



The Royal
Melbourne
Hospital
Foundation



Frontline Focus

How you're advancing health for everyone, every day.

Autumn 2025

(L-R) Erasmia Christo, Katherine Chaviaras and Kate Martin on Ward 7 South.

A champion for trauma care, backed by you

When Dr Kate Martin, Deputy Director of Trauma at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, was recently awarded an Order of Australia, she was quick to credit the team behind her—including the incredible community of supporters who make world-class emergency care possible.

Dr Martin AM was recognised for her “significant service to medicine, particularly trauma care and surgery, and to professional associations”. She knows that exceptional care isn’t just about the skill of its medical teams—it’s about the support behind them.

“Our donors are a really important part of the team. Their support takes us up to the next level. You can be gold, but this—this is platinum.”

As a general and trauma surgeon at the RMH, Dr Martin plays a critical role in our ability to be one of only two adult major trauma centres in Victoria. She’s also passionate about the future of trauma care—training specialists, mentoring interns, and driving continual improvements in emergency medicine. But she’s the first to say that the RMH’s success is a shared achievement.

“Trauma is the ultimate team sport. This recognition is very much on the back of the community I work with every day.”

You're supporting world-class healthcare

Recent projects you've helped fund:

- Refurbishment of the ED waiting room
- Neurosurgery camera
- Window boxes for palliative care
- Psycho-oncology clinic for women at high risk of breast cancer
- Ultrasound machine transforming ICU care

And much, much more.



Thank you for standing with us, supporting life-saving trauma care, and ensuring the RMH is always there, when it matters most.

Melanie's thank you

Every day, people like 20-year-old Melanie rely on the Royal Melbourne Hospital for life-saving care.

After a devastating high-speed crash in regional Victoria last year, she was airlifted to the RMH with critical injuries, including fractures to nearly every bone in her legs and feet.



“Thanks to the surgeons, doctors, and nurses, I am still here, and thanks to your generous donations, other patients like me have another chance at life.” – Melanie

By bravely sharing her story, Melanie helped raise over \$200,000 through the Christmas Appeal, directly supporting our Emergency Department and ensuring more critically ill patients receive the urgent care they need. She and her family are so grateful for your generosity.

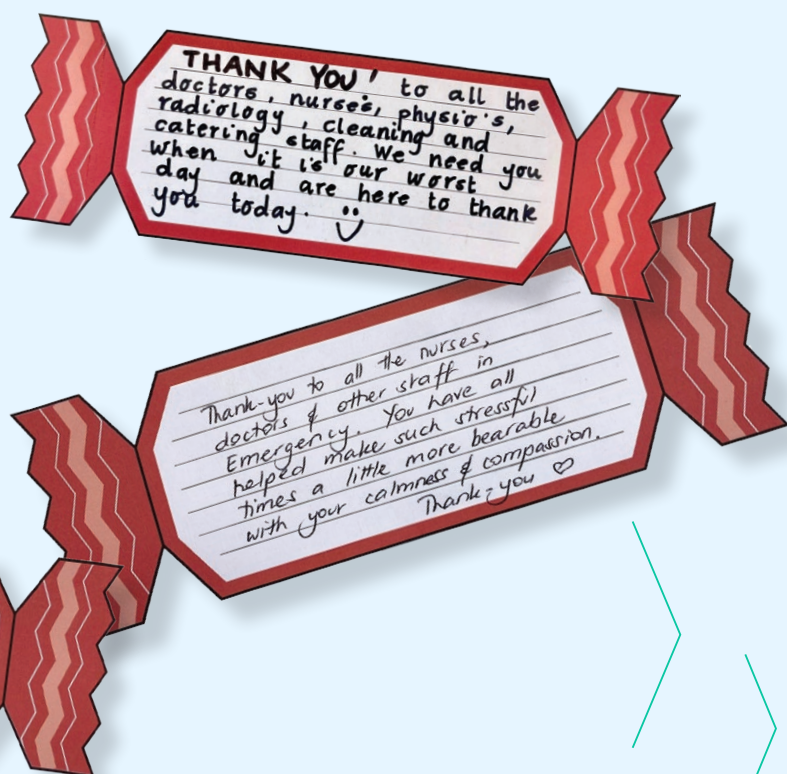
Recently, Melanie returned to hospital for another surgery, but she remains determined and optimistic. Now back home, she's focusing on her rehabilitation and slowly easing back into her medical studies—a future made possible by your kindness and support.



Thank you for making a difference!

We love hearing from you!

At Christmas, your heartfelt messages of encouragement flooded in, and we shared them across the wards—they meant the world to our teams.



Paws for healing

Thanks to generous donor support, Delta Therapy Dogs are now making regular visits to our Geriatric ward at Royal Park.

Christopher from Delta Dogs with Luna at Royal Park.



The Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) ward cares for patients with advanced dementia, many of whom have fond memories of being around dogs. Therapy dogs like Luna (pictured) provide companionship, emotional support, and moments of joy to those who need it most.

Delta Therapy Dogs carefully match facilities with the right therapy dog teams to ensure the best fit for patients. Their trained volunteers will offer a pawstive and therapeutic experience, reducing anxiety, improving mood, and creating a sense of connection.

This initiative, funded by one of our kind supporters, will brighten the days of our geriatric patients, bringing comfort, familiarity, and a wagging tail or two.

You're keeping our patients connected

A hospital visit is often stressful—and a dead phone battery doesn't help.

When designing our new ED waiting room, patients told us a phone charging station was a top priority. Thanks to our donors, we made it happen.

Now, the RMH's charging station is the most-used in its fleet, with around 200 uses a week—helping patients stay connected when it matters most.



*A simple addition with a huge impact.
Thank you for making it possible!*



Your support is powering nursing innovation

At the Royal Melbourne Hospital, innovation isn't just about technology—it's about people. With donor support, nurse-led initiatives are improving patient care, delivering faster, more effective treatments where they're needed most.

Thanks to the William Buckland Foundation, nurse Kelsey Rutland implemented a Nurse-Led Abdominal Paracentesis (NLAP) Model of Care, dramatically increasing access for patients with Chronic Liver Disease.

Previously, this essential procedure—draining excess fluid from the abdomen—was limited to five times a week, depending on the medical team's availability. Kelsey's research and training program changed that. Now, credentialed nurses can perform the procedure, tripling capacity and ensuring 100% of patients receive timely care.

When Chronic Liver Clinical Nurse Consultant Kelsey Rutland received the Lynly S. Aitken Nursing Scholarship, she saw an opportunity to transform patient care at the RMH.

For patients like Martin, who requires weekly paracentesis, the impact is profound:

“By the Monday before my Tuesday drainage, my gut feels like it's ready to explode, and my breathing is extremely laboured. It worries me to no end that my spot might be taken by a more pressing case... I cannot begin to tell you the relief and quality of the limited time I have left on this earth that the nurses and staff provide.”

Kelsey's work has not only improved patient outcomes but has also paved the way for more nursing-led innovations.

“This scholarship gave me the time and space to focus on innovation while still being there for my patients. Knowing that donors believe in what we're doing gave me the motivation to keep pushing forward.”

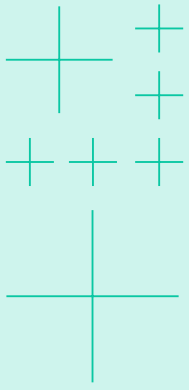


Honouring Lynly Aitken's Legacy

The Lynly S. Aitken Nursing Scholarship celebrates a true trailblazer.

Starting at the RMH in 1935, Lynly became Director of Nursing in 1958, pioneering Victoria's first Nurse Bank and championing part-time roles for married nurses. A passionate mentor, she shaped the future of nursing long after retirement.

Her legacy lives on through this scholarship, empowering nurses to lead, innovate, and deliver exceptional care for generations to come.



A special reunion

Thanks to you, a grateful patient reunited with Dr Emma West to celebrate a vital new CT scanner.



The last time Dr West saw Brianna, she was in ED, facing a life-changing crisis. At just 17 weeks pregnant, Brianna had suffered a devastating stroke and required urgent surgery.

Two years later, they met again, in a space filled with gratitude and celebration. At a special Christmas event for our supporters, Brianna had the chance to share her story with the people who helped make her care possible.

“I recently took my first steps without my hiking pole. It was not glamorous, but the moment I realised ‘I have just walked’ was incomprehensible. Another step in the right direction,” she told the room.

