

# Foundation STONE

Spring 2024



## Update on Ballarat Health Services Foundation & Grampians Health Fundraising

Dear friend of BHS Foundation & Grampians Health Ballarat,

I hope this finds you well as spring has now sprung. It's my pleasure to share with you some stories from the ward and the latest news for our community.

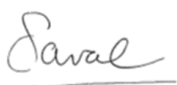
Over the past four months, we've been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters. We recently held our Donor Thank You event, which gave us the opportunity to showcase the incredible work that has been achieved through your contributions.

We are pleased to announce that the Ballarat Base Hospital Redevelopment is progressing well, with the construction of the Central Energy Plant and Support Services building, the first major structure in the redevelopment. Stage three has now begun, marking the halfway point of this five-stage project. The expanded multi-deck car park has reopened, adding 400 extra spaces, improving access for patients and visitors.

Additionally, we've launched our Cancer Wellness Raffle, with tickets available online as well as at the Wellness Centre, Frank Ford Travel and Barry Plant Ballarat. With a French holiday up for grabs, we encourage everyone to get involved and support the cause. Look out for the signboards around town and scan the QR Codes.

Thank you for your continued support, allowing us to deliver exceptional care. We are deeply grateful for your contributions, which drive us forward every day.

Wishing you a lovely summer ahead,



Sarah Masters  
Head of Fundraising & Engagement  
BHS Foundation & Grampians Health Ballarat

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Donor Thank You Event

In September, Grampians Health Ballarat and the Ballarat Health Services Foundation hosted a special Donor Thank You Event at the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility at Morshead Park, Redan.

This event was all about expressing our gratitude to you, our incredible community donors, and highlighting how your contributions are making a significant impact on our public health service.



Donors heard from Matthew Drake, Paediatric Navigator of the Grampians Health at Home service, who shared how community donations helped launch the paediatric care at home program:

“Last Christmas, thanks to the generosity of 350 donors, we were able to purchase essential equipment that allowed us to care for over 500 children in their homes, saving more than 1,500 nights in hospital in under a year. Community donations have been crucial in expanding the program quickly, providing vital care to children and families when they need it most.”

Nearly 100 of you, our donors, also heard from Jasmine Meier, whose daughter Lola, is supported by the Paediatric at Home program. Jasmine shared how the service has allowed their family to stay together at home while Lola receives ongoing treatment, significantly reducing her time spent in hospital.



## Leaving a legacy of exceptional public healthcare

Bequests to Grampians Health Ballarat or the Ballarat Health Services Foundation are amongst the most powerful donations we receive. We recently received a bequest (Gift in a Will) from a former resident of an aged care home in Ballarat. We were graciously included with seven other charities as beneficiaries.

While we naturally consider the needs of our loved ones when we prepare our wills, this lady's generosity demonstrates how a small percentage of an estate can have far-reaching benefits on the healthcare we provide. Her gift allowed us to purchase equipment for prostate cancer treatment, maternity ward and outpatients clinic, and our respiratory ward. We are grateful for the legacy she has left across many of the services we provide.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your will, please contact [chris.gerakiteys@gh.org.au](mailto:chris.gerakiteys@gh.org.au) or 03 5320 4093.

# COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING



## Family Fun Night



## Reworn Market



## Dry July

In July, Ballarat Petanque Club's Family Fun Night raised a whopping \$20,045 for our Cancer Wellness Centre. The event, held at Ballarat East Bowling Club, was inspired by the late Anthony Clancy, a beloved club member who received care at the Centre. With the dedication of Gordon and Pam Oliver, and incredible community support, this vision became a reality. Over 130 attendees, enjoyed a night full of fun activities like raffles, a silent auction, wine and cheese tasting, bingo, trivia, cornhole and a Kid's Corner packed with games. The funds raised cover approximately a third of our Centre's annual operating costs, ensuring the continuation of essential services including over 3,000 appointments and support group sessions each year..

Reworn Market reached new heights **last** August raising a record of over \$4,000 for our Cancer Wellness Centre. With 488 people pouring through the doors of the historic Mining Exchange, the atmosphere was buzzing as attendees supported a great cause while celebrating sustainable fashion. Guests indulged in delicious paella and churros from The Paella Guy, sold out the cakes from Mrs. Browne Bakes and enjoyed live music by the talented father-daughter team, Freya and Tom McGowan. A massive thank you to Jacqui Jarvis and Rochelle Tournier, the dynamic duo behind Reworn Market, for their partnership with our health service.

Congratulations to all our 34 Dry July participants. This year, ~~we have~~ raised over \$48,000 for our Cancer Centre and Wellness Centre, the largest public provider of cancer treatment services in Western Victoria. We've been blown away by the incredible support from our participants and their supporters, making this one of our best years yet. Every year, we provide cancer care to over 300 public patients, delivering over 3800 episodes of treatment. This includes care for over 140 patients receiving treatment at home. We currently have 57 clinical trials in Oncology and Haematology, from phase I through to phase III and follow-up. Cheers to another successful year of Dry July.

# STORIES FROM THE WARD



## The Maternity Unit is Pumped

Thanks to the generous support of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, we've received two brand-new breast pumps, ready to help our tiniest patients get the very best start in life. These pumps are truly a game changer for families in our Special Care Nursery and Maternity Unit, especially for those baby's who can't breastfeed just yet.

Lactation Consultant, Jan Mitchell, highlights the importance: "Having access to a pump is a vital part of the breastfeeding journey for the mum's long-term health and the baby's well-being. Studies show that morbidity and mortality rates are affected when there is limited access to breast pumps."


With over 1,400 babies born at the Base Hospital in 2023, we experienced a shortage of pumps and had to hire them to keep up with the demand.

"They're a great addition to our existing stock. Breastfeeding is a big part of babies' recovery, it's whole food that helps them grow strong and healthy." Jan says.

We're thrilled to have the support of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, ensuring our little ones and their families are well taken care of.

## Community Champions

A special call-out to those individuals and groups who have so generously donated to our health service.

- Ballarat Motorcycle Community's various events for Special Care Nursery
- Pole Time Studio's Open Day supports Cancer Wellness Centre
- Camp 4 Cancer Trivia Night
- Cancer Wellness Centre Pop-Up Shop
- Cookie's Annual Head Shave Fundraiser 
- Ballarat AFL Masters FC's Round for Cancer Wellness Centre
- Ballarat Greyhounds Racing Club for Cancer Wellness Centre

