

# MOMENTUM

MONASH HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWS

ISSUE 01

MAR 2021

 **Monash Health**  
Foundation

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# Welcome from the Director



Welcome to the first edition of *Momentum*.  
*Momentum* will be our way to share donor stories  
and items about the impact of your generosity.

I'm writing this message in January 2021 and it feels like 2020 was already a time in the distant past. 2020 was certainly a year like no other, and although here in Melbourne we are transitioning to a new normal, a simple glance at the global news tells us that 2021 will be a pivotal year in the fight against COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 and the various lockdowns had repercussions way beyond what we imagined in early 2020. For the Monash Health Foundation we had to cancel or drastically change many of our planned fundraising events. Some events went virtual, such as the PJ Fun Run and the Dandelion Wishes Gala. These virtual events taught us many lessons which we will apply to face-to-face events when they kick off again. You can read about the success of our Urology specialists who 'pumped the pedals' for enhanced care for prostate cancer patients on page 7.

As you can read in the cover story, we ran a community appeal to raise funds for research to help people with COVID-19. This had a very positive result and we hope to see outcomes emerge over coming months of the eight funded research projects. I will certainly update you on progress in *Momentum* and other communications from the Foundation.

A major part of my role and the team's is to inspire you to donate to Monash Health's patient care, training, research, capital projects and specialised equipment; donations that are over and above what we can expect government to provide. It's about taking a great health service and making it outstanding through a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Max Bennetts and Patrick Tessier OAM are two truly inspiring people. I encourage you to read the conversation with Max on page 3 and the news about Patrick's Medal of the Order of Australia on page 6. But be warned – you may need a tissue or two!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Momentum*. I look forward to your feedback.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Fairchild', written in a cursive style.

**Ron Fairchild**  
Director  
Monash Health Foundation

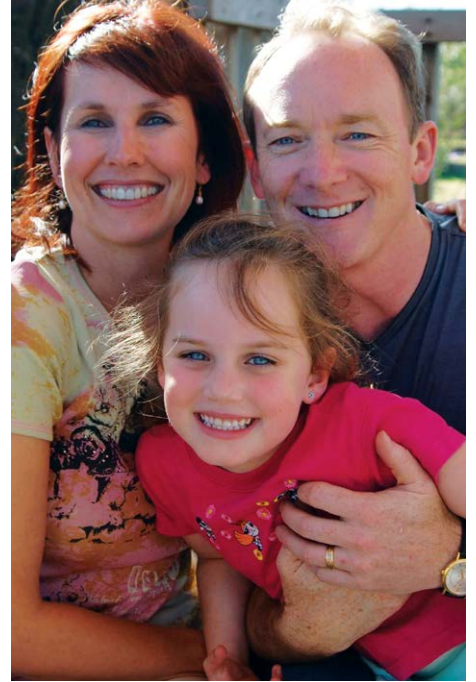
◀ Cover image: emergency nurse Hui Teng featured in the promotion of the COVID-19 urgent appeal. See page 05 for the full story.

***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.

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Kerryn with husband Peter and daughter Eliza



## With the inspiring Max Bennetts

Max and Judith Bennetts have made a generous gift to cancer research at Monash Health, in honour of their late daughter Kerryn. *Momentum* spoke to Max about their daughter and the donation.

**Hi Max, thanks for agreeing to be interviewed. Can I start by asking what motivated your generous gift?**

Memory of our lost daughter, pride and some guilt.

Kerryn battled breast cancer and its consequences for seven years. She was 46 when she died and 39 when first diagnosed.

**Why did you choose to honour her in this particular way?**

From my mum I inherited the BRACA-1 gene and I passed it on to Kerryn. Her cancer was diagnosed at Monash Health and they did the relevant gene mapping for all the family and the extended family. And we just felt cared for.

**Tell us about Kerryn.**

She was a high achiever and a pretty amazing person.

**Did she study?**

Yes, Kerryn studied psychology at a college of Melbourne Uni. She then won a Pratt scholarship so Kerryn went to London Uni and got a Masters of Education. All thanks to the Pratt Foundation.

She came back to Australia and practiced as a psychologist. She met Peter at the Benalla health service when she was working there. They later married.

They came down to Melbourne and ran a joint practice in their house until Kerryn became too sick.

**How would you describe your daughter?**

Kerryn was always very determined. Kerryn and her husband Peter have a daughter Eliza (Lizie). Lizie is now an opera singer and has just graduated.

Kerryn died in 2013. In late 2012 or early 2013 Eliza was the star in the show of the story 'The Secret Garden'. Kerryn was very heavily affected by her cancer by then but she went to all but two of the eight performances. On the last night Kerryn organised a caterer and flowers for a party. Kerryn refused to go to the party in a wheelchair. She hosted the party for the staff, cast, crew and parents.

The party was Kerryn's triumph and after that she just faded away.

**The gift is supporting a cancer researcher. You had chance to meet the researcher, Carolyn. How did you find that?**

We had a great talk. It's just amazing! I understand that there are treatments for some of the most serious cancers – breast, bone, bowel – and some people go into remission. You never say cured. And for some people the treatment just stops working. So Carolyn is part of a global team looking at the genes to see what are the controlling. Here's where I am out of the language!

She's one of a global cooperative team and they share their findings. That's exciting. I couldn't have wished for more than that.

**What do you hope that your donation will achieve?**

My hope was that there would be something worthwhile that the money could be invested in. The even bigger thing was that we were hoping that Kerryn would be remembered. [Chokes up] It starts to get me. I thought of a plaque. I'd like as many people as possible to see the plaque. My hope is that other people like me will see the plaque and think "that's a good idea!"



▼ Mother and infant at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Monash Children's Hospital



# Thank you to our supporters

The Monash Health Foundation extends its sincere thanks to all the donors who supported Monash Health in 2020 – a year of rapid change in the health and not-for-profit sectors.

When the initial implications of COVID-19 became apparent, a new appeal was conceived. We responded to the urgent need around COVID-19 with a community appeal, raising funds for Monash Health research into treatments for people with the coronavirus.

The appeal was strongly supported by the community, including a very generous contribution by the Freemason's Foundation Victoria and wonderful contributions by the Cambodian community, encouraged by long-time supporter Richard Lim.

We are delighted to report that, thanks to all this great support, the appeal broke Monash Health Foundation records for community appeals, raising more than \$470,000.

With close to half a million dollars available to Monash Health researchers, competition was strong for the available grants. Eight projects were selected by the research panel.

The COVID-19 research projects funded by donor gifts are now well underway. Dr Atul Malhotra writes about his cell therapies project:

Even if a vaccine is rolled out soon and is very effective, some patients will continue to contract the virus and suffer from complications, and your investment in our skills will be crucial to provide them with hope. Further, these cell therapy technologies will be trialled (again for the first time in the world) for the treatment of other chronic conditions, even if COVID was to miraculously disappear.”

Atul ends by thanking all donors: “We cannot thank you enough for entrusting us with this crucial work.”

In a second major appeal for 2020 the Foundation put the call out for donations to purchase special cot cameras for our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – Victoria's largest NICU. The cameras allow parents to watch as their baby makes daily progress and can help mums and dads form a connection with their little one.

Mel Newton, Nurse Unit Manager – Clinical Services Lead with Monash Newborn explains: “Being a state-wide service, we can have babies transferred to us from other hospitals from around Victoria. Parents, especially mums, may not be able to follow immediately and therefore can be separated from their precious baby. These NICU cameras will allow parents who are away from their baby, whether they are at home or still in hospital, to be able to see their baby 24/7.”

At the time of publication generous donors have contributed more than \$250,000 towards the purchase of the 64 cot cameras. This appeal is still open and receiving some lovely gifts as we progress towards our target of \$310,000. One star community fundraiser, Sean Brazzale used the platform of the virtual Melbourne Marathon festival to raise more than \$11,000 towards the cameras, in honour of his late nephew Max who sadly passed away in the NICU in 2020.

The final community appeal, running during late 2020 and early 2021, was for specialised equipment for Monash Health's new, dedicated Paediatric Emergency Department. The appeal is progressing well and we are delighted to be still receiving generous gifts well into 2021.

