

# St Vincent's Cares

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022



## Love Your St Vincent's

### Deputy Director's report



I am delighted to pen my first newsletter as Deputy Director of the St Vincent's Foundation, following the departure of Lyn Amy after almost four years. While Lyn is missed from the daily work of the Foundation team, she continues to be a dear friend to the organisation as part of the ACMD's Philanthropy Advisory Council.

My first two months at St Vincent's have been like discovering a hidden wonder. This is an organisation filled with committed and driven experts, supported by passionate donors and patrons like yourselves. It is a joy to be part of it and I look forward to sharing inspiring stories of our work with you, including Werribee Hospital's 4th anniversary, new developments in biomedical engineering, how a gift in a Will impacted the hospital, and the ways in which our prosthetics team is changing lives.

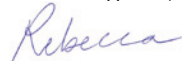
Thank you to all our donors. Because of you, our Emergency Appeal for Nurses in November–December 2021 raised

over \$378,000. This is a remarkable contribution that recognises the outstanding work of nurses throughout the most recent wave of the pandemic. Our corporate partners also contributed \$85,000 in gifts in kind and cash to the appeal. Your collective support has been used to purchase essential equipment, including iPads and automated defibrillators, to further enable and enhance the important work of St Vincent's nursing staff.

If you travel past the St Vincent's Fitzroy campus, you'll notice the start of two important building projects: the St Vincent's Private Hospital redevelopment, and the beginnings of the new Aitkenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) building. This construction will continue for the next three years and will end with the opening of two world-leading medical facilities that will change healthcare in Melbourne and Australia. We are seeking donors to these projects, including the opportunity for naming rights. Please get in touch if you would like to support either of these projects.

As always, from everyone at the Foundation and St Vincent's hospital staff, thank you for your support. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss the vital work of St Vincent's.

Warm regards,



**Rebecca MacFarling**  
Deputy Director,  
St Vincent's Foundation

### GO DRY THIS JULY

Dry July encourages participants to go alcohol-free in July to raise funds for people affected by cancer at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.



#### Dry July in the Workplace

Organisations can make a big difference and gain many benefits by creating a workplace team. Individuals and workplace teams can register your interest at:

<https://www.stvfoundation.org.au/events/dry-july-2022>

Proudly supported by

**DRY JULY**  
FOUNDATION

Contact St Vincent's Foundation on 03 9231 3365 or [foundation@svha.org.au](mailto:foundation@svha.org.au)

## Pre-works commence on Private Hospital redevelopment

The first stage of the construction of the new, world-class St Vincent's Private Hospital redevelopment in Fitzroy has begun. Pre-works have started with the pulling down of existing buildings on the corner of Victoria Parade and Brunswick Street.

The \$180 million project will allow for more integrated treatment and care. Highlights of the development include:

- **Four new state-of-the-art operating theatres**
- **New Intensive Care Unit and radiology services**
- **New birthing suites and a new Special Care Nursery**
- **Brand new Virtual Care Hub to bring care to our patients at home**
- **More integrated research and teaching to nurture staff learning and development**

The new 12-storey building, which will sit adjacent to the current hospital, will increase opportunities to share research and clinical expertise with both St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and the ACMD.

### The future of St Vincent's is here.

To find out how you can become a part of this ground-breaking project, please contact:

St Vincent's Foundation's Capital Campaign Director, Cameron Smith at [cameron.smith@svha.org.au](mailto:cameron.smith@svha.org.au)



## Happy 4th birthday, Werribee

St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee has officially celebrated four years of providing high-quality care to our local community and beyond!

Libby Fifis, General Manager and Director of Clinical Services at St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, said, since our opening, we have cared for over 17,500 patients and performed more than 11,000 surgical procedures.

"I can't believe how quickly the years have gone! It has been a remarkable journey to watch our team consistently provide excellent patient-centred care. I am humbled to be a part of such a wonderful team and to grow together."

During these last 12 months, Werribee has made a significant impact in the community by operating the local COVID-19 vaccination hub on behalf of the local public hospital.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and who continue to support St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee. The Werribee Capital Campaign - Invest in the West has so far raised over \$2 million.

We are committed to providing excellence in care and service to patients in Melbourne's west. If you would like to support the growth of St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, head to: [www.stvfoundation.org.au/private/svphw](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/private/svphw)



Staff celebrating St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee's 4th birthday

# Transforming lives through the gift of mobility

Artist, Kate Elsey, has faced many challenges in her life. She has survived breast cancer and is currently receiving treatment for secondary cancer. She also has had kidney disease and a successful kidney transplant. And if that wasn't enough, Kate also has type 1 diabetes, which caused Charcot neuroarthropathy, a disease that has resulted in the disintegration of her knee and ankle, resulting in her requiring a full prosthetic knee.

