

The Gift.

*Together with our
community*

Barwon Health Foundation
**23
YEARS OF
IMPACT**

Impact

Supporting healthcare
excellence for today
and tomorrow

Inspire

Meet passionate locals
making a difference

Ignite

Inspiring giving through
events, appeals and
philanthropy

Enhancing
healthcare close
to home



Barwon Health
Foundation



Barwon
Health

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Honouring those who embrace
our mission



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Letter from Zoe



WELCOME TO THE 2025 GIFT MAGAZINE – A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS!

It is with immense pride and excitement that I welcome you to the latest edition of our annual publication, *The Gift*. The pages of this special magazine offer a unique glimpse into the fundamental role Barwon Health Foundation plays in enhancing the health and wellbeing of all those living within our community.

As we reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the profound impact that philanthropy continues to have on our region, touching lives in ways that words can hardly capture.

Philanthropy, at its core, is more than just financial support; it embodies trust, commitment and a shared vision for a healthier future. Every donation we receive, no matter its size, is a symbol of hope and a belief in the transformative power of public healthcare.

In 2024, we witnessed extraordinary progress across Barwon Health's services, research and patient care, along with the significant strides in advancing excellence, ensuring that our community, has access to the very best possible care, now and for generations to come.

These pages are filled with experiences of impact – real life stories made possible because of you, our supporters.

To our generous village of donors, to the grateful patients who choose to give back, trusts and foundations that believe in our mission, to those who make the decision to leave gifts in their wills, and

to the countless individuals who organise or attend our fundraisers and events – I extend my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

We are continually inspired by the remarkable people we meet across the Greater Geelong region. Your collective support and passion empower us to play our vital role in investing in Barwon Health's healthcare excellence.

On behalf of the Barwon Health Foundation Board and our incredible team, thank you for another powerful year. I can't wait to see what we can achieve together in 2025.

I hope you find inspiration in the faces, stories, and profound impact that fill the pages of *The Gift* 2025, as we continue our shared journey towards a healthier future for all.

Zoe Waters

Executive Director
Barwon Health Foundation

Meet the Team

“Together with our community, we invest in the life-enhancing work of Barwon Health, supporting excellence and the above and beyond healthcare needed for today and tomorrow.”



TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

DANNI FLOWERS

Events & Community Manager

MADDIE LAIDLAW

Events Coordinator

BOTTOM ROW

JEMMA RYAN

Grants Manager

FRANCIS TRAINOR

Philanthropy and Bequests Manager

SHERI STEENHUIS

Administration & Finance Lead

SHERRYN BENNETT

Relationship & Communications Manager

HAYLEY JOHNSTON

Commercial Fundraising & Internal Events Manager

ZOE WATERS

Executive Director

ELISE GIBSON

Corporate Partnerships Manager

STEPH O'DOWD

Digital Fundraising Lead

Your Health. Your Foundation.

Together for better health, closer to home.

The Barwon Health Foundation is an independent charity, guided by a devoted and passionate Board of Directors who are resolute in their focus on advancing the health of Greater Geelong and upholding the wishes of all donors.

The Foundation's mission is to inspire our community to invest in a healthier future by supporting the vital work of Barwon Health, while providing the comfort and care needed for today's challenges and tomorrow's possibilities.

Together with our supporters, we invest in excellence in medical services, facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, education and research to advance health and wellbeing for all.

Founded in 2002, the Foundation was created to assist Barwon Health in achieving world class health standards by driving fundraising and inspiring philanthropy.

Our Foundation is unique. We are one charity, with many focuses.

We are committed to supporting all stages of life, from birth through to death, and all health milestones in-between.

Our fundraising efforts support a wide array of health needs, including cancer care and aged care, mental health and paediatric health, motor neurone disease, dementia, cardiology, palliative care, maternity – and the list goes on.

Barwon Health stands as one of Australia's largest and most comprehensive regional health services, offering care in every circumstance.

Just like Barwon Health, our Foundation is here for you, when you need it most.



Barwon Health Special Care Nursery staff caring for our tiniest patients.

Barwon Health Foundation focuses its efforts on driving the following key objectives.

- Raising funds for cutting edge medical equipment and facilities.
- Enhancing patient comfort and care.
- Supporting medical research and clinical trials and ensuring the brightest minds in research are nurtured and supported.
- Driving vital capital campaigns to sustain healthcare excellence for our community.
- Supporting the wellbeing of our healthcare workers.



Barwon
Health

2024 Impact

77,037

emergency department
presentations



304,569

outpatient
appointments



25,909

operations



91,429

inpatient
admissions



2,754

babies born



9,373

staff members



Barwon Health
Foundation

Because of you...

\$291,000

invested into
medical research.



2880 hours

contributed by
our volunteers.



\$351,000

funded cutting edge
medical equipment to
support world-class
healthcare close to
home.



225

volunteers
engaged.



Over 5,000

people attended a Barwon
Health Foundation hosted
event.

\$2 million

to improve dental care
for Geelong's northern
suburbs.



166
clinical
trials

conducted out of or supported by
Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre.

Over 300

music therapy
sessions provided to
infants, children and
adolescents.



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Community

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World-Class Research for World-Class Care

“A world-class health service requires a world-class research program”.

As a proudly research-active health service, Barwon Health recognises that in addition to contributing to discoveries with a long-term impact on public health, research also has more immediate benefits of improving the quality of patient care and attracting a skilled and capable health workforce.

Research impact

Barwon Health researchers published 612 peer-reviewed papers last year, a fantastic achievement. Each represents hundreds, if not thousands of hours of collective endeavour. Whether it is a new strategy for tackling nicotine addiction or a co-designed approach to eliminating restrictive practices in mental health services, our scientific papers attest to the diversity of our research and teamwork.

We led papers on improved shared decision-making in end-of-life care and proposed creative strategies to prevent Buruli ulcer. We generated exciting evidence regarding a Mediterranean-based dietary intervention in irritable bowel syndrome, inflammation and perinatal depression, and the safety and immunogenicity of new vaccines for older Australians. We reported on new diagnostic assays and highlighted the opportunities to reduce emissions in our renewably powered health service.



