

impossible

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Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre

A new specialist melanoma and cancer centre to be built at The Alfred

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The Dicker family's contribution to ICU excellence

Craig ever thankful towards The Alfred

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From patient to valued staff member

Rose shares her story



theAlfred

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A celebration of the human spirit

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As we approach the end of 2022, the challenges lie undiminished and ever-changing for our staff at The Alfred.

But one thing which has remained a constant is the steadfast support that we have received from you, our donors in the community, during what appears to be increasingly tougher times both economically and in regards to mental health.

As you will read in our latest spring edition of impossible, remarkable stories of excellent care, ingenuity and tremendous steps forward in research and development continue to emerge from this excellent hospital of ours – a true hospital built by the people, for the people.

We are thrilled to officially turn the soil and announce the name of a new world-class specialist centre for Victorians – the Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre. And once again, humbled to receive platinum level status in our ICU for our outstanding specialist ECMO service.

We thank you so much for your ongoing generosity and support and as always, we encourage you to share your experiences of The Alfred with us, your feedback is highly appreciated and always welcome. You can email us at foundation@alfred.org.au or call us (03) 9076 3222.

Warmest regards,



Patrick Baker
DIRECTOR - THE ALFRED
FOUNDATION

COVER IMAGE

Rose with partner Simon.
Photo by Anna Carlile

NEWS

The Alfred ICU awarded honours for ECMO

In 2022 the Alfred ICU has again been awarded platinum level status by the international ECMO organisation ELSO. ECMO is extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, the most advanced form of life support available. It is used to support the heart and/or lungs when they are not functioning at a level to support the body.

The Alfred is the only ICU/ECMO service in Australia with this designation and one of very few centres outside the US and Western Europe. It is great recognition of the team and the whole hospital, especially with the challenges of the last few years where record numbers of patients required ECMO.

The Alfred was awarded its platinum status on the basis that it has demonstrated extraordinary achievement in the following areas:

1. Excellence in promoting the mission, activities, and vision of ELSO;
2. Excellence in patient care by using the highest quality measures, processes, and structures based upon evidence; and
3. Excellence in training, education, collaboration, and communication supporting ELSO guidelines that contributes to a healing environment for families, patients and staff.

It also demonstrates to the healthcare community an assurance of high-quality standards, specialised equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols, and advanced education of all staff members.



NEWS

Paula Fox Melanoma And Cancer Centre

Cancer care for Australians is set to be transformed as building continues on the Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre at The Alfred.

The centre is named after philanthropist Paula Fox AO, whose personal commitment to melanoma research and treatment has helped make the centre a reality.

The \$152.4 million project on St Kilda Rd, which backs on to the hospital, is set to be completed in early 2024 thanks to support from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, the Fox Family, Minderoo Foundation, other generous donors and Monash University.

It will see leading skin cancer specialists and dedicated multidisciplinary teams working together under one roof, enabling skin cancer patients to access their care in one purpose-built centre.

Alfred Health Chief Executive Andrew Way said the centre would support the delivery of advanced cancer care, particularly for melanoma, while playing a role in extending the availability of a range of cancer and other clinical trials into regional and rural areas.

Director of the Victorian Melanoma Service at The Alfred, Associate Professor Victoria Mar, who leads one of Australia's multidisciplinary melanoma referral centres, said the development promises to drive further breakthroughs in cancer care.

"What is so exciting about this centre is the investment in research and technology that has the capacity to change the way we deliver cancer care into the future," she said.

Along with treatment and research, the six-level facility will also house a world-leading wellness and education centre, reflecting the holistic and collaborative nature of cancer care and an Advanced Diagnostics and Telehealth Centre - both supported by Minderoo Foundation.

"We want our patients to feel as comfortable as possible while they are receiving the very best of care," she said.

BELOW

L to R: Alfred Health Board Chair Mr Michael Gorton AM, Mr Lindsay Fox AC, former Minister for Health Mr Martin Foley MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health Ms Nina Taylor MP, Mrs Paula Fox AO, Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Alfred Health Chief Executive Prof Andrew Way AM, Victorian Premier the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Director of the Victorian Melanoma Service A/Prof Victoria Mar, Chief Executive Minderoo Foundation Andrew Hagger, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences at Monash University, Professor Christina Mitchell AO, Founder of the Victorian Melanoma Service Prof John Kelly AM



FEATURE

Triathlon target for comeback Craig

More than 2.5 years on and Craig Dicker still doesn't know what caused the illness that led to him spending 67 days on the most advanced form of life support - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), in The Alfred's ICU - a then record length of time in Australia.

