

Through the vision and dedication of Tulli's parents, Bek and Travis Seabert, her legacy now fills every day with music, smiles, and hope.



Music Therapy

6

Equipment for Oncology Rehabilitation

Strength can be rebuilt, even in the midst of cancer treatment. We were proud to support Barwon Health's Oncology Rehabilitation Service by funding new leg press equipment - helping patients regain confidence and physical resilience. For patient Ash Dyer, access to the equipment has eased fatigue, lifted mood and strengthened recovery. Physiotherapist Sarah Huntly says it enables people of all abilities to safely build strength, improving function and quality of life.

Backed by strong evidence, exercise plays a vital role before, during and after treatment - supporting better outcomes for local cancer patients.



7

Dignity Therapy for Motor Neurone Disease patients

Living with motor neurone disease can make life feel out of control. Physical abilities change, communication becomes harder, and the future is uncertain.

What never changes is who a person is - their values, memories, and relationships. We are honoured to fund the introduction of Dignity Therapy at Barwon Health's Motor Neurone Disease clinic.

This gentle, guided program helps people reflect on their life, share what matters most, and create a written legacy for loved ones.

Beyond easing anxiety and emotional distress, it affirms identity, provides comfort to families, and ensures that even in uncertainty, every story is heard, valued, and remembered.

8

Rehabilitation Garden

At Barwon Health's McKellar Centre, a new rehabilitation garden will transform recovery into something restorative. Designed to support movement, independence and wellbeing, it offers patients a calm, natural space to rebuild strength and confidence, while providing moments of peace for families and staff.

This meaningful addition has been made possible through an extraordinary bequest from Leslie 'Les' Dawber, a man who valued community and gave quietly throughout his life. His generosity will live on in every step taken, every moment of rest, and every recovery supported. A lasting legacy, growing hope for generations to come.



Rehabilitation Garden

Proudly bringing the BHF brand to life.

Barwon Health Foundation creative partner since 2019.



A Night to Remember

On Friday 3 July 2026, Barwon Health Foundation, in partnership with City of Greater Geelong, will host a truly historic event - the first ever Gala Ball at the new Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre.

Set to be an unforgettable evening of glamour, generosity and Geelong pride, the black-tie celebration will officially open the landmark venue while bringing the community together for a cause that touches countless lives.

Proudly presented by the City of Greater Geelong, the Gala Ball will launch the Barwon Women's and Children's Appeal, supporting the single largest investment by government in health infrastructure in the region's history. Funds raised will help ensure women, babies and children can continue to access exceptional care close to home through Barwon Health.

This will be a distinctly Geelong event, showcasing the very best of the region. Guests will enjoy a premium dining experience curated by leading local chefs, alongside outstanding performances from Geelong artists and entertainers. Business leaders, philanthropists, health professionals and community champions will gather under one roof to celebrate both a new civic landmark and a shared commitment to better health outcomes.

This is a defining moment for Geelong - an opportunity to celebrate a city that believes in investing in its future while ensuring every family has access to high quality care.

With limited tables available, the Gala Ball is set to become one of the most anticipated events on Geelong's 2026 calendar - a spectacular night with lasting impact for generations to come.



General Manager - Nyaal Banyul, Rick Aylett, Executive Director - Barwon Health Foundation, Zoe Waters and Mayor Stretch Kontelj OAM

Visit barwonhealthfoundation.org.au for tickets and more information.

When Every Second Counts: The Impact of Our Critical Care Appeal

When we talk about critical care, we're talking about moments no one plans for.

Sudden chest pain, an unexpected collapse, a call that changes an ordinary day forever. That reality sat at the heart of the Barwon Health Foundation's Critical Care Appeal, and it's why the community response was so deeply moving.

Thanks to the generosity of our region, the 2025 Critical Care Appeal raised enough to fund \$213,943 of vital equipment for Barwon Health's Emergency Department, ICU, Cardiac Catheter Lab, and Operating Theatres. This equipment now supports clinicians when time and precision matter most.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Blood Warming Unit (4 needed) | \$8,000 |
| Defibrillation Unit (5 needed) | \$15,000 |
| Laryngoscopic Intubation Unit (5 needed) | \$19,625 |
| External Pacemaker (2 needed) | \$15,390 |
| Hyperthermia Unit (8 needed) | \$4,200 |
| Cardiac Output Monitor (2 needed) | \$56,666 |
| ECG Machine (2 needed) | \$14,400 |
| IV Trolley (2 needed) | \$1,126 |
| Portable Vital Signs Machines (2 needed) | \$7,200 |
| Patient Assessment Chairs (2 needed) | \$15,336 |
| Airway Management Endoscopy (1 needed) | \$57,000 |
| Total | \$213,943 |

Opinion: The Full Circle of Giving

By Zoe Waters

I want to share a story about one of the Barwon Health Foundation's most loyal and humble supporters. Out of respect for his privacy, I won't use his surname - but with his permission, I'm honoured to share his story.