*By Prof Peter Vuillermin,
Guest Columnist.*



Costa family members alongside Barwon Health and Foundation team members.



“Barwon Health Foundation is critical in partnering with donors to support research at Barwon Health.”

The role of philanthropy in local research

Philanthropic support provides the equipment, project funding and scholarships critical to delivering world-leading research at Barwon Health. The Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre, the overarching system and infrastructure for conducting and reporting clinical trials at Barwon Health, is a testament to the very real impact of philanthropy on our health service and the community's health.

Barwon Health Foundation and its donors have long played a critical enabling role in our research program. The Barwon Infant Study (BIS) is a compelling case in point. In 2010, the Our Women's Our Children's group supported the purchase of minus 80-degree freezers to establish the BIS Biobank. The Gandel Foundation then supported purchasing the 'BIS Bus', critical to completing the BIS Primary School Review. The Perpetual Foundation, Gwenyth Raymond Trust and Trengrove Family then supported BIS researchers doing world-leading work on BIS data and biosamples. The BIS team has leveraged these vital contributions to secure over \$10M in nationally competitive funding, train more than 20 PhD students, and produce more than 90 peer-reviewed scientific papers, impacting government policy internationally and generating discoveries leading to internationally impactful clinical trials, such as the ARROW, the largest clinical trial that BH has ever led. The story of BIS highlights the critical importance of philanthropic support in establishing and maintaining world-leading research programs.

This year, with support from Barwon Health Foundation and Percy Baxter Charitable Trust, we launched the Clinician Scientist Pathway (CSP) and awarded our first scholarship to Catherine Williams, oncology physiotherapist. The Pathway is an innovative model that enables allied health, nursing, midwifery, and medical clinicians to combine a PhD program with their clinical roles. The CSP will have a transformative impact by creating a sustained focus for research with the candidate's clinical department to enable large-scale, practice-changing research. In time, the CSP graduates will become our future research leaders.

The future

Looking ahead, the generosity and hard work of those involved in the Forget Me Not Ball means that vital dementia research at Barwon Health will receive an exciting and significant boost this year.

Competitive seed funding opportunities are impactful because they foster a culture of thinking big and purposefully about future research. The Research Directorate can coordinate this process to ensure it is engaging, transparent, and judged by experts. The guidelines for seed funding opportunities promote novel ideas, partnering with consumers, and feasible plans likely to leverage subsequent nationally competitive research funding required to deliver genuinely world-class research. The cultural benefit of well-designed seed funding programs go far beyond the individual projects supported.

Similarly, creating scholarship opportunities, such as the Clinician Scientist Pathway, encourages and enables our teams and early-career people to be ambitious and to develop ideas for programs of research that will take years rather than months and deliver outcomes that improve patient care not just in the Barwon region but worldwide. The combination of seed funds and early-career scholarships will be transformational.

Barwon Health's continued investment in research, and the support of Barwon Health Foundation, is critical in achieving our vision of creating change through outstanding research and improving health outcomes for our community. Thank you for being a part of it.

Professor Peter Vuillermin

Clinical Director of Research, Barwon Health.

Equipment library provides crucial support for those living with *'The Beast'*

Motor Neurone Disease (MND), or 'The Beast' as it's widely known, is a progressive disease where the nerve cells controlling the muscles that allow us to move, speak, swallow and breathe fail to work normally and eventually die. Without any remaining muscle function or strength, MND patients become immobile, mute, and confined within their previously active bodies. In the majority, the mind and intellect are left intact.

Devastatingly, right now there is no known cure for MND.

Barwon Health's specialist MND Clinic located at the McKellar Centre cares for over 100 MND patients each year and is led by a team of incredible, caring experts across many fields, including passionate specialist care coordinators, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, speech pathologists, social workers and rehabilitation consultants.

The Barwon Health Foundation was thrilled to fund a dedicated MND equipment library for the Clinic to support those living with the disease locally.

The Clinic shares the Foundation's vision that every Australian living with the disease should get the support they need, when they need it most, and the funding of this equipment library has taken patients in regional Victoria a step closer to realising this vision.

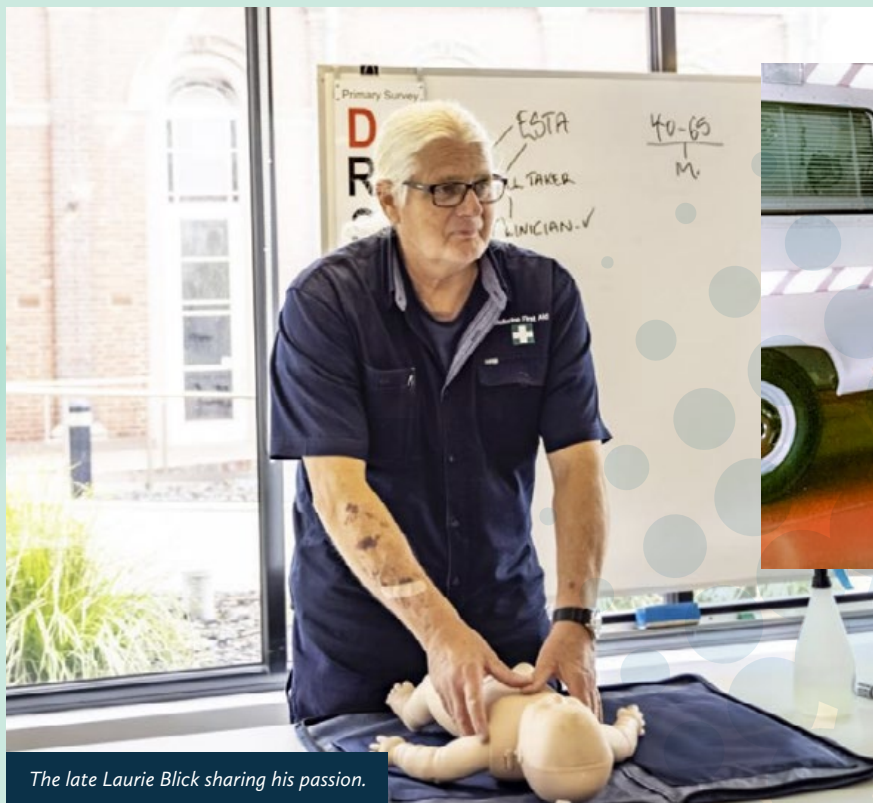
In many cases, offering MND patients the opportunity to try and borrow essential aids supports their independence, allows them to stay at home longer, delays the difficult transition to advanced or palliative care, and enhances their overall quality of life.



