

St Vincent's Cares

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

CEO Report

Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter.

It has been an incredibly busy time for the Foundation. Many of you have called or dropped into the office and this has been something we have all enjoyed. It is so different from the last few years.

Your contributions to St Vincent's hospitals have been vital in helping us provide the best possible care to our patients during these challenging times. Your generosity always means so much to us, but particularly now when everyone is finding the cost of living high and finding it difficult to maintain their charitable giving.

By now you would have received our campaign to raise money to support cardiac care. Speaking to people and working on this campaign has been particularly pertinent to me. Cardiac attacks can happen anywhere and at any time. This was reinforced to me when my brother suffered a heart attack a few months ago. For the first 48 hours we thought we were going to lose him. It was a frightening time. This was an experience I wouldn't wish on anyone. Cardiac attacks are real and must be taken seriously. Your donation and support is important to help us provide staff with the right equipment, training and research. Every donation helps us deliver the best response possible, which means that your gift does actually save lives.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in our newsletter. There is always so much to cover but I think we have managed to provide you with a snapshot of our activities. We hope this inspires you to be proud of the part that you play in helping St Vincent's to be the best it can be and to deliver the best care to everyone in our community.

Our two new buildings in the Fitzroy Precinct will play a critical role in the future of healthcare in Melbourne. The Private Hospital Fitzroy Tower will provide you and your family with state-of-theart cancer, maternity, day surgery and cardiology facilities. 20,000 additional patients will benefit from this new building. Our fundraising campaign aims to raise \$20 million for the Tower and has naming rights available for major donors. Please call Cameron Smith on 0431 079 906 if you would like more information.

Simultaneously, we are building a medical research facility on the corner of Nicholson Street and Victoria Parade. The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) is the result of years of planning and commitment from our leadership team in Fitzroy. It will be a whole-of-health system catalyst for world-leading biomedical engineering and technology solutions. Through the work of ACMD we will maximise every individual's ability to live their healthiest life and develop a more equitable and cost-effective health system. Again, we are looking to our community to help us fund this amazing building overlooking the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Please call me if you would like to be part of the ACMD community.

And finally, we look to our Werribee community to help us fund the latest robotic technology for our



Werribee Private Hospital. The Mako Robot is a game-changer. It assists surgeons to achieve almost perfect placement of joint implants, meaning smaller incisions, shorter surgery times and faster recovery. The Mako Robot costs \$500,000 and we are halfway to our target. I encourage you to support this initiative if you can.

The St Vincent's Foundation plays a critical role in supporting St Vincent's Hospitals to continue to improve and innovate. You, our donors, are the Foundation. Your generosity enables our doctors and nurses to be the very best they can be.

Thank you again, and please get in touch if you would like to discuss ways you can be part of our story.

Best wishes,

Sue a Paker

Sue Parkes CEO, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

You can contact me directly on 0412 488 341 or email sue.parkes@svha.org.au



Help us **BEAT the ODDS**

Every day in Australia 68 people have an 'out-of-hospital' cardiac arrest. Only 7 survive!

The stark reality is that the photo above may never have been taken.

When 61-year-old Sugath collapsed from a sudden cardiac arrest on the way to work, he was extremely fortunate to have everything go right. It was pure luck that St Vincent's Emergency Department nurse, Laura was cycling by moments after Sugath collapsed.

Laura gave Sugath life-saving CPR for several minutes until the ambulance arrived.

Sugath went straight to St Vincent's Emergency Department where he received urgent treatment, surgery, and spent six days recovering in hospital.



'I'm so lucky Laura found me. I told her, "You are my angel. If you weren't there, I would be dead."' - Sugath

25,000 people each year in Australia suffer an out-ofhospital cardiac arrest.

With your help, we can BEAT the ODDS.

With your support we can provide the necessary training, equipment and medical research to give people a fighting chance against cardiac arrest.

Please donate today to help us save more lives: stvfoundation.org.au/beat-the-odds



We want to thank everyone who attended and generously gave towards helping us create a special fund to support women experiencing hardship, the Sisterhood Support Fund. The new fund will ensure that up to 1,000 at-risk patients a year can receive clothes, a supply of healthy food, or other essentials.

A total of \$50,000 was raised through the sale of raffle tickets and the live auction. These funds will

enable St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's Mental Health and Addiction Medicine team to support their clients.

"This is a wonderful outcome and I am proud of everyone who made this possible," Sue Parkes, CEO St Vincent's Foundation.

