

# St Vincent's Cares

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022



## Love Your St Vincent's

### Welcome from the St Vincent's Foundation's new CEO

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. My name is Sue Parkes, and I am very excited to be the new Chief Executive of the St Vincent's Foundation.

Since joining the team in early May, I have already witnessed a wide range of the wonderful healthcare provided here in Fitzroy by our healthcare workers, medical and nursing staff, and all our support staff.

I was also privileged to attend the opening of our Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew, which exemplifies the compassion and care of the founders of St Vincent's Hospital, the Sisters of Charity.

I have worked in philanthropy for 30 years with some of the leading charities in Melbourne. Most recently, I worked at Cabrini Health for nearly seven years growing the organisation's fundraising activity from \$2 million to \$14 million annually. This was a transformative time in my life and really cemented my love for healthcare philanthropy and the power it can have in improving patient care and planning for the future.

At Cabrini, the Gandel Wing was the organisation's first major capital campaign. It had an ambitious target of \$40 million and we reached that over a five-year period. I will always be grateful to the wonderful donors who supported the Cabrini campaign and shared our vision for the future.

Similarly, St Vincent's Health Australia is now going through significant growth with ambitious projects both

at St Vincent's Private Hospital and the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) and I am thrilled to be leading these campaigns. These two buildings in the heart of Melbourne represent a bold vision for St Vincent's Health and will position Melbourne as a premium healthcare facility and centre for innovation and investment.

St Vincent's Hospitals have a stellar reputation for providing exceptional care to the Victorian community not only with brilliant medical services but also with truly compassionate care. Every day I have been impressed as I learn more about the incredible work being undertaken here at St Vincent's and heartened as I walk through the courtyard here in Fitzroy and see that compassionate care provided every day.

At this time of year, the Foundation reaches out to our supporters for a gift at tax time. If you have donated, I thank you most sincerely for your support.

If you are still considering making a gift, then please enjoy reading our newsletter and think about how you can support our patients and our staff to ensure they can continue to provide the highest possible standard of care.

It is a very exciting time to join the St Vincent's family. We are undergoing



St Vincent's Foundation CEO, Sue Parkes

capital campaigns to support two ground-breaking developments. If you pass by St Vincent's you will see the changes unfolding before your eyes. Construction has begun on the ACMD building and, in a matter of months, building of the Private Hospital Redevelopment will also commence.

On behalf of everyone at the Foundation and St Vincent's Hospital staff, I wish to thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to getting to know you all. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss the critical work of St Vincent's and how your support can make it all happen.

Best wishes,



**Sue Parkes**

**CEO, St Vincent's Foundation**

You can contact me directly  
on 0412 488 341 or email  
[sue.parkes@svha.org.au](mailto:sue.parkes@svha.org.au)

## A gift with love



Adrian and Shanesse

**Christmas Day 2019 will be forever etched in the memories of Adrian and Shanesse because it was the day Adrian nearly lost his life.**

Shanesse recalls, "We had just finished a big Christmas lunch. Adrian and I were about to go for a walk when, all of sudden, he felt an excruciating pain in his head."

Adrian was rushed via ambulance to the local hospital in Mildura. A CT scan showed a haemorrhage in his brain. The hospital in Mildura was ill-equipped to handle his condition, so Adrian was flown to Essendon Airport and rushed to St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, which is a leader in neurosurgery.

St Vincent's neurology team performed life-saving brain surgery. Urgent treatment was required to relieve the pressure of the subarachnoid haemorrhage that had been caused by a brain aneurysm.

Exactly one year after this catastrophic event, Adrian proposed to Shanesse and the devoted couple were married on 29 January 2022. They chose to give a very special gift to St Vincent's Hospital by making a donation to the hospital on behalf of their guests.

Shanesse said, "It's our way of saying thank you to the St Vincent's Hospital team for saving Adrian's life."

## Please support St Vincent's Hospitals and Centres this tax time

Did you know that in Australia, brain cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in children and in adults aged under 40?

An Exoscope, a ground-breaking microscope, can change patients' lives.

Please donate today: [www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/neurosurgery-appeal](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/neurosurgery-appeal)

**Caritas Christi in Kew is the largest and best-known provider of palliative care in Victoria.**

We hope you will consider giving a gift to help us purchase a Cuddle Bed and Bluetooth speakers. These items will enrich patient's experiences during a very vulnerable time.