Kate says the Charcot was a huge shock when it first happened. "In some ways, it's still a shock. The joint suddenly deforms and the leg is no longer able to support the body."

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's Prosthetic and Orthotic Department custom-makes prostheses and orthoses that are manufactured at our Fitzroy campus. Kate first started seeing Senior Orthotist, Honor Murdoch, 15 years ago. Since their first meeting, Honor has created numerous different full leg braces for Kate as her condition has changed.

"It has been a life-changing experience to be treated by Honor because she showed me there was still a way to be able to walk. Plus, she has always recognised the importance of art for me, involving me in the design so we could incorporate an artistic element.

*"I don't know how to express my thanks. Honor has given me the ability to swim in the ocean and walk around the botanical gardens with my dog. Because of her, I have been able to maintain a sense of self,"* Kate said.



Kate with one of her paintings which are currently exhibited at Linton and Kay Gallery in Perth and Eastgate Gallery in Hawthorn.



Kate's callipers decorated with her artwork

## Prosthetic and Orthotic Department clinical space upgrade

The Prosthetics and Orthotics Department is in desperate need of an upgrade to ensure patients have the privacy and accessibility they need to access our services. The department currently has limited space to ensure accessibility for patients in wheelchairs and a very small gait room, which means that patients often have to walk in the corridor with legs exposed to enable gait analysis.

If you would like to support the upgrade, head to:  
[www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/prosthetics](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/prosthetics)



## New research to regrow nerves

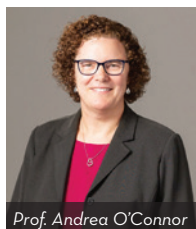
The ability to regrow nerves is at the heart of a new research project. This radical approach could help to repair nerve damage without having to source and remove existing nerves from another part of a patient's body. Nerve damage can be caused by an injury or by a range of medical conditions.

Led by ACMD partners, this project is investigating the use of 3D structures made from biocompatible and biodegradable materials to cleverly form a micro-environment that can harness the human body's natural regeneration capabilities.

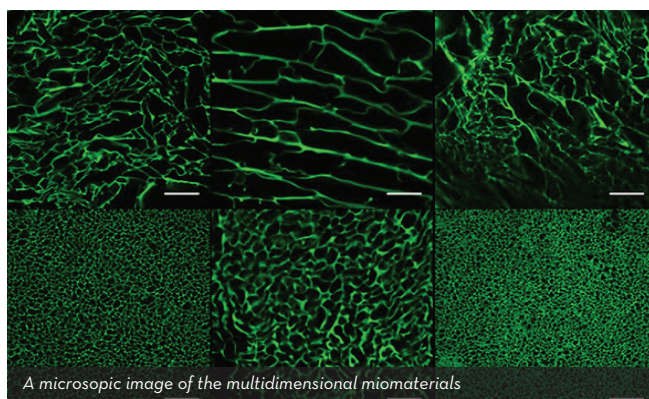
The University of Melbourne and Swinburne University of Technology head up the research team. According to Professor Andrea O'Connor – Project Lead from the University of Melbourne's Department of Biomedical Engineering – this novel approach could ultimately lead to solutions for regenerating other soft tissues, such as skeletal muscle, ligaments and tendons.

"Treatment of lost tissue function accounts for a large fraction of the national healthcare budget and a lack of satisfactory treatments has meant patients are often forced to endure pain, loss of mobility, experience a reduced quality of life, and ongoing healthcare expenses," says Professor O'Connor.

The technology being explored could also potentially be used to help with artificial and robotic limb replacement in the future. For more information about this project or to support ACMD, head to: [www.acmd.org.au](http://www.acmd.org.au)



Prof. Andrea O'Connor



A microscopic image of the multidimensional biomaterials

## Love Your St Vincent's



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

### I want to give

Single gift:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

☐ My choice: \_\_\_\_\_

A regular gift of:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ deducted monthly\*

\*Your gift will be processed after the 15th of each month, and will continue unless you notify us to stop it.

### My donation details

Please debit my:

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Your date of birth helps us identify you should you need to contact us in the future.

**Please return this completed form to:  
Reply Paid 65162, Fitzroy Vic. 3065**

### Other ways to donate



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



(03) 9231 3365



Cashier, next to the reception desk in the main hospital foyer, Building A, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne



Scan the QR code



All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. ABN: 22 052 110 755

The Foundation is compliant with the Australian Privacy Principles. Please visit <https://www.svhm.org.au/privacy-policy> to view the Foundation's Privacy Policy.