It's official! Construction has begun

2023 marks an exciting milestone for the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD). Construction of the 11-storey state-of-the-art research and teaching facility commenced in April on the corner of Victoria Parade and Nicholson Street in Fitzroy.

There is a palpable sense of excitement for what lies ahead. The ACMD alliance of partners is already pushing the boundaries of biomedical engineering innovation.

Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, and Minister for Medical Research, Mary-Anne Thomas, visited the site at St Vincent's Hospital to mark the start of construction. Premier Andrews said, "Melbourne is the medical research capital of Australia. This new centre will cement our place as a world leader in medical discoveries and scientific breakthroughs."

Thank you for the contributions from the government, ACMD partners and the generous donors who are helping us transform the future of healthcare.

The preliminary stage will involve piling works to allow the construction of the basement and foundations for the new building. The ACMD building is scheduled to be completed by late 2024.

Inside the ACMD

The new 16,500sqm building will include 3D printing laboratories, a human kinetics lab and insulated rooms for the development of sensitive hearing and vision technologies.

A keen focus at the ACMD is nurturing future clinical, nursing, allied health and biomedical research innovators and leaders. An education hub will feature tutorial rooms, a clinical simulation laboratory, and a lecture theatre with scope to host national and international conferences and major events.

At the ACMD, we have the breadth of capabilities to tackle hard-to-solve clinical problems and bring medical solutions from bench to bedside. But we cannot do it alone.

It is your support that allows us to realise our vision to fast-track clinical trials and device development to benefit patients sooner.

To find out more about this exciting project and how you can be involved please contact Melina Talanis, ACMD Capital Campaign Director, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria on:

M 0426 110 533 E melina.talanis@svha.org.au





Celebrating Werribee philanthropist, **Ori Salvalaggio**

Born and raised in Werribee, Oriano Salvalaggio (known as Ori) is a passionate and active member of the Wyndham community.

Ori is proud of Wyndham's strong sense of community. "When I walk my dog, Charlie, I spend half the time stopping to chat to people. I love that there's still such a sense of belonging."

Ori is committed to developing programs and services to improve his local area. His interests include the arts, environment, sport and health.

An instant dedication to a new hospital

Five years ago when Ori heard a St Vincent's Hospital was coming to Werribee, he was very pleased because it meant the quality of healthcare in Wyndham would be lifted to new heights.

Ori was invited to join a committee to fundraise for the Werribee hospital and it wasn't long before he became the Chair.

A bright, exciting future

Local fundraising has been very successful, enabling the purchase of a new cardiac machine that places St Vincent's Werribee at the forefront of heart care. The oncology unit has been able to buy scalp cooling equipment after fundraising at a special event in 2022. There are also plans to create radiation bunkers for medical imaging at St Vincent's Werribee in the years ahead.

Attention is now being directed to bringing

the latest orthopaedic technology, a Mako Robot, to Werribee. This revolutionary technology enables orthopaedic surgeons to better tailor hip and knee replacements to their patients, involves smaller incisions and reduces recovery time after surgery.

"The Mako Robot will help the Committee and the Hospital to realise a dream to provide the level of quality services we currently need to travel to the city to access. We also recognise that the latest technology is the best way to attract the most talented clinicians and surgeons to Werribee."

You can be part of the success of St Vincent's Werribee. To help purchase the Mako Robot, visit: stvfoundation.org.au/your-community-your-hospital



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An unforgettable evening

to celebrate a new hospital tower

The 2023 Gala Dinner to support the development of the St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy Tower was held at the Melbourne Museum in March.

Guests were entertained by comedian Cal Wilson, and The Bamboos and DJ Adam Webster provided the soundtrack for the night. Thank you to everyone who made it so memorable!

St Vincent's Private Hospital in Fitzroy is growing. You are invited to join us to help shape the future of medicine.

TODAY...St Vincent's Private is renowned for delivering exceptional healthcare, supporting more than 27,000 patients and their families each year.

THE FUTURE...The new hospital tower will offer care for an additional 20,000 patients. The new wing will include state-of-the-art cancer, maternity, day surgery and ICU facilities.

A once in a lifetime opportunity exists for your family's name to be acknowledged in the new Tower with options to name rooms and floors.

If you would like to find out more about the new build and how you can support it, please contact Cameron Smith, Capital Campaign Director, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria on 0431 079 906 or cameron.smith@svha.org.au



Generous gift will fasttrack the future of breast screening

St Vincent's Foundation recently celebrated a generous gift from MECCA M-POWER.