MND Clinic Speech Pathologist Emma Smith, said the equipment bank is an invaluable resource. "Whilst we can talk about the various features and benefits, there is nothing like seeing and using technology like voice amplifiers, eye gaze devices and a wireless head mouse in the clinic. In the same way you wouldn't buy a set of golf clubs, reading glasses, a bed mattress or a car without a trial – you wouldn't purchase a device which allows you to communicate all of your needs and wants without trying it first. We are so appreciative of the Foundation's work to secure the funding. It has ensured our clients have comprehensive access to the most up-to-date technology," she said.

Patient Ron Wiley who is currently lending a voice amplifier said, **"The amplifier is making it much easier to talk for longer. It's a great innovation. It's had a great impact on everyone, not just me. I can sit here without struggling to talk. People also talk to me more because they know it's not such an effort to get my message across. It's making a hell of a difference, it's brilliant,"** he said.

There is always a need to expand the MND Equipment Library so if you would like to contribute towards or fund a vital piece of equipment, please contact Jemma Ryan, Foundation Grants Manager, on 4215 8900 or email jemma.ryan@barwonhealth.org.au.



The late Laurie Blick sharing his passion.



A lifesaving legacy

Leaving a legacy is more than just being remembered. It's about making your own mark and, in turn, creating a lasting impact on the world around you.

Laurie Blick was a special Greater Geelong local whose legacy is destined to have a positive impact on the cherished community he proudly called home.

Laurie just loved people. He loved being with them. He loved learning about their stories and he particularly loved helping them.

It was this love of helping that inspired Laurie to become an ambulance officer and later a qualified paramedic.

For 30 plus years, Laurie saved lives. It was a role he was proud of, a role he loved dearly.

Two hip replacements saw his beloved paramedic career sadly come to an end, but this did not stop him from persisting with his life calling of saving lives.

He simply found a new way.

Laurie founded Bellarine First Aid, a specialist and certified training provider servicing the region, and through his own small business, he shared his skills and knowledge to teach others how to save lives through CPR and First Aid.

Saving lives wasn't just Laurie's vocation. It was his gift to those around him.

Generously in life, and in death, Laurie continues this incredible calling after leaving a gift to the Barwon Health Foundation in his will.

Laurie's gift was a tribute to his late mother Bernice, who passed away in 1988 when he was just 30. This loss had a huge impact on the way he lived life and he wanted his

money to support Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre, the local facility that cared so greatly for his mother.

Laurie's nephew Tom Blick said, "We always knew Laurie was generous and might leave some money to charity, but when we saw the amount, we were genuinely happy and so proud of his generosity. He's left behind a truly lifesaving legacy."

What legacy would you like to leave?

To learn how a gift in your will can leave a lasting legacy, please contact Francis Trainor, Barwon Health Foundation Bequest and Philanthropy Manager, for a confidential discussion on 03 4215 8900 or francis.trainor@barwonhealth.org.au

Super Heroes

Introducing some of our community superstars who played a crucial role in enhancing the health and wellbeing of our region...



Nigel Rendell

Nigel is an undeniable legend of Run4Geelong. For two consecutive years, he has reigned as the fun run's top fundraiser, generating over \$45,000 in support of Barwon Health cancer services. Nigel was diagnosed with rare Mantle Cell cancer in 2023 and is one of the youngest Australian's to face this diagnosis. Nigel has received 100% of his treatment here in Geelong and is driven to share the importance of having access to local world-class treatment and care for cancer patients like himself.



Geelong Building & Construction Industry

Five years of unwavering support, countless lives touched. The Geelong Building and Construction Industry came together once again at their annual Night of Nights event, raising nearly \$100,000 to help fund life-changing equipment for little ones at University Hospital Geelong. The industry continues to show incredible passion and enthusiasm for supporting local sick children and their families.



Medimime Productions

2024 marked 50 years of Medimime and was celebrated with an enchanting production of *Snow White*. The volunteer theatre company has brought much joy to audiences through its pantomime performances, while raising an amazing \$600,000 for Barwon Health. That's 50 years of theatre and charity and bringing people from across the hospital and community together.

Nicole Riddle

"Give Love" was the mantra of our Ceres Life X Barwon Health Foundation Love t-shirt \$20,000 fundraiser, and Nicole Riddle really lives and breathes the motto. She was a pivotal ambassador and driving force behind the successful sold out charity t-shirt collaboration, after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2024. Nicole also generously shared her story at the Foundation's Catwalk4Cancer evening and rallied the third highest fundraising team for Run4Geelong. She's certainly powered by love.



Renee Garing

Renee is a long-term Barwon Health Foundation friend and champion. In 2024 alone, she volunteered her time continuously - supporting Run4Geelong, Catwalk4Cancer, Sharing Tulli's Smile, the Ceres Life love t-shirt collaboration and much more. A former Cats AFLW player, school teacher and now mother of two, Renee continues to give selflessly to support the health of our community time and again. So special.



Stefi Kerby

Stefi is the powerhouse behind popular lifestyle brand, Celia Loves, an incredible supporter of the Barwon Health Foundation. For the second consecutive year, Stefi joined the Foundation's Dry July team, raising funds to support Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and cancer services. In those two years, Stefi raised an incredible \$20,000 in memory of her beloved dad Stephen, who passed away after a battle with melanoma. Stefi is unwavering in her goal to give back and raise awareness of the amazing care that Barwon Health provides.