Please donate today:

[www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/caritas-appeal](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/caritas-appeal)

**St Vincent's Private Hospital's Vascular Cath lab urgently needs your help to replace our ageing Ultrasound Machine and purchase a brand-new machine to ensure patients are supported now and into the future.**

Please donate today: <https://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/ultrasound-machine>

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible



An Exoscope is cutting-edge technology that helps treat patients who need complex neurosurgery.



A Cuddle Bed is custom designed to enable loved ones to be close to patients, often during the final stages of their life.



Ultrasound Machines are used in complicated, life-saving procedures that are performed every day at St Vincent's.

# ACMD building gets the green light



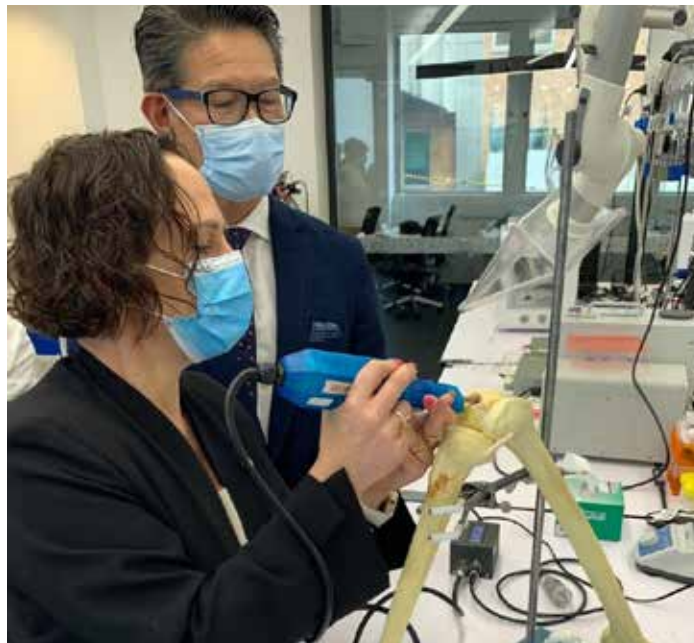
The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) – Australia's first hospital-based biomedical engineering research centre – has been given the green light for construction by the Victorian Government.

The Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy, The Hon Jaala Pulford, announced planning has been approved for the \$206 million Centre to be built at St Vincent's Hospital.

"We're bringing together the world's brightest minds to take on tough healthcare challenges, all the while creating jobs and supporting new scientific breakthroughs," says Minister Pulford.

At ACMD, nine partner organisations will come together under one roof to work collaboratively on medical research: St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, the Bionics Institute, Centre for Eye Research, The University of Melbourne, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, Australian Catholic University, and the University of Wollongong.

"ACMD's new and unique setting will break down barriers to bring together a wide variety of skill sets, in a dedicated building that is right at the heart of St Vincent's Hospital, to solve some of the world's biggest healthcare challenges – something that has never been done before," says Dr Erol Harvey, CEO of ACMD.



Minister Pulford enjoyed a tour of the BioFab3 laboratory at the current ACMD facility, where she tried out the revolutionary AxceldaPen with Professor Peter Choong.

The ACMD is seeking philanthropic support for its building project. You can be part of the future of medicine.

To support ACMD visit

[www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/acmd1](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/acmd1)

## National Assembly gathers momentum



ACMD National Assembly founding members: former Governors-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Dame Quentin Bryce, and two-time Paralympian gold medallist and a former soldier, Curtis McGrath

A group of high-profile Australians has thrown their support behind ACMD as the future of medicine.

Former Governors-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Dame Quentin Bryce, and two-time Paralympian gold medallist and a former soldier, Curtis McGrath, are among the ACMD National Assembly's founding members.

Their focused efforts will highlight the centre's strengths as a global medical innovator that is charged with fusing engineering and medicine to bring viable health solutions to life for patients suffering chronic illness.



## Double award win for St Vincent's BreastScreen Clinical Director

St Vincent's BreastScreen Clinical Director, Adjunct Associate Professor Helen Frazer's ground-breaking research has been recognised with two wins at the 2022 Women in AI Awards Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Frazer took out the top accolade of Innovator of the Year. She also won the Health Category, for world-first research she is leading that aims to improve the accuracy of breast cancer screening.

"I am deeply honoured by this recognition, which also acknowledges the incredible team and partners involved. Together, we are on a mission to transform breast cancer screening with AI," said Dr Frazer.

According to Dr Frazer, the new AI-based models show promise to better detect cancer, lower unnecessary recalls to assessment, and improve timeliness, efficiency, and participation in treatment. Ultimately, it is hoped this can provide a more effective and personalised breast screening service to women.