But one thing he does know is that without the amazing medical staff and state-of-the-art equipment at The Alfred, he would not be here today.

Thankfully Craig is thrilled to report that he is much better now and targeting a return to the triathlons he loves later this year.

"I'm going well. Still improving, that's the most pleasing thing," Craig said with a smile. "Fingers crossed, I'll keep working hard forever and keep improving."

The key indicator in Craig's recovery is his lung capacity, which is now at about 75 per cent - going up about one per cent a month.

Although he has recovered physically, Craig admits that the incident remains "really raw".

"Most of the time it still feels like it was yesterday," he said. "When you talk to people, I still get really emotional and so does my family. It's been more than two years since I left the hospital, but it's still very raw.

"Whenever I see another tragedy in the news, it does bring all those emotions back. 'Gee wow, I died in hospital'."

While he doesn't believe he'll ever reach that high physical benchmark from before the illness, Craig is back running, cycling and hopefully swimming soon and is excited to aim to take part in the Noosa triathlon in November.

But he never forgets what has helped him get back to this stage.

"Because of COVID-19, my wife Amy was only able to come in for an hour once a day, so the staff became your family," Craig said. "One day we'll get back in there and hopefully I can thank them personally. The doctors, the nurses, the guys who turned you at night ... it was an amazing team effort from all the staff. They're all part of the process of me getting better."



Dicker donation having impact on ECMO Registry

Philanthropy has always been a big part of Craig Dicker's family. The family of Craig's wife, Amy, donated to The Alfred while he was in the ICU and the near-death experience of his son compelled Craig's father, Ian, to make a substantial donation in honour of the excellent care his son received.

Craig said the family initially wanted to donate an ECMO machine to The Alfred, however Dr Vincent Pellegrino, the head of The Alfred's ECMO program and intensive care specialist, instead suggested helping to fund a study on the ECMO Registry.

The aim of the registry is to integrate a network of care for former ECMO patients, ultimately helping understand the impact of the treatment and develop further learnings in advancing care and health outcomes for future ECMO patients.

Once this pathway was suggested, it was a simple decision for the Dicker family to follow it.

"We couldn't be prouder to be in a position where we can do this and help continue the ECMO studies," Craig said. "My dad, my brother Tony and my sister Jen basically said that The Alfred and Box Hill Hospital kept me alive and saved me and ECMO was a large part of this that helped.

"If it hadn't been invented, I wouldn't be here, so it's certainly significant. So let's help the study out as much as we can. Whatever I or the family can do to give back is just one of the things where you reflect and see what I've been through.

"If we can get back to help the next person get better quicker, faster, or just even live ... that's the key."

The Dicker family is providing funding for three years to the ECMO Registry study.

FEATURE

Life of the party

You couldn't wipe the smile off Fred Rooks' face when he was attending an event organised by The Alfred Foundation.

The English expat enjoyed an Alfred party. Even later in life, after several strokes, Fred was central to many Alfred events – even taking on the role of conductor of the string quartet at a Christmas function in 2018.

The Alfred is incredibly grateful to Fred for his gift in his Will, reflecting his strong affinity with The Alfred for almost 20 years.

Fred immigrated to Australia from Manchester in the 1950s as a young man in his 20s. Meeting his lifelong partner, Dot, on the voyage over, Fred worked as a tool maker at General Motors in Port Melbourne until retirement. His passion for fishing took him all around the world.

Dot was treated for cancer at The Alfred and spent a considerable amount of time at Caulfield Hospital in rehab. Fred was thrilled to call The Alfred his local hospital, attending the emergency department several times.

A proud Englishman, Fred was determined to become naturalised as an Australian, which he achieved two months before his passing. Fred had no blood family in Australia, but enjoyed close relationships with Ann Diggins and June Clark, who became Fred's carers after his stroke.