M-POWER has provided support for St Vincent's BreastScreen Clinical Director and Adjunct Associate Professor Helen Frazer. Her globally unique research project, BRAIx, uses artificial intelligence technologies to improve the accuracy and efficiency of breast cancer screening.

A social change movement formed to champion equality and opportunity for women and girls, M-POWER's mission is to help create a world in which the next generations can thrive.

This generous support will fast track the development of a technology that will provide women with access to more accurate and personalised breast screening.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this generous support from MECCA M-POWER. I am inspired by their passion and belief in the work we're doing that could potentially save lives," said Helen.

About BRAIx

Helen said the project is motivated by the fact that breast cancer is the most common cancer in Australian women and the second most common cause of cancer death.

"We know that screening saves lives but we can do it better. Transforming breast cancer screening by using cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology to improve cancer detection, service delivery times and program efficiencies.

"By combining human and artificial intelligence we can make an enormous difference in how we provide breast screening to women," Helen said.

Sue Parkes, CEO, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria, said she is delighted to work with donors whose vision aligns with work that has the potential to have such a significant impact on women's health. "I am grateful to MECCA M-POWER. They have shown visionary support by identifying an area of great need where they could



make a significant impact. We celebrate the MECCA M-POWER team for taking the initiative to instigate such important change for generations of women to come."

If you would like to find out more about the BRAIx project, please visit: acmd.org.au/braix

Dry July

supports patients during challenging times

Life can throw us some unimaginable curve-balls. For Shane Seabrook, life was good. He was achieving great things in his job and had recently married his long-time partner, Rens.

Then one day, at just 43, Shane's whole world changed.

An irritable bowel led to exploratory surgery at St Vincent's that uncovered a tumour in Shane's colorectal area. The news following the surgery wasn't good. The tumour was much larger than first thought, approximately 5cm in length and had grown through the intestinal wall and into the peritoneal cavity.

"It was a massive shock because I have no family history. I did some research into bowel cancer, and it showed I had a pretty high chance of being dead within 3 years! It was a very challenging time.

"The nursing staff at St Vincent's are universally awesome. They make this horrific journey tolerable and even enjoyable at times."

After two months of radiation and chemotherapy, followed by three months of chemotherapy and immunotherapy, Shane and Rens were offered a ray of hope. If the therapy was successful, his medical team would perform a surgery to cut out as much of the cancer as possible. This could significantly extend Shane's life-expectancy or even be a cure.

"This was the best news we could have hoped for."

Unfortunately, a pre-surgery scan showed a spot on his lung and progression of the primary disease that put a stop to the surgery.

"The cancellation of the surgery was the lowest point of my journey."

But Shane's medical team have placed him on a new course of chemotherapy and remain hopeful to reassess his eligibility for surgery in the coming months.

Describing himself as an inherently optimistic person, Shane says despite the setbacks he's focusing on living life. "Rens and I are prioritising enjoying good food, time with friends and precious moments together with our beloved dog, Leno."



Shane thinks the Dry July Campaign is a great way to raise awareness for people going through cancer treatments.

"Chemo is a bit like a two-bottle hangover without the fun. I'm grateful for the Dry July campaign because it helps to ease the burden of cancer."

Get behind the awesome people who are doing Dry July for St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. Donate today at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne - Dry July 2023







A partnership spanning almost 70 years

Philanthropy has a direct and powerful impact on our work and our community. Grants from trusts and foundations play a critical role in providing support for St Vincent's. These philanthropic partnerships often last many years, enabling programs to develop from a research idea to clinical outcomes which save patient lives.

The Collier Charitable Fund and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne are looking back on a 69-year partnership, driven by closely aligned values and a shared desire to provide excellent healthcare to all.

"One of the areas of focus for the Collier sisters was strengthening Victorian public hospitals. This focus is reflected in the work that St Vincent's Hospital undertakes which is just as important today as it was when the Fund commenced in 1954," said Wendy Lewis OAM, Executive Officer, Collier Charitable Fund.

The Collier Charitable Fund's most recent grant of \$50,000 has enabled the creation of a patient information database for the Hospital's Breast Surgery Unit. The new portal, called BRENDA, collates patient medical information including a routine collection of patient-reported outcomes. Its holistic approach promises to improve breast surgery patient treatment and outcomes.

Breast surgeon, Jocelyn Lippey, said the creation of BRENDA has been a dream shared with Head of Breast

Surgery, Caroline Baker, for the past five years. "We feel so fortunate to receive this funding which will enable our dream to become a reality."