Pete Williamson

Year-on-year Pete rallies the local basketball and sporting community to throw its support behind our Dry July campaign. As the driving force behind the 'Hoop City Ballers' Dry July team, he helps organise a highly successful annual fundraising shootout. Pete's dedication plays a crucial role in improving the comfort, care, and wellbeing of local cancer patients.



Mick Anic

In the past 30 plus years, Mick Anic has only shaved his moustache off once or twice - it's his signature look! Yet this year, Mick was inspired to hold a fundraising mo' shave to show his appreciation for the wonderful care he received as a patient of University Hospital Geelong's Cardiology department. His fresh face fundraiser resulted in over \$6,500 raised for cardiology services at Barwon Health.



Sharing Tulli's Smile

Bek and Trav Seabert's dream is to see a permanent Music Therapy Program established at Barwon Health. Most people are surprised when they learn that University Hospital Geelong's music therapy program is 100% funded by philanthropy driven by the Seabert's special Sharing Tulli's Smile Fund. The program was inspired by the Seabert's daughter Tulli who passed away, aged eight. Hospital music therapy carries much power and impact for patients and their families, and the Seabert's continue to grow the incredible program across the Children's Ward, Special Care Nursery and Children's Emergency.



Geelong Cross Country Club

Geelong Cross Country Club has been a steadfast supporter of Geelong's local health service. Through its annual half marathon event, they have raised vital funds to support Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and cancer services, Mental Health services and the Sharing Tulli's Smile Music Therapy program. In 2024 alone, they generated a record-breaking \$25,000!



Geelong Holden FX-HZ Holden Car Club

Holden enthusiasts with a strong sense of community continue to demonstrate their commitment to improving local healthcare. 2024 saw the Geelong Holden FX - HZ Holden Car Club donate over \$8,000 to fund a new ECG machine for the Andrew Love Cancer Centre. This follows their previous generous contribution of \$13,000 for two patient treatment chairs for radiotherapy patients, made in memory of their long-time member Laurie, who tragically lost his battle with cancer.



Healthier futures for Geelong's North

In September 2024, Lara buzzed with excitement as the community came together for an exciting auction day to celebrate the sale of the House4Health property.

Auction day was the Foundation's largest ever fundraiser in its proud 22-year history.

The proceeds of the auction directly supported Barwon Health Foundation's Project North Appeal, an appeal to ensure Geelong's North has access to the very best dental care.

Opening in May 2024, the Barwon Health North Dental Facility has enhanced dental care for people of the North and was made possible by the multi-million contribution from the Foundation's Project North Appeal



Dan Simmonds, Chair of Barwon Health Foundation, along with Matthew Wade-Taylor, Ray White Lara and the lucky new home owners.

Two monumental milestones were achieved in 2024 with the grand unveiling of the Barwon Health North Dental Facility and the successful sale of the House4Health, marking the pinnacle of two ambitious and game-changing projects.

and investment by the Victorian State Government.

Located in Norlane, the nine-chair facility provides improved oral services and since opening it has treated an average of 140 more patients per month compared to the old facility.

Zoe Waters, Barwon Health Foundation Executive Director, said the facility is a prime example of the value of philanthropy and how it can help important health projects for the community to be established.

"We are incredibly grateful to every single person who supported Project North and the creation of the House4Health property. The wave of generosity—from community groups, local businesses, trades,

services, trusts and foundations, to individual donors—has been truly heart warming."

She continued, "We've said it all along, Project North and House4Health were more than just an appeal and a home. They were fundraisers that will leave a positive impact on the health of Geelong's North now and well in to the future."



Richard and Lino Bisinella, Jo Boothroyd, Matthew Wade-Taylor, Josh Liston and Dan Simmonds.

Proudly bringing the BHF brand to life.

Barwon Health Foundation creative partner since 2019.



**Paul Kelly
Creative.**

A world first breakthrough study brings new hope

Thanks to philanthropic support, Barwon Health Infectious Diseases Unit has launched a world-first clinical trial testing the effectiveness of a new antibiotic, Telacebec, in treating Buruli ulcer. The trial aims to enhance care for Buruli ulcer patients and reduce their treatment duration by half.



Associate Prof Daniel O'Brien with patient Geoffrey Mutton.

Buruli ulcer is a skin disease caused by bacterium, *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, and is rising in cases across the suburbs of Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula, and the Surf Coast. The toxins made by the bacteria destroy skin cells, small blood vessels and fat under the skin, leading to ulceration, skin loss and longstanding issues for those who unfortunately contract it.

The trailblazing trial is being conducted at Barwon Health's Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre (ACCTC), which was originally funded by an incredible donation from Geelong's Costa family, in partnership with the Barwon Health Foundation.

The Foundation lobbied for support for the ground-breaking research and was successful in securing funding to purchase equipment central to the success of the study.

Bree Sarah, ACCTC's Research Operation Manager said, "It is extremely important for our community to have access to clinical trials in Geelong. At the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre, we have over 160 trials open to make sure our patients have new treatment options and equitable access to trials close to home."

One patient keen to see the trial succeed is Queenscliff local Geoffrey Mutton. "From a tiny wound that looked like an insect bite, to a large 50 cent coin-sized wound in just a couple of weeks, seven weeks of antibiotics and acute inflammation in my foot, I was totally unprepared for the debilitating and painful effects of having a Buruli ulcer. Anything that speeds up the healing process would be welcomed by patients like me," he said.

Associate Professor Daniel O'Brien, Barwon Health Infectious Diseases Director, said his team is thrilled to have 40 participants taking part in stage one of the Buruli ulcer trial, but there is still much work to do. "Significant research investment is still required as this neglected and severe disease continues to grow in prevalence in our region. Together, we have the ability to reduce impact of this disease within our region, nationally and globally."

Please contact the Barwon Health Foundation if you would be interested in supporting Buruli ulcer research – foundation@barwonhealth.org.au.