Ann and June are both honoured to have had Fred in their lives and make it a practice to get together on his birthday every August. This year we invited them to join us here at The Alfred in acknowledgment of the wonderful lifesaving gift that Fred left to the hospital – another Alfred event enjoyed by all.

For information about leaving a gift in your Will to The Alfred, please phone Feygl or Sue on 03 9076 3222.

RIGHT

Members from The Alfred Foundation philanthropy team celebrate Fred's life with former carer June

Write your Will online and support The Alfred

Including a future gift to The Alfred in your Will is a simple but powerful way for you to leave a lasting impact on this world. Gifts in Wills are hugely important to The Alfred. Each year, these special gifts support so much of the hospital's vital work.

The Alfred Foundation is excited to have partnered with Willed to make leaving a gift in your Will to The Alfred a simple and straightforward process.

Willed is one of Australia's leading online estate planning platforms. With Willed, you can write your own legal Will online easily from the comfort and convenience of your own home.

During the months of September and October, Willed is offering an exclusive 50% discount for all Alfred Foundation supporters, their friends and families.

Simply go to willed.com.au/thealfred

No donation to The Alfred Foundation is required to enjoy this service.



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PROFILE

Thank you to our corporate partners

Thanks again to our Critical Care Appeal corporate partners, 3AW and Bulla, for their ongoing support and to Neville and Di Bertalli, who in partnership with Patterson Cheney Toyota, generously donated a brand new Toyota Corolla for our staff raffle. The raffle was drawn on the day and gratefully won by Fiona Farnham - a Booking Officer in Patient Services at Caulfield Hospital.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of Bank First, Alf's Cafe and HealthSmart Pharmacy who this year funded two Alfred Nursing Scholarships with the recipients to be announced shortly.

Thank you to G'Day Parks and Discovery Parks who supported our star cyclist and fundraiser Anthony Moffatt with \$5000 worth of accommodation. Anthony and his wife Arlene made use of the amazing accommodation throughout Anthony's epic 4800km ride from The Alfred in Melbourne to Cape Tribulation in far north Queensland. G'Day Parks' support helped Anthony to raise \$32,000 towards brain cancer research at The Alfred.

If you would like more information about corporate partnerships or how your business can support The Alfred, please get in touch with Nairn Miller at n.miller2@alfred.org.au



PROFILE

Critical Care Appeal wrap-up

The Alfred might be based in Melbourne, but it is truly a hospital for all Victorians in their most critical moments. The complex and advanced care provided at The Alfred means that 50 per cent of our patients come from across Victoria and around Australia. We also treat 60 per cent of all major Victorian trauma cases.

This year's Critical Care Appeal highlights that, had it not been for The Alfred, we would not be able to share Rose's story (featured on cover) today.

When Rose was suffering from a severe infection with rare and complex complications, it was recommended she be transferred to The Alfred. Within 48 hours of admission, a multidisciplinary team were able to confirm her diagnosis, perform an MRI to identify the source of the infection and get her to theatre for treatment.

Following three surgeries and a difficult period of rehabilitation, Rose was inspired to give back. She is now the friendly face welcoming visitors and donors as The Alfred Foundation Office Manager.

"Words will never be enough to thank all the amazing staff who saved my life and our donors who have generously given in the past," she said.

"It's because of their combined efforts that I am still here today, able to be a part of the amazing Alfred Foundation team. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Money raised from this year's Critical Care Appeal has gone directly to the Lifesaving Equipment Fund. The fund has contributed more than \$3.5 million to buy vital equipment and update key infrastructure including an expansion to the Intensive Care Unit, six ventilators, a portable MRI and many more critical pieces of equipment and infrastructure updates.

Thank you to all who supported this year's Critical Care Appeal, including our longstanding partners, 3AW and Bulla.

RIGHT

Rose now enjoys giving back to others as a valued member of The Alfred Foundation



PROFILE

Our inaugural Alfred Patrons

The Alfred Patrons Program launched this year as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. It honours Alfred Health's most significant supporters, celebrating their commitment and aims to create a long-term legacy of philanthropy.

Appointment as an Alfred Patron is the highest honour Alfred Health can bestow upon a member of the community who has made enormous contributions and who has consistently and steadfastly demonstrated their support for Alfred Health.