The project, known as BRAIx, is being jointly developed by St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, BreastScreen Victoria, The University of Melbourne, and the Australian Institute of Machine Learning at the University of Adelaide, in partnership with ACMD.



St Vincent's BreastScreen Clinical Director,  
Adjunct Associate Professor, Helen Frazer

"The use of AI models may be a significant step in transforming screening, enabling more accurate detection when used in conjunction with a radiologist examining every mammogram," says Dr Frazer who has worked in breast cancer screening for over 20 years.

**Learn more about the BRAIx project at:**

<https://www.acmd.org.au/>



St Vincent's Foundation Deputy Director, Rebecca MacFarling, met with Helen and Pat La Manna, who have supported St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and its cardiac programs for more than 20 years.

They hosted a lunchtime event at their home, which included a number of their preferred Melbourne-based organisations.

Pat and Helen made a generous donation to St Vincent's at the event.

# Key support for private hospital redevelopment

St Vincent's Private Hospital in Fitzroy is growing. A \$180 million, state-of-the-art, 12-storey building will increase opportunities to share research, clinical expertise, and care.

A Capital Campaign Steering Committee of key hospital and corporate representatives has been formed to support this ambitious project. The aim of the group is to actively develop and implement strategies to advise and cultivate the most critical elements to support the campaign's success.

To find out more about the redevelopment visit: <https://www.stvfoundation.org.au/fitzroy-private-redevelopment>

Two key members of this new committee are Dr Anita Clarke and Mark Daniel.



## Dr Anita Clarke - Committee Chair

*Dr Anita Clarke is a Senior Urologist at St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne.*



## Mark Daniel - Advisory Committee Member

*Mark has more than 25 years' professional experience in supply chains and logistics, including senior management roles with Linfox, Coca-Cola Amatil Indonesia, and Pacific Brands.*

### **Please tell us about your personal history with St Vincent's Hospital.**

I have had a long association with St Vincent's Hospital having been born in the foyer in the early 1960s. My father was the first director of intensive care at the hospital, and I spent many hours playing with my siblings in the car park. There we met the children of other St Vincent's Hospital consultants who I am now proud to say are many of my colleagues.

I have been a consultant now in the Urology Department for over 20 years and have enjoyed an ongoing relationship with St Vincent's Hospital in both public and private work.

### **What inspired you to become the Committee Chair?**

I believe that our redevelopment of the Fitzroy campus and the structure of the centres of excellence will continue to provide high-level care for patients from all backgrounds. As a cancer surgeon, I believe that St Vincent's Hospital offers a unique and collaborative approach to healthcare and that our consultant doctors continue to work with that original ethos of equal healthcare for all. It is with great pride that I take a leadership role in this project, channelling much of the energy and passion that my late father had for this institution.

### **What are your proudest achievements?**

Being the father to two great daughters. Leaving Perth relatively young and joining the navy, I have been very fortunate to have had a varied career both here in Australia and overseas. My family always believed in doing more for people not as fortunate. During my business career, I have been part of various giving programs through my work, either through the Coca-Cola Foundation in Indonesia, The Library Program through the Loreto Sisters in Vietnam, and various other programs throughout Asia, which I have been able to support either in kind or through donations.

### **What inspired you to become involved in the Capital Campaign Steering Committee?**

I see that the work of the Sisters of Charity (the remarkable women who founded St Vincent's) as especially valuable to the greater community. They have been part of the fabric of Melbourne for over 120 years. To be able to support them in leaving a legacy to the people of Melbourne, gives me a buzz.

### **What do you think are the key elements the redevelopment will offer to the Victorian public?**

A coordinated community hospital precinct that will deliver world-leading research and medical care to everyone in Melbourne.

## Werribee Charity Winter Ball returns

### ITALIAN SPORTS CLUB OF WERRIBEE

# Charity Winter Ball

Raising vital funds for **St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee**

**Saturday 30th July 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Raffle and Silent Auctions on the night**

\$100 per ticket – To purchase tickets: [www.iscw.com.au](http://www.iscw.com.au) or you can call 9741 1225

Tickets include – canapes on arrival, three course meal and unlimited beer, wine and soft drink

RSVP before 15th July 2022

[www.ISCW.com.au](http://www.ISCW.com.au)



**Live  
Entertainment**

## Smartsalary providing STAR peer support for St Vincent's Hospital staff

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our hard-working and brave staff members were faced with constant strain and uncertainty. Many staff members required additional help and assistance from the hospital's STAR Peer Support Program. This program is derived from a crisis-incident support model implemented across the emergency services.

The program involves staff caring for staff, where those in need are offered practical advice from someone who understands what they're going through. This important service focuses on minimising physical and psychological risks in the workplace, helping staff to get back to work as soon as possible, and avoiding pressure on an already depleted workforce.

Jacqueline Bloink, STAR Program and Workplace Wellbeing Manager said, "Smartsalary's generous support has enabled us to finance two annual recruitment and training courses in 2022. We are grateful for Smartsalary's support as it is important for us to continue to build our STAR membership and provide frontline support as well as raise awareness of the St Vincent's Hospital's workplace wellbeing programs."

Thanks to the generous support from Smartsalary, St Vincent's Hospital will be able to recruit and train an additional 20 STAR peer support workers. Once trained, these staff members will volunteer their time to provide frontline critical incident stress-management assistance for their colleagues, which will ensure that more staff members can benefit from this important program.





# Celebrating a new partnership with Genazzano College

Genazzano FCJ College recently celebrated an exciting collaboration between the Genazzano Institute and the Sisterhood of St Vincent's, which promotes women working in Health, Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

The event - hosted by Rebecca MacFarling, Deputy Director of the St Vincent's Foundation - was designed to provide students with an overview of career pathways in Health, Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Philanthropy. The event stimulated important discussion about empowering women and removing the gender bias.

Students heard from several guest speakers, including St Vincent's Foundation staff members, Associate Professor Claudia Di Bella, and Year 11 student, Ariyana Farik.

The afternoon session involved enthusiastic students working in teams on real-world projects to develop skills in planning, teamwork, promotion, and fundraising.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day, with one student reflecting on the significant impact the event had on her, saying, "This has given

me an insight into the true efforts of those who plan philanthropic events and what it really means to be a 'philanthropist'. The work of St Vincent's is revolutionary and has

encouraged me to get involved where I can and to lend my time to a worthy cause. If I pursue a career in medicine, today I have heard from so many women who have inspired me."



Genazzano College alumnae Sarah Kennedy, one of the founders of the Sisterhood of St Vincent's, and Rebecca Martin, St Vincent's Foundation Events Manager, both presented at the event.

## JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

St Vincent's Foundation are excited to announce the launch of our new social media channels. Join us as we share all the news, exciting updates, photos and videos from St Vincent's Foundation and St Vincent's Hospitals and Centres, with you.

PLEASE LIKE OR FOLLOW US ON:



<https://www.facebook.com/stvincentsfoundationvic>



[www.linkedin.com/company/81486196](http://www.linkedin.com/company/81486196)



[www.instagram.com/stvincentsfoundationvic](http://www.instagram.com/stvincentsfoundationvic)

# RUN MELBOURNE

FOR

St Vincent's  
Hospital

SUNDAY 24 JULY

Join the St Vincent's Foundation Run Melbourne team and fundraise for St Vincent's Hospital.

Enter the 5km Walk/Run, 10km Run or the Half Marathon.

[www.stvfoundation.org.au/event/run-melbourne-2022](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/event/run-melbourne-2022)



ST VINCENT'S  
FOUNDATION



## GO DRY THIS JULY - REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Proudly supported by

**DRY JULY**  
FOUNDATION

This July, we encourage you to consider giving up alcohol to raise funds for people affected by cancer who are treated at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

Dry July participants and donors help to ensure St Vincent's Hospital's cancer patients and their families have access to practical, tangible support, in both virtual and in-person settings.

Organisations can also make a big difference and gain many benefits by creating a workplace team.

**Sign up today to support patients receiving care for cancer at St Vincent's Hospital:**

<https://www.dryjuly.com/beneficiaries/stvincentshospitalmelbourne>

## SAVE THE DATE

### Celebration of Brilliance Online Art Auction

**Date: 18 October 2022**

Our Celebration of Brilliance Online Auction supports women's health and women in medicine at St Vincent's Hospital. This event is proudly hosted by Leonard Joel Online Auction House. Auction items can be previewed from 4 October 2022.

*For more information about any of our events, please contact our Events Manager, Rebecca Martin on (03) 9231 3287 or 0410 865 176.*

St Vincent's Foundation raises funds to support the vital work of the network of St Vincent's Hospitals across Victoria. If you would like to say thank you for the care you received at St Vincent's, please contact the Foundation team on 03 9231 3365, email us at [foundation@svha.org.au](mailto:foundation@svha.org.au) or visit [www.stvfoundation.org.au](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au).

*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.*