Kevin made his first-ever donation to the Foundation on December 8, 2005 - a \$25 gift to support the Andrew Love Cancer Centre. Since then, Kevin has quietly and consistently contributed every year. His annual donations, often modest in size, have helped support services like cancer care and mental health. He's never asked for recognition. He simply gives - loyally, compassionately, and without fuss.

But this year, Kevin did something different.

After receiving our recent Critical Care Appeal in the mail - an appeal highlighting equipment needs in the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, and Cardiac Ward - Kevin decided to make a significant gift. He chose to fund the full purchase of a Hyperthermia Unit for University Hospital Geelong.

This is a critical piece of equipment used to treat malignant hyperthermia - a rare but potentially fatal reaction to certain anaesthetic agents - and in targeted temperature management in critically ill patients. It's a quiet hero in our ICU; not often spoken about, but absolutely lifesaving.

Kevin made this generous gift on June 26. I called him shortly after to thank him and to share the impact this would have on our ability to care for critically ill patients. His response was humble, as always - but full of warmth.

Three weeks later, I received another call from Kevin. This time, it was different.

He had just been discharged from University Hospital after suffering a sudden and serious heart attack.

He told me how it happened: he was sitting on the edge of his bed when he felt a horrible pain in his chest. He knew something was wrong. He called an ambulance, and within minutes he was in the hands of the Emergency Department team.

Kevin told me it was touch and go. He had to be resuscitated. It was a terrifying experience, and yet what he spoke of most was his gratitude - for the skill of the medical staff, the swift response, and the calm, steady care of the doctors and nurses, whom he credits with saving his life.

He told me how proud he felt when he was able to tell the nurses that he was the donor who had just purchased the Hyperthermia Unit, a piece of equipment that could, and likely did, help patients just like him.

This is the power of local giving.

It strengthens the services that support your neighbours, your family and sometimes, unexpectedly, even yourself.

When you give to Barwon Health, you're not just making a donation. You're building a safety net for your entire community.

And as Kevin's story shows, you never know when that net might catch you, too.

Events

In 2025, thousands of people across our region came together in many ways – running, dining, dressing up, going alcohol-free – all with one shared purpose: supporting Barwon Health.



Run4Geelong 2025

Run4Geelong

On Sunday 9 November 2025 Geelong's streets pulsed with pride, colour, and community spirit as a sea of red swept across the city for the sold-out 2025 City of Greater Geelong Run4Geelong, proudly presented by the Barwon Health Foundation.

In a record-breaking show of generosity, 6,750 participants raised more than \$323,000 to support Barwon Health. Funding that will directly enhance patient comfort and care,

cutting-edge medical equipment, research, and clinical trials across Barwon Health. Every dollar from every Run4Geelong registration directly supports Barwon Health, and each participant has the option to choose the department or Barwon Health service closest to their heart. We're so grateful to the City of Greater Geelong for their outstanding support as naming rights partner, and to our many sponsors, volunteers, and community champions who made this event possible. Run4Geelong is truly a day that celebrates the heart of our city.



The Forget-Me-Not-Ball Committee

Forget-Me-Not Ball

In August the Forget Me Not Ball brought Baz Luhrmann's Romeo + Juliet to life at 1915, North Geelong.

Thanks to the dedication of the incredible Forget Me Not committee, they've helped establish the Forget Me Not Geelong Dementia Fund at the Barwon Health Foundation - a fund that will support important dementia research projects at Barwon Health.

Barwon Health is a regional leader in dementia care for the Barwon South-West region and is driving research translation and projects across the local health service - with the alliance with Deakin University and collaborations both on national and international stages

With each fundraising ball, activity and initiative driven by the Forget Me Not committee, this fund will be grown and built up to support a significant and impactful Dementia research project. The dream is to contribute to a cure.

Each member of this committee has been personally touched by dementia in some way, and together they are an absolute powerhouse driving change, research and impact.

When our community shows up

Dry July

Over \$161,000 was raised for the Andrew Love Cancer Centre, thanks to 190 incredible participants from across our community who chose to spend July alcohol free.

In his final year as Dry July captain, Billy Brownless led Team Love to Australia's number one fundraising team for the fifth year, raising over \$91,000, with Rory Costelloe topping the nation individually with more than \$50,000.