The giving effect.

Every time you give to the Barwon Health Foundation, the ripple effects of your generosity are felt across the health service and the health of the community.

Every single act of giving, no matter how big or small, creates impact right here and for those you love. Here's a small glimpse into the difference that philanthropy and your generosity made to local healthcare in 2024...

Yoga for mental health

The Pandemic saw a significant increase in eating disorder patients across the region with referrals to the health service increasing. The Barwon Health Foundation supports young local eating disorder patients by funding therapeutic yoga as a complementary care to eating disorder recovery. The program is part of a collaborative research project by Barwon Health and Deakin University to examine how yoga may complement current treatment to improve outcomes for patients. Associate Professor Melissa O'Shea, Deakin University Director of Clinical Psychology Programs and Partnerships said, "So far the program is showing promise for our young people in improving body awareness, improved self-compassion and body image and positive changes in cognition and mood."



Yoga for Mental Health sessions.



Cancer Clinical Trials team members.

ECG equipment for cancer clinical trials

Electrocardiograms (ECGs) are crucial for the safety of Barwon Health's cancer clinical trial patients and with support from the community and Geelong Cross Country Club, the Foundation helped fund a new ECG machine for Andrew Love Cancer Centre. Chiara Bortolaschi, Barwon Health's Cancer Clinical Trials Manager said, "Having a dedicated ECG machine within the trials clinic rooms helps our team perform cardiac monitoring on patients enrolled in clinical trials to make sure study drugs are not detrimental to their cardiovascular system."

CPAP machines for ICU

Christmas generosity and support of our Wish Upon A Star Appeal from the community and Geelong's Building and Construction Industry made it possible to contribute five paediatric nasal CPAP ventilators to Barwon Health's Intensive Care Unit. These ventilators are critical in saving precious seconds and minutes in response time when providing lifesaving assistance to babies and children experiencing respiratory distress.

The Industry raised nearly \$100,000 at its annual Night of Nights event and has shown unwavering support for sick local children and babies for the past five years.



Wish Upon A Star Appeal ambassadors, The Duggal twins.



The BIS bus.

Barwon Infant Study (BIS)

This major birth cohort study has been running since 2010 led by Barwon Health in collaboration with Deakin University and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. The Barwon Health Foundation provides significant funding to the study each year that aims to support the research and ultimately improve the health of children.

1074 Barwon families have participated in BIS, with more than 150,000 variables collected per participant. The team anticipates publishing their 100th BIS paper this year, impacting public health and policy in Australia and internationally.

Anopress for Specialist Clinics

Women's health received support in 2024 with the Foundation philanthropy funding a \$14,500 Anopress for Barwon Health's Obstetric and Gynaecology specialist clinic. The Anopress is an innovative portable device designed to improve the accuracy and ease of anorectal testing compared to traditional methods.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Contouring for Radiation Oncology

Enhanced technology will be introduced to Barwon Health cancer services thanks to nearly \$30,000 in funding from the community. 2024 saw the Radiation Oncology team complete a three month trial utilising AI contouring implementation in radiation oncology practice. Ken Wan, Barwon Health's Chief Radiation Therapist said the trial aimed to improve efficiency and accuracy by replacing the manual contouring with AI-assisted contours. The result showed a 50 per cent improvement in efficiency. He said "The AI software serves as an exciting, cutting-edge tool that assists our processes, it does not replace clinician oversight."

Investing in excellence, comfort and care

The Barwon Health Foundation is dedicated to empowering the lifesaving and life-changing work of Barwon Health, supporting every aspect of the organisation's mission to provide best care for every person, every day.

As a Foundation, we are in awe of the unwavering compassion, comfort and care provided daily by every member of the Barwon Health team – from nurses and surgeons to researchers, support staff and administrators – each play a vital role in transforming lives.

To amplify the support we offer and further invest in the excellence happening across all corners of the health service, the Foundation proudly oversees a grants initiative.

Barwon Health Foundation grants were established to strategically invest in the equipment, care and projects of greatest

priority and needs across Barwon Health, the needs that fall outside of major campaigns and appeals.

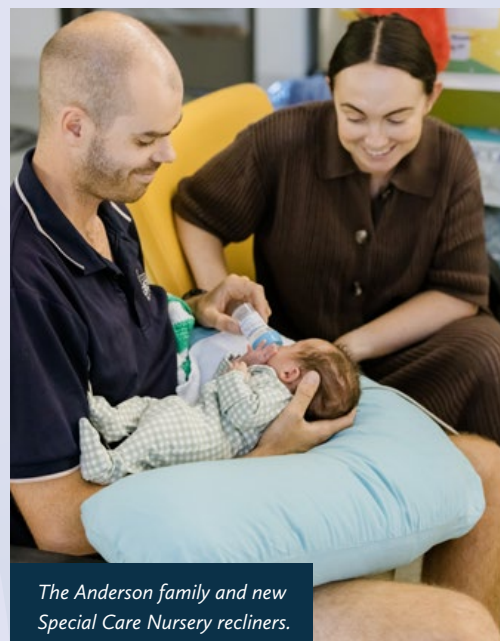
Staff across Barwon Health have the opportunity to pitch for grant funding for smaller projects, research and equipment that will directly deliver benefits to the health service, and in turn the community.

Currently these grants are offered for opportunities under \$5,000 and are assessed by the Foundation grants committee on a monthly basis.

Jemma Ryan, Barwon Health Foundation Grants Manager said, "By funding targeted projects, these grants can empower healthcare professionals, foster community well-being, and contribute to the advancement of healthcare, delivering positive change."



Children's ward distraction items.



The Anderson family and new Special Care Nursery recliners.

A snapshot of 2024 grant funding:

- Recliner for Special Care Nurse
- Distraction items for Eating Disorder patients
- Crisis clothing for Social Work
- Training mannequin for the Children's Ward
- Peer group activities for the Swanston Centre
- Play therapy toys for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Barwon Health staff are encouraged to visit Barwon Health Foundation's One Point site for updates on the small grants process.