For more information visit [monashhealthappeal.org](https://monashhealthappeal.org)





## Australian honour awarded to Bailey's Day founder

Patrick Tessier, one of our strongest and most committed supporters of Monash Children's Hospital, was presented with his Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in late 2020.

Ron Fairchild, Director of the Monash Health Foundation said that Patrick has made a significant difference to patient care in the MCH Cancer Centre by raising more than \$3.4 million over the past 17 years. The funds have been used to train additional clinical oncologists.

"Sadly Patrick lost his son Bailey in 2004, aged just two and a half to a brain tumour. Patrick has since run Bailey's Day each year as a golf day and lunch," said Ron.

Patrick's OAM was announced in the Australia Day 2020 Honours List for "service to charitable organisations".

Due to COVID-19 the medal could not be presented until later in 2020. Even then, the Governor of Victoria the Hon Linda Dessau AC could not present the medal directly to Patrick. Instead, Patrick's son Jordy had the honour of presenting the medal (pictured).

Bailey's Day has traditionally been held in early December. Due to COVID-19 the 2020 event was re-imagined as a campaign about 'the big-hearted bear'. A story about the bear, read by Livinia Nixon from 9 News, was created to tell Bailey's story.

[Learn more or view the big-hearted bear video at \*\*baileysday.com.au\*\*](https://baileysday.com.au)



Our sincere congratulations to Patrick on his honour and our great thanks for his outstanding contribution to the MCH Cancer Centre. Many patients and families have benefitted because of Patrick's commitment.

▲ **Jordy Tessier presents Patrick with his OAM**

# Specialists in spandex

The Urology team have harnessed pedal power to enhance prostate cancer patient care.

In early December 2020, the Urology team rode a virtual 1000km and raised more than \$150,000 for prostate cancer patient care. The inaugural 'Pump the Pedals for Prostate Cancer' was held at Casey Hospital, raising funds for new ultrasound prostate biopsy equipment and to extend the prostate cancer nursing program.

Monash Health Chief Executive Andrew Stripp helped kick off the event. AFL commentator and former player Brian 'BT' Taylor helped motivate the riders and pro cyclist and SBS cycling commentator Matt Keenan set the pace.

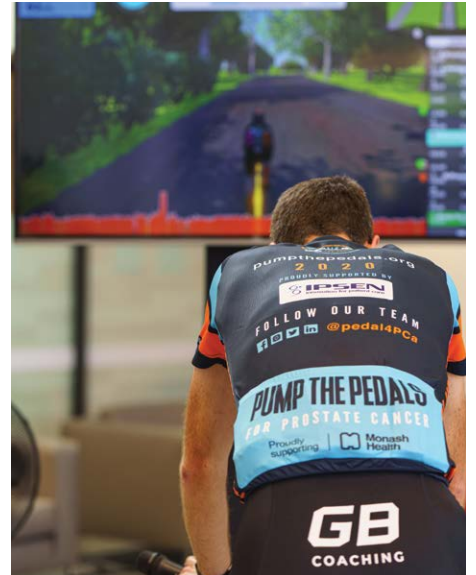
Head of Urology Scott Donnellan said that the event exceeded their initial expectations. "At first we thought a good target would be \$40,000 and we quickly achieved that so lifted the goal and lifted it again," Scott said. "The final goal was \$150,000 and we are delighted to have gone through this target."

"The funds will really make a difference by reducing waiting times for biopsy and enhancing patient care. Our sincere thanks to all the sponsors, donors and supporters."

In addition to the ultrasound equipment, funds raised at the 2020 event and future rides will help to fund additional prostate cancer nurses for the prostate cancer pathway and the new innovation of Australia's first nurse-led prostate cancer survivorship clinic.

"The survivorship clinic assists patients after they are clear of prostate cancer. Treatment such as surgery can have ongoing impacts on the patient's quality of life including incontinence, erectile dysfunction and psychological issues," Scott said.

"This group of problems is now being addressed by the survivorship clinic which is led by prostate cancer nurses (PCNs).