These funds will help to support wellness therapies at Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer and Wellness Centre as well as equipment vital to the support of local cancer patients.



Dry July supporters



Geelong's Longest Lunch 2025

Geelong's Longest Lunch

Over 250 guests joined us at the beautiful Transvaal Square for the 2025 Geelong's Longest Lunch – presented by new naming rights partner Hamo Hospitality. An incredible \$65,000 was raised to support Barwon Health, including \$24,000 from the live auction alone. Guests enjoyed a four-course gourmet culinary experience plated by a brigade of local award-winning chefs who donated their time and expertise. It's truly an event where dining makes a difference.



The catwalk in action

Catwalk4Cancer

The highlight of August was undoubtedly our Ceres Life Catwalk4Cancer at the Geelong Arts Centre. A night where fashion, heart, and community spirit came together. Almost 300 guests united to support Barwon Health's cancer services and were captivated by stunning runway shows and performances by MC Gorgi Coghlan. It was announced on the night that funds raised will help power a landmark \$1.65 million investment in a transformational breast cancer research program right here at Barwon Health. This investment will enable Barwon Health's Cancer Services Trials Unit to activate pioneering clinical trials and research initiatives that aim to redefine breast cancer care across the Barwon South West region. This commitment will help deliver more personalised, compassionate and cutting-edge care for people diagnosed with breast cancer – close to home.



Gorgi Coghlan and Anna-Lee Robertson

With gratitude, from all of us

Every step, every gift, every act of support matters – your generosity means the world.

You are part of the heartbeat of our community. The people who show up, who care and who make things happen for the health and wellbeing of our region.

Because of you, 2026 is already shaping up to be full of impact and moments that will make a real difference. From lifesaving equipment to research, patient care, and vital programs, your support will continue to be felt in every corner of Barwon Health.

Thank you for being part of our story, our mission, and our community. We couldn't do this without you. There's still so much work to do and so much change we can create together.

2026 Dates

Here's a glance at what's ahead – save the dates for the moments we'll share together:

 **1-30 June**


DRY JULY **1-31 July**


 **3 July**


 **8 November**

Your kindness builds healthier tomorrows


Every act of generosity – big or small – helps shape a healthier future for our region. Here are just some of the many ways you can leave your mark and support the Barwon Health Foundation:


 **Donate**
Donations come in many forms and sizes. The donation of funds, property or shares are all tax deductible and can be dedicated to the area of Barwon Health that means the most to you.


 **Leave a bequest**
Planned gifts in your will can change the future of healthcare, leaving a lasting mark on generations to come.


 **Regular giving**
A simple monthly contribution provides ongoing support for patients and their families, helping comfort, care, and treatments reach those who need them most.


 **Workplace giving and partnerships**
Businesses can make a difference through payroll giving, sponsorships, or team initiatives, showing care for the community while building culture.

 **Establish a Family Fund**
Invested gifts that generate income in perpetuity for a chosen area of care.

 **Volunteer**
Every hour you give at our events, appeals, Barwon Gifts, or behind the scenes has power. It inspires, encourages, and makes a real difference

 **Fundraise your way**
Turn your passions into impact – whether it's a morning tea, fitness quest, or creative challenge, every dollar raised can help local healthcare.

 **Attend an event**
Our annual events are more than just a great time, they're an easy way to give back. Keep an eye on our social channels for ticket releases and event announcements

 **Tribute and memorial gifts**
Celebrate or remember loved ones by making a donation in their name, creating a legacy that truly matters.

 **Your legacy can start today.**



Stay Local. Stay Comfortable. Give Back.

Enjoy 10% off your stay at Quest Geelong Central and help support the important work of the Barwon Health Foundation.

Quest Geelong Central is Geelong's newest premium apartment style hotel, located just 800m's from Barwon Health's University Hospital Geelong. The hotel offers modern studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments, all designed for comfort & convenience in a central location.

Enjoy onsite secure carparking, a rooftop with complimentary BBQ's, yoga lawns and a fully equipped gym that offer stunning views overlooking Geelong and beyond. Accessible and pet friendly apartments are available.

Book directly with promo code: **BARWONHF26** and Quest Geelong Central will generously donate 10% of your booking to support Barwon Health Foundation.

TO BOOK:

W: www.questgeelongcentral.com.au
E: geelongcentral@questapartments.com.au
Ph: 03 5212 9100



Please contact the Barwon Health Foundation for any assistance you may need to plan your support in 2026
foundation@barwonhealth.org.au | 03 4215 8900.



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