Positively impacting patient care

Breast cancer patient, Mikayla Roberts was the very first patient to log her experiences into the BRENDA database.

"I'm so pleased to have the chance to provide feedback about my experience, especially as a young woman going through cancer. The side effects we experience, how we feel about the whole process, the emotional rollercoaster we all go through, will hopefully make the experience for future patients just a little bit easier," Mikayla said.

We are incredibly grateful to the Collier Charitable Fund for seven decades of partnership and collaboration on important projects which would otherwise go unfunded. *Thank you.*

A legacy gift brings new life to The Cottage

"When I heard about the gift left to the Sister Francesca Healy Cottage you could have knocked me over with a feather," says Stephen Abiuso, Manager of The Cottage.

Located on the edge of the St Vincent's Hospital Campus in Fitzroy, The Cottage is one of the health-carefor-homeless initiatives operated by St Vincent's.

In early 2023 the Cottage was notified that a very significant Gift from a Will had been made to support people experiencing homelessness. The gift will fund an upgrade, to improve the facilities for clients and staff.

Established in 1995, The Cottage provides a supportive, home-like environment and offers healthcare to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, after their treatment at Hospital. The five-bed former worker's cottage allows staff to provide treatment and enables the patient to recuperate.

Stephen said everyone was humbled and touched by the generous gift.

"We had a modest refurbishment in 2018 and over the past year, 152 clients have stayed with us, so there's always something that needs maintaining."

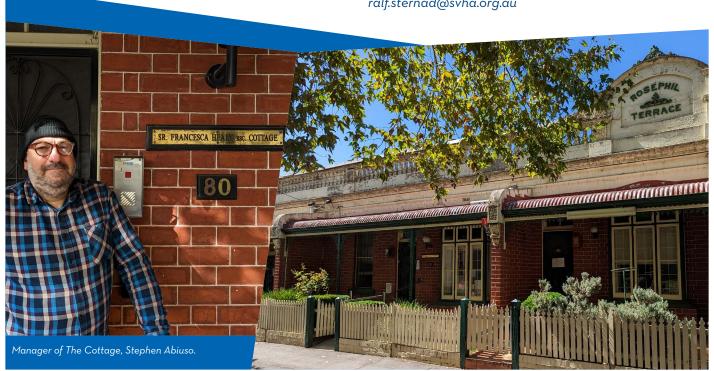
"Like all old buildings, it's never easy or cheap to upgrade. Thanks to this gift we'll be able to improve accessibility, renovate the bathrooms and renew the client kitchen area."

Alarmingly a growing number of Australians are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. Around 22,000 people in Victoria are impacted every day and as pressure mounts on services offered by the Cottage and the Healthcare for the Homeless team, any donations large or small are welcome.

"We are excited about the building works. These much-needed upgrades will increase the quality of care and support we provide to our clients. We are all very grateful to this donor for supporting our work through her Will," Stephen said.

By including St Vincent's Hospital in your Will, you play an important part in contributing to the Hospital's future.

For information about leaving a Gift in your Will, please contact Ralf Sternad, Gifts in Wills Manager, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria on 03 9231 2320 or ralf.sternad@svha.org.au





Donor-funded nursing scholarship fund transforms lives

Last Christmas we asked for your support to create a Nurses' Scholarship Fund. Thanks to an outpouring of support, this fund now exists.

The Fund means St Vincent's hard-working nurses can continue their training and education without having to worry about working extra shifts or finding the money to pay for their education.

You have shown nurses how much you care.

THANK YOU!

You have given our nurses a special gift, the gift of knowledge and education. This new knowledge will enable nurses to provide the very best care to patients at St Vincent's hospitals.

How your support has changed a nurse's life

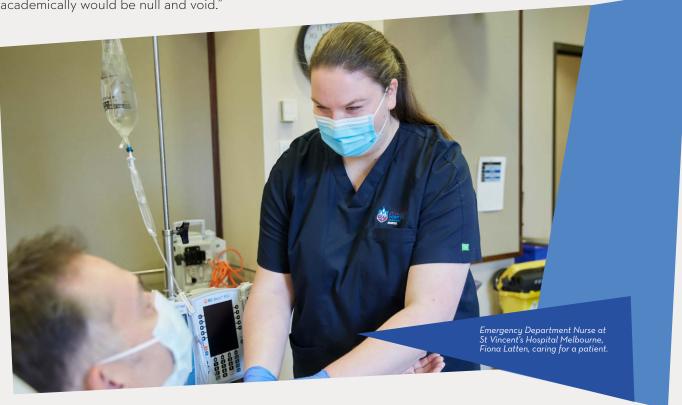
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Postgraduate Coordinator, Allison Mawson, has already seen the impact the Nursing Scholarship Fund has had on a nurse experiencing financial hardship.