The PCN provides patient-focused continuity of care from the first appointment after the positive biopsy result. The urologist and the PCN meet the patient at this appointment and the same nurse is a point of contact through treatment and recovery to the survivorship clinic."

The current PCNs are funded through a Victorian Government grant which has just been extended for three years due to the success of the program in Monash Urology.

# Creativity and kindness benefit Casey Dialysis Unit

Michelle Cleland is a patient at the Casey Dialysis Unit and her creativity has led to a generous donation back to the unit.

Casey Dialysis Unit Nurse Manager Eileen McDonald explains, "Michelle has special needs and before COVID-19 worked with her mum, Marie, and her carer to make greeting cards, which were then sold via the Berwick opportunity shop," Eileen said.

Michelle's mother Marie Cleland said that the cards were a success. "Michelle's cards sold really well, with 500 selling before the op shop had to temporarily close due to COVID-19 in March," Marie said.

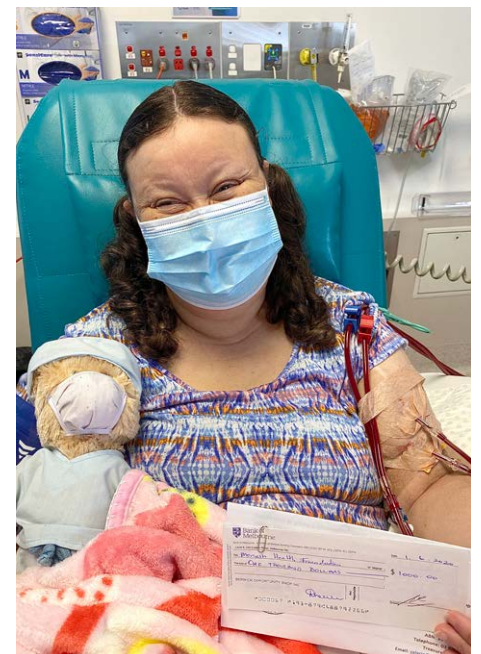
"The op shop asked if Michelle wanted to donate the \$1000 raised to Casey Hospital. Michelle was delighted to select the Casey Dialysis Unit, where she has been going for dialysis for almost three years," she said.

The Cleland's generosity didn't end with the cheque presentation. With the expansion of the Casey Dialysis Unit, Michelle now has her dialysis in the annex.

One day Eileen asked Michelle and Marie how they could make the area more welcoming. Marie, who is a multi-media artist and usually displays her works in local art shows, offered the unit five of her works.

"I really appreciate all the help and kindness all the team show towards Michelle and me. I bring Michelle to dialysis three days a week and stay with her, due to her disability. It's so nice to see my pictures on the wall and hear all the lovely comments," Marie said.

The unit is now brighter and more colourful with the addition of Marie's artworks," said Eileen. "Michelle's donation will go towards a new ultrasound machine to improve the patient experience. Our thanks go to Michelle and Marie for their lovely generosity."



▲ Michelle Cleland



## Donate/participate

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

### Ways to donate

- 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
- Visit [monashhealthfoundation.org/form](http://monashhealthfoundation.org/form)

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

Give monthly  Give once

Please accept my donation of:

\$120  \$70  \$35

My choice \$

### Details (\*required fields)

Title First name\*

Last name\*

Email\*

Mobile/phone

Street address

Suburb

Postcode

State

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  AMEX  Mastercard

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

COVID-19-related regulations about face-to-face events are still in place at the time of publication. We will endeavour to keep you informed about the dates for our flagship events. Please mark your diaries with the below details.



Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 March

## 65km for Cystic Fibrosis

This challenge event raises funds for research into treatments for Cystic Fibrosis.

Friday 20 August

## Dandelion Wishes Gala

A wonderful night of entertainment and philanthropy.

Sunday 30 May

## Walk for Monash Children's Hospital

This popular community event at Jells Park will be held in May this year, rather than March.

Sunday 7 November

## PJ Fun Run

This fun event at Princes Park raises funds for sleep health.

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

▲ PJ Fun Run 2019