

# MOMENTUM

MONASH HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWS

ISSUE 02

WINTER 2021



Cover story | Page 05

**Imagination comes to life!**

Recognition | Page 06

**All smiles at Dandenong Hospital**

Philanthropy | Page 07

**Young Oscar shows the way**

# A message from the Director



[Welcome to our second issue of \*Momentum\* for 2021](#)

The past 18 months have been an unusual time for us all. As you would expect, we have been extremely busy. In addition to ongoing patient care, teaching, training, and research, our nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals continued to enhance the way we provide care while responding to the threat of COVID-19.

Not only did our teams prepare our hospitals for a potential influx of COVID-19 positive patients, we also established testing clinics across the region to help keep our community safe.

More recently, Monash Health set up two high-volume vaccination centres at Sandown Racecourse in Springvale and Cranbourne Turf Club. These centres have now vaccinated tens of thousands of our community members.

I extend my sincere thanks to our nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and support employees across Monash Health.

As a donor, you can send a message of support to our teams by donating towards vital equipment, training, capital projects or patient and family centred initiatives.

One particularly interesting story of a patient-centred initiative is that of Oscar Chalmers (on page 07 of this issue of *Momentum*). Driven by the quality care provided to his twin brothers, Oscar has organised a substantial donation of two GOKarts to help kids in hospital focus less on the stress of a hospital visit. At just 11 years old, Oscar could teach us all something about philanthropy.

On the subject of reducing stress and anxiety, you can also read about our Smileyscope on page 06. What's a Smileyscope? It's a clever virtual reality headset that transports our child patients into a story about their care. The results speak from themselves, with huge reductions in the stress and anxiety felt by patients and their parents.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Momentum*. Please feel free to share it with your family and friends.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Fairchild'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and 'F'.

**Ron Fairchild**  
Director  
Monash Health Foundation

◀ Cover image: Marley at the launch of the Moose Imagination Tree at Monash Children's Hospital. See page 05 for the full story.

***Momentum* is published by the Monash Health Foundation, the fundraising arm of Monash Health.**

Monash Health holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. This means that donations of \$2 or more to the Monash Health Foundation are tax-deductible.

**Monash Health Foundation**  
Locked Bag 29  
Clayton South VIC 3169  
+61 3 9594 2700  
[foundation@monashhealth.org](mailto:foundation@monashhealth.org)



## Your support will take skills and drills into the F.A.S.T. lane

The Monash Health Foundation has launched a community appeal focusing on critical skills training in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The appeal is raising funds to create the Monash Children's Frontline Advanced Skills Training (F.A.S.T.) suite.

Director of PICU Associate Professor Felix Oberender explained that the PICU team are taking teaching and learning out of meeting rooms and on to the frontline.



Just as pilots train for emergency landings and mid-air crises, the clinical crew that rushes to save a child's life must continuously hone their skills," Felix said.

"Skills and drills of some of the most critical capabilities happen inside the PICU. A tea break, a moment of calm and even a few minutes before a critical procedure are used to run through a drill or to rehearse a skill."

Some of the equipment used for these exercises – mannequins, defibrillators and monitors – originates from a time long before the opening of the new Monash Children's Hospital.

Funds raised through the tax-time community appeal will purchase equipment modules for the F.A.S.T. suite. These include independent component 'packs' focusing on resuscitation, difficult airways, point-of-care ultrasound and vascular access.

At the time of going to print, the appeal has raised \$75,000 and is continuing to see extremely generous gifts.

the  
F.A.S.T.  
lane



For more information about F.A.S.T. please visit: [monashhealthfoundation.org/2021tax](https://monashhealthfoundation.org/2021tax)



Read more and view a video about the Moose Imagination Tree at: [monashhealthfoundation.org/tree](https://monashhealthfoundation.org/tree)

▲ Detail of the Moose Imagination Tree space



# Imagination comes to life!

The Moose Imagination Tree was recently opened at Monash Children's Hospital.

Monash Health Chief Executive Andrew Stripp hosted the official proceedings and welcomed the Hon Martin Foley MP, Victorian Minister for Health, Paul Solomon, Co-CEO of Moose Toys, and Kylie Watson-Wheeler, Senior Vice-President and Managing Director of The Walt Disney Company Australia and New Zealand.

The Moose Imagination Tree is truly a labour of love. It was creatively nurtured by Imagineers from The Walt Disney Company and built through the generous support of Moose Toys. The donations of these two great companies made the initiative possible.

The wondrous space has been created for children and adults alike. Patients and their families are encouraged to explore the tree and play through a variety of sensory experiences.

"We're incredibly grateful for the support, vision and creative strength of Moose Toys and The Walt Disney Company, who have brought the Moose Imagination Tree to life."

Standing at over 16 metres tall, the Moose Imagination Tree spans four levels of Monash Children's Hospital and offers a variety of activities and spaces for visitors to explore, play or relax. The magical space has been designed and created to help transform the hospital experience for young patients.

Each level of the tree has been designed to reflect the ward and unit areas on that level and the age of children in those units.

**At the centre of the Moose Imagination Tree is a magical area known as 'The Knot'. This special place invites children to place their hand on the tree's knot and share their deepest dreams and thoughts. These are then carried up into the tree in a dazzling display of sound and stardust. As the sky above the tree moves from day to night, stardust carries what has been imagined up to the sky, until it overflows and is released into the brightest star above.**

Monash Children's Hospital cares for more than 100,000 children every year," said Andrew Stripp. "Children might be with us for an hour and then go home, but others are with us for many months at a time due to chronic illness. The Moose Imagination Tree is remarkable because it caters to all of those patients and their families."



## New committee supports Paediatric ED

Monash Health has welcomed a new committee of key supporters. The Friends of Monash Health is a committee of caring and driven people who are giving their time and talent to raise funds for Monash Health.

Chief Executive of Monash Health Andrew Stripp thanked the committee for their fundraising work, which is initially focused on supporting equipment and enhancement needs for the new Paediatric Emergency Department (ED) at the Clayton site.

“My thanks to the Friends of Monash Health Committee, led by chair Dame Janet Spooner, for their involvement. Your commitment is truly appreciated,” Andrew said.

“The new Paediatric ED is an important fundraising objective. The Government of Victoria has funded the establishment of the new Paediatric ED, and philanthropy is playing a key role in the provision of the latest equipment and features.”

Chair Dame Janet Spooner DGSJ OAM said the committee members were giving their time to organise key fundraising events.

“In March this year, we ran our inaugural event – the Garden Lunch – which was a great success,” Dame Janet said. “Held in the garden at the Ormond Collective, the lunch gathered new supporters for Monash Health and raised a substantial amount of funds for the new Paediatric ED.”

“Thank you to my committee for their many efforts to realise the lunch. My particular thanks to the donors of auction items and, of course, to the bidders.”

### Friends of Monash Health committee:

Janet Spooner (Chair), Cam Bertalli, Carl Buerckner, Jodie Dobson, Ron Fairchild, Bill Haggerty, Rosalie Heymanson, Anglea Mihelcic, Rachel Rosler, Dina Sanghvi, Allisha Spooner, Michelle Stamper, Sadhna Wilson.

▲ Chair of the Friends of Monash Health committee Dame Janet Spooner with her husband Rodney Spooner



To make a donation to the Paediatric ED visit: [monashhealthappeal.org](http://monashhealthappeal.org)

## All smiles at Dandenong Hospital

Children at Dandenong Hospital are experiencing reduced stress during procedures thanks to a generous donation from the Kiwanis Club of Berwick.

The gift from the Club enabled the hospital to purchase a Smileyscope – a specialised virtual reality headset which helps reduce stress and anxiety for children during procedures such as IV insertions, needle procedures and wound dressing changes.

The Smileyscope immerses children in hospital into an interactive world, helping them to reimagine the procedure they are undergoing as part of a story they are watching. The results are very positive with up to 60% of children experiencing a reduction in stress and anxiety and up to 75% of caregivers reporting a reduction in stress and anxiety.

Norman McLennan is the President of the Kiwanis Club of Berwick. He explained that the donation was motivated by a desire to help children at Dandenong Hospital.

“As a local group, we have been supporting Dandenong Hospital for more than 45 years, commencing with a donation for physiotherapy equipment in the mid-1970s,” Norman said.

“When we heard about the Smileyscope, the Club was inspired to make our latest donation,” he said.

“It’s terrific that the virtual reality device is delivering on its promise – reducing stress and anxiety for the child and parents alike.”

In fact, the Smileyscope has been so well received that the children’s unit at Dandenong Hospital is hoping to purchase a second device.



To support Dandenong Hospital visit: [monashhealthfoundation.org/form](http://monashhealthfoundation.org/form)

▼ Max with a Smileyscope



## Casey Hospital serves a growing community

Monash Health runs the 229-bed Casey Hospital in Berwick, in Melbourne's south-east. The hospital provides a range of specialist health services to the increasing populations of the region. In fact, the local government area of Casey is one of the fastest-growing in Australia.

Services at the Casey Hospital site include general medical, emergency, mental health, rehabilitation, maternity and special care nursery, surgical, ambulatory care and the new Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The 12-bed ICU was opened in May 2020 and is the first ICU in the region.

At the official opening, Monash Health Chief Operating Officer Martin Keogh said that the ICU will change the way Casey Hospital operates as a site and that the benefits will be felt across other sites.

"With a higher acuity of patients able to be treated here at Casey, we'll be able to keep more patients close to home, improve continuity-of-care and enhance the patient experience" Martin said.

"Importantly, by reducing the need for transfers, which come with clinical challenges for very unwell patients, we will also see improved outcomes for patients."



To support Casey Hospital visit: [monashhealthfoundation.org/form](https://monashhealthfoundation.org/form)

## Young philanthropist shows the way

At 11 years old, Oscar Chalmers is already learning about philanthropy. Oscar was inspired by an Australian YouTuber named Lazarbeam to organise a substantial donation of two special game carts to Monash Children's Hospital.

Designed for children to play on while in bed or waiting for a procedure, the USA-made GOKarts will be housed in the same-day ward, Lagoon.

Lagoon cares for more than 500 children each month. The GOKarts will not only be a great distraction but will also help to make coming to Lagoon a positive experience.

Oscar was inspired to give to Monash Children's Hospital as both his older twin brothers received life-saving care at the hospital. Oscar explained:

"The reason why our family (Chalmers Family Foundation) is donating these GOKarts to Monash Children's Hospital is because of all the assistance we have received from the teams there over the years.

"My brothers, Zac and Alex, who are twins (now 14 years old), both needed help from the hospital when they were young," Oscar said.

In Alex's case, the doctors were concerned that he might not survive the neonatal period due to dramatically reduced lung function, but he pulled through.

"Mum still calls Alex her miracle baby."

Four years later, the family had to return to Monash Children's Hospital. "When Zac was 4 years old, he was found to have a brain tumour which required immediate surgery to be removed. He was booked in for surgery at Monash Children's Hospital ASAP, and the team there really looked after him. He had to be operated on a few times, but the surgeon managed to remove all the brain tumour," Oscar said

"Both my twin brothers are fine these days. We are still very grateful to the whole team at Monash Children's Hospital for what they have done for our family."

Monash Health expresses our sincere thanks to Oscar and the Chalmers Family Foundation for their generosity.



Oscar and the Chalmers Family are very keen to raise funds to purchase more GOKarts for other parts Monash Children's Hospital and other children's hospitals in Australia. To learn more visit: [tiltify.com/@chalmers-family-foundation/gaming-karts-for-australian-hospitals](https://tiltify.com/@chalmers-family-foundation/gaming-karts-for-australian-hospitals)



▲ The GOKarts look very much like other pieces of mobile hospital equipment and can be easily sanitised.

## Donate/participate

Yes, I would like to donate to Monash Health's area of greatest need.

### Ways to donate

- Visit [monashhealthfoundation.org/form](http://monashhealthfoundation.org/form)
- Detach and post this form in the reply paid envelope supplied or return to Monash Health Foundation Locked Bag 29, Clayton South VIC 3169
- Call 03 9594 2700 to pay by bank transfer

### Scan code



### Amount (donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible)

Donate monthly  Donate once

Please accept my donation of:

\$125  \$80  \$40

My choice \$

### Details (\*required fields)

Title\* First name\*

Last name\*

Email\*

Mobile/phone

Street address

Suburb

Postcode State

Supporter number

How would you like to be contacted in the future?

Email  Mail

### Payment options

**Cheque/money order** Please make payable to 'Monash Health Foundation' and return in the reply paid envelope supplied.

**Credit card**  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Card number:

Expiry date

Cardholder name

Signature

Date

### Giving in your legal will

- I am considering a gift to Monash Health in my will. Please provide me with more information.
- I have already mentioned Monash Health in my will.

At the Monash Health Foundation we respect your privacy. We collect personal information through this form so we can process your donation, issue you with tax receipts, respond to any requests you make and to send your communications. Monash Health likes to keep you updated on how you can make a difference. If you would like to change your communication preferences please contact us at [foundation@monashhealth.org](mailto:foundation@monashhealth.org) or 03 9594 2700. ABN: 82 142 080 338.

# Community events 2021

At the time of going to print we were planning the below events, however they are subject to change in line with relevant COVID safe requirements. Please mark your diaries with the below details.



▲ Pyjama Fun Run 2019

21–31 August

## Walk for Monash Children's Hospital

Take on the challenge to walk 100,000 steps and raise vital funds. [www.mchwalk.com.au](http://www.mchwalk.com.au)

Tuesday 21 September

## World Gratitude Day

Patients and their families say 'thank you' to the health teams at Monash Health for the care received.

Sunday 10 October

## Dr Hope – High Tea

A lavish high tea at Merrimu Receptions, Murrumbena supporting Monash Health clinical cancer trials.

Sunday 24 October

## Kids Fun Run with Thomas

An exciting event for young and old.

Sunday 7 November

## Pyjama Fun Run

The fun event at Princes Park raises funds and awareness for sleep health.

Saturday 20 November

## Dandelion Wishes Gala

Don't miss this amazing night of entertainment and philanthropy.

December (date TBD)

## Bailey's Day

A charity golf day, auction and lunch to raise funds for the training of paediatric oncologists, and cancer research.

December (date TBD)

## Pump the Pedals for Prostate Cancer

A virtual bike ride organised by Monash Health Urology team.



More details about these events, as they are finalised, will be published at [monashhealthfoundation.org/events](http://monashhealthfoundation.org/events)