"We had a staff member who couldn't afford to pay their university fees. This meant they would need to withdraw and everything they had done until that point academically would be null and void." It doesn't take much to send someone into financial distress. The increased cost of living, mortgage or rent payments and costs of raising a family can easily push a staff member to their financial limit. Something had to give, and it was going to be this nurse's study.

"It was an extremely stressful time for this talented nurse who was excelling at their studies. We are thrilled the Fund has been established to provide the support they needed.

"This emergency assistance would not have been possible without your generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund. On behalf of the nurse who was helped, thank you. This support means the world to all our nurses. They will be forever grateful," Allison said.

Thank you for your role in supporting nurses. If you would like to contribute to the Nursing Scholarship Fund visit: stvfoundation.org.au/nursing-scholarships



WINTER 2023

Bank First and Pinchapoo

celebrate International Nurses' Day

St Vincent's Hospitals partner, Bank First, and Pinchapoo joined forces to deliver over 1,300 pamper packs containing soaps, face creams and beauty items to St Vincent's Private Hospital nursing staff in celebration of International Nurses' Day on 12 May.

Jenny Gozdzik, General Manager of Fitzroy Private said, "A heartfelt thank you to every one of our nurses for all you do every day to make a difference in the lives of our patients.

"We were honoured to host a visit from Michelle Bagnall, CEO of Bank First and her Executive Team, and Kate Austin from Pinchapoo, who provided the wonderful pamper packs. During our hospital tour, I was enormously proud of our team, whose care, compassion, patient-centred approach to their work, diligence and passion were evident."

Michelle Bagnall, Bank First CEO said, "These packs are a small token of our thanks to our nurses. We are



so grateful for their expertise, kindness, and commitment to their patients."

Thank you Bank First for your continued support of staff at St Vincent's public and private hospitals.

Long-table lunch raises \$60,000 for St Vincent's Werribee

St Vincent's Foundation Victoria hosted the very first Long Table Lunch at Shadowfax Winery to raise funds for St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee's Day Oncology Unit.



Love Your St Vincent's



Yes, I want to support our brilliant and compassionate medical staff.

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Please do not send me further St Vincent's Foundation

appeal requests.

Include a

Leaving a gift in your Will is an important way you can provide vital support without affecting your current financial circumstances.

By including St Vincent's Hospital part in contributing to the Hospital's future. A future where medical research, specialised equipment and state-of-the-art facilities provide the highest level of care to people in need.

We would love to hear from you.

- Please send me information on how I can include St Vincent's
- I have already included a gift in

For more information. please contact Ralf Sternad at ralf.sternad@svha.org.au or call 03 9231 3365





FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2023

Calendar of events

FREE Webinar - Making a Will: It's easier than you think

Thursday 13 July - 12 noon to 1pm

To register visit: stvfoundation.org.au/event/gift-in-will-webinar

FREE John Clareborough Lecture

Melbourne Museum Lecture Theatre

Tuesday 25 July - 1pm to 2pm

Special guest speaker, USA cardiac surgeon, Professor Russell White, will talk about his experiences as a cardiac surgeon in Africa, focusing on the evolution of surgical training in Sub-Saharan Africa.

St Vincent's Nurses Alumni 100th Anniversary Lunch

Park Hyatt Melbourne

Friday 25 August - 12 noon to 3pm

St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee Dinner

The Refectory Werribee Park

Saturday 7 October - 7pm to 11pm

For event enquiries please contact:

Rebecca Martin, Events Manager, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria on (03) 9231 3365 or email rebecca.martin@svha.org.au

To find our more about our upcoming events visit styfoundation.org.au/events

St Vincent's Foundation supports the following hospitals and capital campaigns in Victoria:

St Vincent's Public Hospitals: Melbourne, St George's Hospital and Caritas Christi

St Vincent's Private Hospitals: Fitzroy, East Melbourne, Kew and Werribee

Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD)

Fitzroy Private Hospital Redevelopment

St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

Ground floor, rear 55 Victoria Pde, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065 Phone: 03 9231 3365 | e: foundation@svha.org,au | w: stvfoundation.org.au ABN: 22 052 110 755

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in www.linkedin.com/company/81486196



www.instagram.com/stvincentsfoundationvic/

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians, and pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future. We welcome all cultures, nationalities and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment.