



ST VINCENT'S
FOUNDATION

ST VINCENT'S *Cares*

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2018 ★

CEO MESSAGE

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, when we come together to enjoy the company of family and friends. It is also a time when we remember those who are vulnerable, especially people who are dealing with serious illness either their own, or of a loved family member.

In this edition of the newsletter I am delighted to share some stories from our donors, volunteers and patients; wonderful people who remind us of the power of kindness and the profound importance of community. Their contributions, like yours, build to make the world of difference in the lives of the people we seek to help.

At St Vincent's we are committed to providing brilliant medical care, delivered with compassion. The gift of time and care we are able to provide to the thousands of people who come through our doors, is only possible thanks to your generosity and support of the wider community.

On behalf of our dedicated staff and our committed doctors and nurses, we thank you, and wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

With kind regards,

Lyn Amy

CEO | St Vincent's Foundation



Celebrating 125 Years of Care



Archbishop Peter Comensoli

Long term supporters, staff and medical alumni of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and the wider St Vincent's family, were delighted to be welcomed by the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau and Mr Howard, to a special celebration at Government House. This event marked the 125th anniversary of the opening of St Vincent's Hospital. In her speech, the Governor, who is patron of the hospital, highlighted the vital role St Vincent's plays in healthcare across Melbourne and Victoria. She underlined the important legacy of the Sisters of Charity and the extraordinary contributions made by the wider community to make St Vincent's truly "The Peoples Hospital".

On All Saints' Day there was a joyous public service held at St Patrick's Cathedral, presided over by new Archbishop Peter Comensoli. Over 700 staff, volunteers and former patients joined together and prayed that the compassionate work of the hospital would continue for another 125 years.



Governor Linda Dessau

THE COMMUNITY OF WERRIBEE



Oriano and Michelle Salvalaggio



Anthony and Sue Rebesco

In November, Suzanne Hall, CEO of St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, and the dedicated Werribee Capital Campaign Committee hosted a "Long Table Dinner" to celebrate the continuing success of the new Werribee Private Hospital.

Committee Chairman Oriano Salvalaggio gave a fabulous speech reminding guests of the importance of the hospital to the fast growing west of Melbourne and the community of Werribee, where many committee members grew up and raised their families.

Dr Girish Nair, Neurosurgeon and Spinal Surgeon recently moved his practise to the hospital and was able to provide fascinating insight into his specialist area of surgery.

The evening was a perfect way to showcase the incredible facilities and we look forward to The Blessing and Official Opening of the hospital Chapel in early 2019.

"The Werribee Committee are the gold standard committee in my view, they have a belief and determination in the success of St Vincent's Private Werribee to offer excellence in healthcare to our community. Their support for our hospital and doctors is inspiring and they personify the power of community to really get things done".

Suzanne Hall CEO

If you would like to support the Werribee Campaign, please contact Josie Verga on 9231 3365.



Suzanne Hall, CEO

GENERATIONS OF CARING



Assoc. Professor Andrew MacIsaac

Associate Professor Andrew MacIsaac, like many staff members has a long association with St Vincent's. In Andrew's case his connection started in the 1950s when his mother joined the nursing school and his father became a young resident doctor. "My father asked my mother out to a ball. A romance blossomed and they eventually married. Half the hospital was invited to the wedding!"

Growing up, Andrew often accompanied his father on ward rounds and so when he graduated from medicine it seemed natural to do his training at St Vincent's. Two of Andrew's brothers did the same. He adds, "I lived on campus and met my wife, a fellow resident. I now have a son who is a doctor and it's needless to say where his fiancé works!"

"It's wonderful to have that family connection. I still see interns arrive because their mother and or father have worked here and they are inspired by the same stories as I was."

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

We love this iconic photo from the St Vincent's archive, of the Sisters of Charity serving tea to unemployed men during the depression. "In this image the tea is being served in fine crockery with a pressed white tablecloth and beautifully prepared food", Margaret Stewart, Head of Mission says. **"It perfectly encapsulates the Mission of the Sisters and their appreciation of the dignity of every person".**

Inspired by the photo, generous and crafty supporters from around Australia, created over 200 beautifully made tea cosies for the St Vincent's Cosiest Morning Tea. The event raised funds for The Good Samaritan Fund a staff giving initiative which provides emergency relief to patients who are dealing with hardship and which has distributed over \$250,000 in much needed assistance.



THE POWER OF HOPE

Occupational Therapist Emma Parfitt has treated many patients in her career but there is one patient who stands out.

In 2014, Emma met Ray, who was admitted to the Rehab Ward following a car accident which left him with life threatening injuries. Emma and her colleagues worked tirelessly with Ray over the next ten months. Each day Ray faced major challenges and obstacles but one thing gave him a sense of autonomy and hope – his power wheelchair. It sped up his recovery.

Inspired, Emma set herself a challenge to raise enough money to purchase a new power wheelchair for the Rehab Ward, so others could also benefit from the latest wheelchair technology.

Emma ran a 42km trail marathon through bushland around Marysville and with support from family and friends, she successfully reached her fundraising goal.



Ray, Emma and the Rehab team

The Rehab Ward is now equipped with a new chair thanks to Emma's hard work and the generous sponsorship of Linds Rehabilitation Equipment.

Emma hopes to inspire others to make a difference. "Each one of us has the capability to make a difference in patient's lives and we are all capable of amazing things", said Emma.

If you would like to follow in Emma's footsteps, visit our website: www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate



★ BRING MORE JOY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

As many of you will have read in our recent Christmas Appeal, our collective heart went out to the Forrester family of Shepparton, when in December last year, mum Una was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's t-cell lymphoma and began her long journey to fight this disease.

Una's devoted husband Steven and family spent last Christmas by Una's bedside. Steven remembers the difficult period they experienced and the importance of the kindness and understanding of those around them.

"If it wasn't for having a flexible employer, who allowed for

the 2.5 hour travel time to Melbourne, Una's treatment could have posed significant issues. The understanding and generosity from my workplace had a really positive effect on the wellbeing of my family.

I will never forget the day when the doctors, nurses and support staff arranged a birthday cake for Una. It was baked by the St Vincent's kitchen and everyone sang happy birthday to her and gave her warm hugs and best wishes.

Another time that stands out for me was when Una was very ill one night during her chemotherapy treatment and in a state of distress and despair. The nurse on duty held her hand, comforted and reassured her that the suffering would not last forever and that it would pass. Una held onto the nurse's words of compassion that night and during many other dark times in treatment".

As Una's daughter so eloquently said. "You have given us more time together, the biggest blessing of all! Thank you"

Please give generously to our appeal this Christmas. If you have already made a contribution, please accept our sincere thanks.



Una, Steven and their family

CHECK OUT THE NEW FOUNDATION WEBSITE!

We are pleased to share the new St Vincent's Foundation website with you. The new site allows you to donate easily, start your own fundraising event and keep up to date with the latest hospital news and events.

Head to: www.stvfoundation.org.au