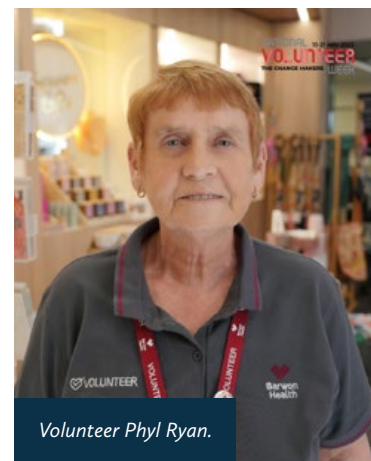
Poppy the therapy dog.

Poppy

Meet Poppy, Barwon Health's newest team member. Poppy has officially joined the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Service team, and thanks to a Foundation grant, she's on her way to being professionally trained to become a qualified therapy dog! Research shows that therapy dogs like Poppy are paws-itively amazing at boosting mental health, easing anxiety, depression, and stress. With her comforting presence and the joy of petting her, Poppy helps patients relax and makes it easier for them to connect with their therapists.



Barwon Gifts volunteers.



Volunteer Phyl Ryan.



The Auswide Plumbing team.

The heartbeat of our community

*“Those who can do, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer.”*

The commitment of our volunteers is the lifeblood of everything we do.

Their energy, dedication, and passion are key to ensuring we continue to make a significant impact on healthcare in the Greater Geelong region. We are lucky to be able to witness the remarkable power of volunteering and how these selfless individuals help shape the future of our community's public health service.

Volunteering is more than just helping – it's about impact.

Volunteers help fundraise, assist at events, and even connect with the broader community to raise awareness about the importance of philanthropy in healthcare.

Quite literally, every hour of an individual's time and knowledge, enables us to invest in research, improve patient care, and provide cutting-edge treatments that wouldn't be possible without community support.

For many volunteers, this commitment is deeply personal. “I started volunteering because I wanted to give back to a community that supported me during a tough time,” shares Phyl Ryan, a long-time volunteer in our hospital gift shop.

“What I didn't expect was how much it would enrich my life. Every volunteer shift is a chance to meet amazing people, learn new things, and help make a real difference in people's lives.”

Join Us: Make Your Mark

As we look toward the year ahead, Barwon Health Foundation is committed to continuing to grow our volunteer program. Every individual can make an impact, no matter their background or experience.

Get involved today!

We are currently looking for volunteers to apply for an array of roles. For more information on how you can volunteer, please visit www.barwonhealthfoundation.org.au or contact us at 4215 8900.

Forget me not

Shocking statistics tell us that dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia, with research data suggesting it will soon be the leading cause of death.

It's a cruel, debilitating brain condition that consumes the mind, mood, memory, thinking and behavior of an individual – and it can happen to anyone.

Currently, there's no cure for dementia.

It's a disease that recently inspired a group of passionate Geelong locals to form the 'Forget Me Not Committee'. The ten young professionals who make up the committee have each been touched by dementia in some way.

In October, the inspiring group teamed up with Barwon Health Foundation to present the inaugural Forget Me Not Ball at Federal Mills 1915.

Their ambitious fundraising target of \$40,000 was not only met but surpassed, with an incredible \$64,000 raised to directly support the newly established Forget Me Not Dementia Geelong Fund, dedicated to supporting clinical dementia research here in Geelong.

Committee member Kate Ward said, "Our group is striving to demystify the disease, promote open conversations, and support research to understand genetics and risk factors."



The Forget Me Not Ball.
Credit: Michael Pham

"Our ultimate goal is to avoid repeating our family history for ourselves and our families' sake," said Ms Ward.

The establishment of the 'Forget Me Not Dementia Geelong Fund' will act as a funding pool that Barwon Health clinicians, registrars, researchers, clinical trial teams and PhD students can apply to access to help empower, build capability and drive integral local research projects into dementia care and treatment.

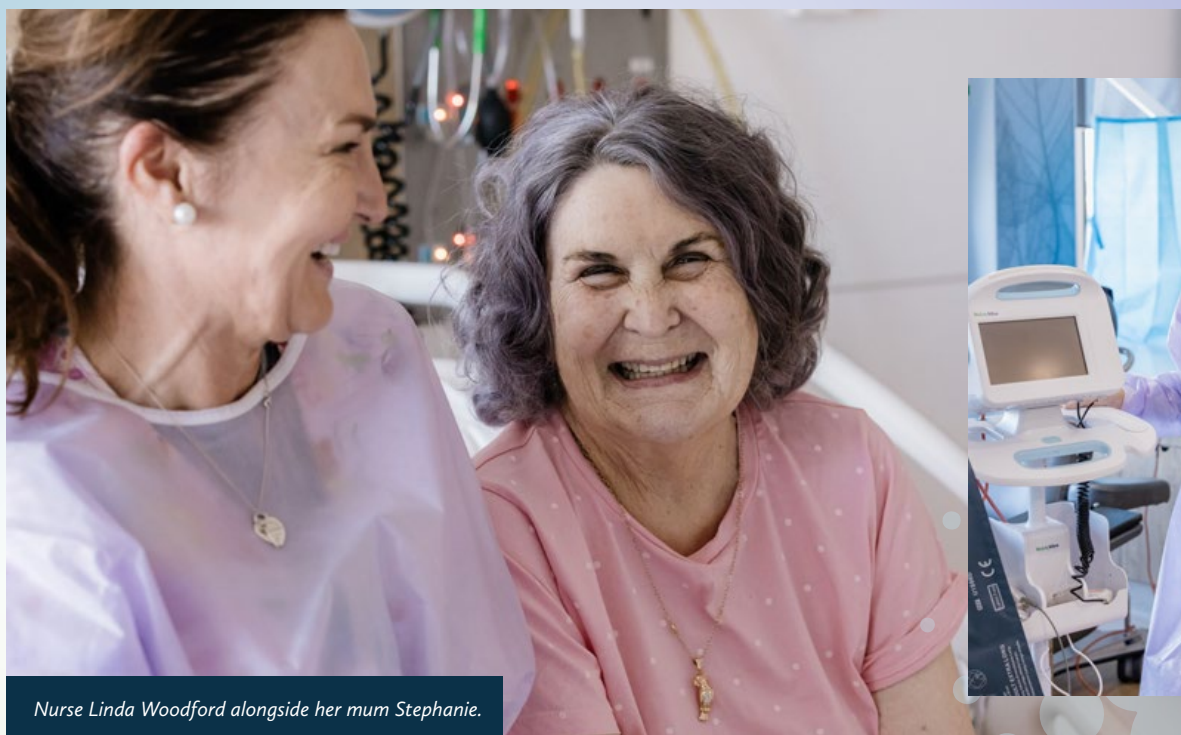
Zoe Waters, Barwon Health Foundation Executive Director said, "The fund is an incredibly exciting initiative that will ensure all money raised stays in the Greater Geelong community, helping to further vital research and knowledge of the degenerative, terminal and devastating disease that is dementia."



Forget Me Not Committee.
Ferne Millen

THE
FORGET ME NOT
Ball
DEMENTIA FUNDRAISER
2024

To help support local dementia research and the Forget Me Not Dementia Geelong Fund, you can donate here: barwonhealthfoundation.org.au/general-donation



Nurse Linda Woodford alongside her mum Stephanie.



Nursing across generations

“What truly distinguishes us here in Geelong – and especially here at Barwon Health – is the deep-rooted connection we share. We are not just a team; we are members of this community, caring for the people who live and work right alongside us. This local bond gives our work a unique sense of purpose and meaning.”

Nursing is in Linda Woodford's DNA, with a family legacy that spans generations.

Linda's inspiration for her nursing career came from her mum, Stephanie. Growing up watching her mum's love for her role encouraged her to carry on the tradition of a caring for others. Linda's own daughter also went on to become a nurse, cementing three generations within the industry.

Linda is now a much-loved cancer nurse at Barwon Health working across Andrew Love Cancer Centre and Baxter 6 Oncology Ward.

2024 brought a powerful full-circle moment for Linda, when her Mum was admitted to the very place that she works.

After being diagnosed with cancer lesions in her bones following a CT scan, Stephanie was referred immediately to University Hospital Geelong, where she was admitted for further investigations and treatment.

Linda shared how deeply comforting it is to see her own mother cared for by such an exceptional team of nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals on the cancer ward—people she considers not just colleagues, but a privilege to work alongside.

Linda said, “Having worked in cancer units in remote and regional Australia, I truly appreciate how fortunate we are here in Geelong. To deliver gold-standard treatment in a state-of-the-art facility, supported by a team of experienced and dedicated health professionals, is both a privilege and a necessity.”

“Mum has been incredibly grateful and appreciative of the treatment she's received. She often comments on the professionalism, kindness, and outstanding level of care from every team member. Every step of the journey, from diagnosis to care, has been handled with respect, compassion, and kindness,” she continued.

Stephanie passed away peacefully on February 21 2025, surrounded by her loving family and the care and support of Barwon Health's Palliative Care.

Events

We're proud to present some of the region's biggest and most loved charity events and appeals. 2024 brought some of our favourite fundraisers to life like never before...



Geelong's Longest Lunch

The Waterfront's iconic Transvaal Square transformed into a culinary courtyard in March when the region's best chefs wowed 240 guests with a mouth-watering three-course meal. The 'Geelong region plated' theme presented paddock to plate and farm to fork vibes and was savoured by guests who enjoyed entertainment by Andy from the Piano Bar. Emcee for the day was well-known radio and television presenter

Jo Stanley and a special performance by Songbirds, Gorgi Coghlan and Anna-Lee Robertson left guests in goose bumps. Gorgi's brother Nigel, a cancer patient of Barwon Health, reminded guests just how important care close to home is. The community's support shown for the special long lunch helped fund a Robotic Surgery Ultrasound Device for Barwon Health that helps in the detection and treatment of small cancers.



Critical Care Appeal Weekend

People power showed out in force during our June Critical Care Appeal weekend. 115 volunteers from across local businesses, community groups and individuals teamed up to help support our goal of funding vital new medical equipment for Barwon Health's critical care departments. Fundraising BBQ's popped up across the region, some local businesses donated a portion of their sales, fitness studios ran special charity classes and tin shakers were in action at Geelong's major intersections. The power of people can make all difference to Barwon Health and was pivotal in helping us fund new state-of-the-art critical care medical equipment to allow University Hospital Geelong to continue to do what it does best – provide care and save lives.

Creating hope, one event at a time



The catwalk in action.

Catwalk4Cancer

September saw Barwon Health Foundation's most fashionable fundraiser, the Ceres Life Catwalk4Cancer, come to life. Geelong Arts Centre hosted over 270 guests and saw fun and fundraising combine with a chic catwalk. Funds raised on the night helped purchase a laryngoscope flexible video, a vital piece of state-of-the-art medical equipment that will be important in assisting Barwon Health's Oncology teams in diagnosing and treating throat and esophageal cancer. Catwalk4Cancer 2024 was hosted by one of Australia's most popular presenters, Jacqui Felgate, who provided stylish and seamless commentary throughout the entire event. Attendees were treated to live shows from local stunning brands including; Pearls and Roses Bridal, Pearls and Roses Lifestyle, RAEF the label, Luxe Closet and Reigner Clothing. It was obvious on the night that most of the room had been touched by cancer in some way and were keen to give back.



Renee Garing, Jacqui Felgate and Nicole Riddle.

Dry July

A huge cheers was given to the Geelong community for yet another winning Dry July fundraising campaign in support of Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and cancer services.

Over 160 community members, business leaders, sporting identities, current and past patients and Barwon Health staff members committed to going alcohol free throughout July, raising over \$123,000 in support of cancer wellness services offered at the Centre. An extraordinary 'quaddie' was achieved by the Foundation team 'Billy Brownless' Frothy Fund', who ended the month as the number one Dry July fundraising team in Australia, for an incredible fourth consecutive year!