Brianna’s story is a powerful reminder of resilience, recovery, and the life-saving care made possible at the RMH—and of the incredible generosity of donors who help fund vital equipment, like a new CT scanner in ED.

To all who contributed to the CT scanner, thank you for being part of this journey. Your kindness is transforming lives.



Follow Brianna’s recovery
[@brees_bleeding_brain](#)



Coming
up

Join us for a special supporter screening of the hit show **Emergency** at Cinema Nova in Carlton on May 8.

One family's gift for the future of heart care



When Ian Johnston passed away at 90, his final wish was to give back to the hospital that had given him decades of healthy life. A generous gift in his Will to the RMH was his way of saying thank you.

After life-saving heart surgery in 1989, Ian embraced 34 more years of symptom-free living—building a mud-brick home, fixing anything and everything, and enjoying time with his family. His deep trust in the RMH and his surgeon, Prof James Tatoulis, never wavered.

“With Ian’s support, we have continued our work and research, gradually incorporating surgical advances into practice to achieve better outcomes for future generations,” says Prof. Tatoulis

Recently, Ian’s daughter Debra visited the RMH to meet with Prof Tatoulis and the RMH Foundation team.

“It was an emotional experience to express my gratitude for the life-saving surgery Dad received and to see first-hand how his legacy is driving groundbreaking advancements in cardiothoracic research. I know how proud my parents would be to see the impact of their gift.”

Ian’s generosity is not only honouring his own journey but transforming the future of cardiac care.



For further information or to speak to us about your wishes, please contact Sandie Baskin, Associate Director, Bequests, on 0412 163 757 or email Sandie.Baskin@mh.org.au

Hello from our new kiosk!

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation is excited to have a permanent home in the reception of the city campus on Grattan Street. Stop by and say hi, and learn more about how you can support the hospital that supports you.



RMH Foundation office manager, Dimple D'Mello, behind the desk.

Teeing up support for dementia research

Thank you to the Double Eagle Golf Club, Melbourne's oldest Hellenic-based social golf club, who raised an incredible \$11,059 for dementia research at their recent golf day.



John Marinopoulos with members of the DEGC.

Dementia is impacting more and more families, and for many club members, it's deeply personal.

“Many of us in the golf club are children of migrants. As all our migrant parents get older, dementia is hitting every family,” said John Marinopoulos, President of the DEGC.

Recognising the urgent need for earlier diagnosis, the club have chosen to support ground-breaking research at the RMH. Through Professor Dennis Velakoulis, they learned about the Dementia Neuropsychiatry team and their vital work in early diagnosis using blood tests—an innovation that could reduce delays in identifying dementia by three to four years in people over 50.



Get in touch to find out how your community group can make a difference! Email Rebecca Martin, Events and Community Fundraising Manager. Rebecca.Martin@mh.org.au

Running for the RMH



A huge “roar” of appreciation to our incredible staff who ran through Melbourne Zoo, raising funds for life-saving research and care!

We're thrilled to have so many RMH staff taking part in running and walking events. Clinical dietitian Sarah Boykett, who works in the Metabolic Diseases Unit and ICU, took part and said, in the Sunset Series, and said:

“The atmosphere was fantastic! We were proud to fly the flag for the RMH Foundation on our home turf. Hopefully we continue to build this team and increase our fundraising efforts.”

Now, we're looking for charity superstars to join us for **Run Melbourne on July 13!** Choose from 5.5KM, 10KM, or a half marathon—we'll cover your rego, and you'll get a free RMH Foundation running top. Raise \$800+, and you'll unlock VIP perks like food, massages, and (most importantly) private toilets!



Sign up today!

Meet Julie and Dean our grand home prize winners!

After 20 years of supporting the RMH through the Home Lottery, Julie and Dean from regional Victoria never expected to win—until they were handed the keys to a stunning, fully furnished, mortgage free home.

“We’ve always seen the Home Lottery as a way to give back. Winning is just incredible—we’re still wrapping our heads around it!”

Julie and Dean outside their new home in Camberwell.

Every ticket supports world-class care and research at the RMH. With the next Grand Home Lottery coming soon, don't miss your chance to win cars, holidays and more!



Follow us on socials or sign up as an RMH Home Lottery Member to never miss a draw.

@rmhhomelottery



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