☐ Please do not send me further St Vincent's Foundation appeal requests.

# Include a Gift

Gifts in Wills are a way of providing vital support without affecting your current financial circumstances.

By including St Vincent's Hospital in your Will, you play an important 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 Hospital in my Will.
- ☐ I have already included a gift in my Will to St Vincent's Hospital.

**For more information, please contact a member of the Foundation team at [foundation@svha.org.au](mailto:foundation@svha.org.au) or call 03 9231 3365.**



ST VINCENT'S  
FOUNDATION

## A truly lasting legacy

A former patient of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Monica Ryan, has left an exceptionally generous gift in her Will, donating the proceeds from the sale of her home and estate of over \$1.5 million.



Monica with her beloved cat Smooch.  
Photo: Ben Silvester

Monica's neighbour and friend, Julia, shared some insights into her life.

Monica moved to Fitzroy in the 1960s. She owned, ran and lived above an antiques and record store on Smith Street up until the 1990s. She was fiercely independent and did not marry her long-term partner. The shop and the vibrant neighbourhood of Fitzroy and Collingwood brought her a strong network of friends and acquaintances. She was universally known as strong willed with a dry, quick and clever sense of humour. Monica's greatest love throughout her life (apart from the Collingwood Football Club) was her animals.

In her early nineties, Monica became unwell. Throughout this time, she was cared for by her neighbourhood friends, St Vincent's Hospital, and Melbourne City Mission Palliative Care. On 16 March 2020, aged 92, Monica died in her home with music, friends and her cat beside her.

The inspiration behind her generous gift to St Vincent's was her belief in community and giving back. Julia recalls when Monica needed to be admitted to St Vincent's that she would typically comment, "I'm amazed at the quality and the level of care afforded to everyone, no matter what their station in life."

Monica's values were aligned with St Vincent's mission to care for everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable.

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

For more information, visit:  
[www.stvfoundation.org.au/giveagift](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/giveagift)  
or call 03 9231 3365.

## Partnering for success

We've partnered with a range of organisations and both you and St Vincent's can benefit!

**Through the Nelson Alexander Referral Program selling or leasing your property could now support St Vincent's.**

Thanks to this new partnership, St Vincent's Hospital Foundation will receive a contribution from Nelson Alexander for all new business generated through the St Vincent's community of staff and supporters.

If you or anyone you know is thinking of selling or requires a property manager, simply complete your details via this link for a no-obligation sales or rental appraisal:

<https://bit.ly/StV-NelsonReferral>

**Nelson  
Alexander**



## Cue's shop to support campaign

Australia's iconic fashion brand, Cue, is donating \$10 to St Vincent's every time a face mask is purchased in-store in Sydney and Melbourne and online.

So far, Cue has raised over \$8000 in support of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. To purchase a Cue face mask, visit a Cue store in Sydney and Melbourne or [visit www.cue.com](http://www.cue.com).

## Donations in lieu of table gifts

Event organisers of a recent Property Council of Australia event donated \$3,500 to St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne in lieu of table gifts for their guests.

Michelle Howard of Brookfield Properties said, "Brookfield Properties has watched with quiet admiration the tireless efforts of Australia's medical community to keep Australians safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were delighted to be able to show our appreciation via a contribution in support of the nurses of St Vincent's."

For any corporate enquiries contact [richard.thayer@svha.org.au](mailto:richard.thayer@svha.org.au)

## SAVE THE DATE

### Will and Financial Planning Webinar

**12 noon - Wednesday 30 March 2022**

To register head to [www.stvfoundation.org.au/event/will-planning-webinar](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/event/will-planning-webinar)

### Celebration of Brilliance Online Art Auction

Supporting women's health and women in medicine at St Vincent's Hospital

**Tuesday 18 October 2022**

Proudly hosted by Leonard Joel Online Auction House

Items can be previewed from 4 October 2022

## GO DRY THIS JULY

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

Thank you to all the participants of the 2021 Dry July campaign who raised over \$53,000! This phenomenal result enabled us to purchase items including a blood pressure machine and treatment chairs.

### Dry July in the workplace

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

Individuals and workplace teams can register interest at:

<https://www.stvfoundation.org.au/events/dry-july-2022>

Corporates wanting more information can contact [richard.thayer@svha.org.au](mailto:richard.thayer@svha.org.au)

Proudly supported by

**DRY JULY**  
FOUNDATION

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.