Billy Brownless & Pete Murrihy.



Ready to Run4Geelong.

Run4Geelong

Geelong truly shone red in November for a record-breaking, blockbuster Run4Geelong. 4,500 Greater Geelong locals hit the streets in the first ever SOLD OUT event. An incredible \$249,000 was raised in support of the life-changing work of Barwon Health. From families to health heroes, local celebrities to devoted fundraisers, the event brought together the Geelong community in spectacular fashion. Participants donned the signature Run4Geelong red t-shirts and set off across a range of courses designed to suit all ages and abilities. Run4Geelong is more than just a fundraiser—it's a day that brings us all together and reminds us of the power of collective community spirit.

Truly grateful

We are endlessly appreciative of the many wonderful sponsors, trusts and foundations, corporate partners, community groups, individuals and supporters who helped drive our impactful 2024.

Geelong is a place where compassion flows endlessly, where hearts are big, and where people truly care for one another. It is the village of people who support Barwon Health Foundation—our Board, volunteers, donors, partners, and staff—who transform the spirit of giving into real, tangible outcomes for the health and wellbeing of our region.

Thanks to your support in 2024 and now in 2025, Barwon Health has been able to continue its mission of providing world-class healthcare to our region. Geelong is a truly unique special place to be.

2025 Dates

Mark your calendars

GEELONG'S
Longest Lunch

21 March

CRITICAL CARE APPEAL
Weekend

21-23 June

DRY JULY

1-31 July

C4C

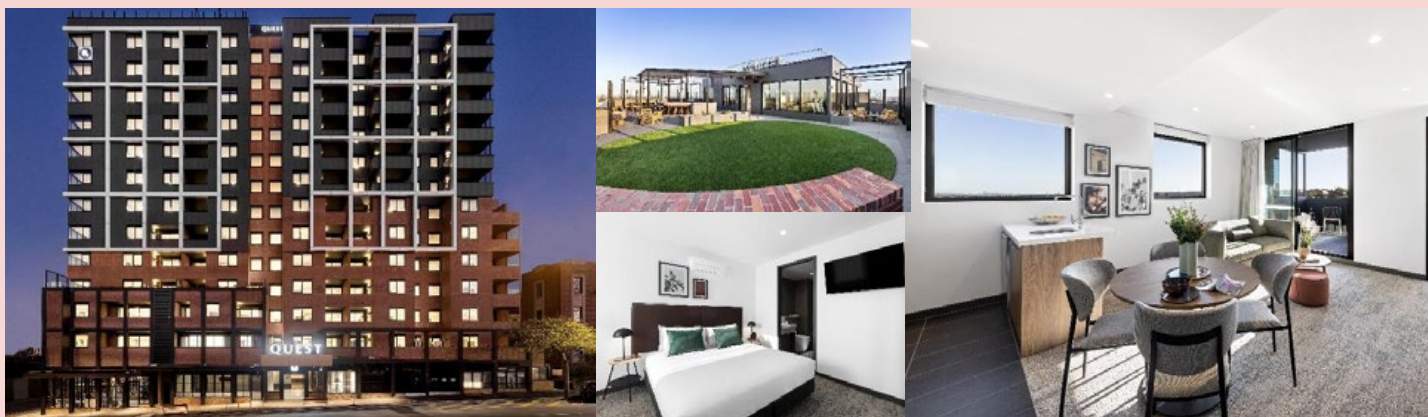
16 August

**RUN4
GEELONG**

9 November

*Wish Upon
a Star*

December



Stay, save and support!

Save 10% on your stay at Quest Geelong Central and support the vital work of the Barwon Health Foundation.

Quest Geelong Central is Geelong's newest hotel, located just 800m from Barwon Health's University Hospital Geelong. The hotel offers premium studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments and onsite secure car parking. Enjoy a rooftop BBQ/Entertainment area and gym with stunning views of the city and Corio Bay.

Book directly with promo code: **BARWONHF25** 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



Barwon Health
Foundation

QUEST
GEELONG CENTRAL

Make your own mark

There are countless ways you can give back to our local health service and support the Barwon Health Foundation.

We are always happy to chat to you about how can make a real difference in the community, because together we can continue to enhance local compassionate care and support those who need it most.

1. Regular giving

Regular giving allows you to support Barwon Health Foundation's work and easily plan your contributions throughout the year. Choose to donate weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually—starting from just the cost of a coffee or an amount you choose.

2. Attend an event

The Foundation hosts a variety of annual events. Simply enjoying a wonderful day or evening with friends can be a meaningful way to give back. Be sure to follow us on social media for event updates and ticket information.

3. Host your own event

Organise your own community fundraiser and select the Foundation as your charity of choice. You can even choose which area of Barwon Health you would like to support. Whether it's a sausage sizzle, gold coin day, morning tea, head shave, book fair, casual dress day or any other creative idea – the possibilities are endless! We also have an online donation platform to get your community further involved.

4. Volunteer

Volunteers truly make a difference. Get involved by participating in tin shaking, gift shop customer service, sausage sizzles, event marshalling, Christmas wrapping and much more. There are so many opportunities to lend a hand throughout the year.

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.

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 set up an online memorial page or provide memory donation envelopes in lieu of flowers.

7. Shop at Barwon Gifts

Shop knowing 100% of your purchase goes back to supporting comfort and care across Barwon Health. Barwon Gifts can be found on Level 3 at the Main Entrance of University Hospital Geelong. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am – 2.45pm.

8. Leave a gift in your will

Give the gift of good health. A planned gift in your will is a special way to support Barwon Health and create a lasting legacy. No matter the size, every contribution can have a profound impact on the future of healthcare in the region. The Foundation team is here to guide you through a confidential conversation about your legacy options.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Barwon Health Foundation team for any assistance you may need to become a charitable fundraiser in 2025 – foundation@barwonhealth.org.au, 03 4215 8900.



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