Here are the first eight patrons to be introduced:



Mr Neville Bertalli and Mrs Diana Bertalli

Neville and Di Bertalli have a longstanding interest in supporting rural and regional Australia,

especially through educational scholarships and intervention programs. They know first-hand the devastating impacts of melanoma and began donating to The Alfred Victorian Melanoma Service 15 years ago, to develop a translational database. This data has enabled research to answer many questions about melanoma susceptibility, detection, progression and treatment and the results have seen great advances in tackling this disease. Continuing their passionate support of melanoma treatment and research, they have made an outstanding investment in the new melanoma and cancer centre.



Mr Lindsay Fox AC and Mrs Paula Fox AO

Paula Fox has been a part of The Alfred since having the first of her six children at the hospital in the

1960s. Together with her husband Lindsay, they have become one of the most influential philanthropic families in the country. At The Alfred, we are enormously grateful for their 15 years of philanthropic support across ICU, trauma, oncology and, of course, Paula's newest 'baby', the new melanoma and cancer centre, which will house cutting edge melanoma and cancer services along with clinical trials and research.



Mr John Gandel AC and Mrs Pauline Gandel AC

The Gandel family's impact at The Alfred dates back to 1987 when John Gandel chaired the highly-successful public appeal that founded the William Buckland Centre. The Gandel Foundation, and Pauline and John in particular, have shown long-standing and tremendous commitment to public health across hospitals, medical research and peak bodies. The Alfred is particularly grateful for John and Pauline's commitment to infrastructure projects at the hospital encompassing cancer, burns and gastroenterology. In the past year alone, the Gandel Foundation has contributed to the new melanoma and cancer centre and made a renewed commitment to the Gandel Foundation Intestinal Ultrasound Centre of Excellence.



Mr Gerry Ryan OAM and Mrs Val Ryan

Gerry and Val Ryan are giants of the sporting and leisure worlds. Jayco caravans has been synonymous with Australian holidays since 1975 and, with their son Andrew, now own Michelton Wines. His long-term involvement in cycling, and promotion of the sport, which began with a sponsorship of an Olympian, saw him an inaugural Cycling Australia Hall of Fame inductee. Gerry received the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community. The Alfred is proud to welcome Gerry and Val Ryan as donors, with their investment in the new melanoma and cancer centre.

Yes, I would like to donate to The Alfred

\$35 \$60 \$100 \$250 \$1,000

Other \$

OR

I want to give a regular monthly gift of \$ to The Alfred to be deducted from my credit card on the 10th of each month. (I can cancel at any time by giving 14 days notice)

Please find enclosed my:

Cheque Money order (payable to The Alfred Foundation)

OR, please debit my:

Visa MasterCard Amex

Name on card:

Card number:

Expiry date: /

Signature:

From:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I am considering including a gift to The Alfred in my Will

I have already included The Alfred in my Will

To make your gift, complete and return this coupon in the enclosed reply paid envelope, or send to:

The Alfred Foundation

PO Box 2021

Prahran VIC 3181

T: 1800 888 878

alwaysalfred.org.au

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

ABN 27 318 956 319



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FOUNDATION

Make the Impossible Possible

Donate to The Alfred today



impossible

COMMUNITY

Our community making the impossible possible



River to Reef – Anthony Moffatt cycling from The Alfred to Cape Tribulation for a cure

In early 2020, Anthony Moffatt received news that no one wants to hear. After suffering a massive seizure, an MRI revealed the previously healthy 54-year-old had a brain tumour.

Less than two months later, he underwent incredibly complex awake brain surgery called an awake craniotomy, to remove as much of the tumour as possible.

After receiving the devastating news, Anthony and his wife Arlene wanted to do something positive – Anthony planned to cycle from The Alfred hospital more than 4000km to Cape Tribulation, all to raise funds for The Alfred. In May, he did just that and set off on 69 days of cycling, travelling 4786km and eating 47 vanilla slices in his additional quest to find the perfect slice.

Anthony has raised more than \$32,000 for brain cancer research. A huge thank you to Anthony and Arlene for such an incredible fundraising effort!

Team Alfred took on the Dry July challenge

Each year, The Alfred treats thousands of people living with cancer and each year Team Alfred takes on the Dry July challenge. This year was no exception and included some of our stars in The Alfred Oncology team, who see firsthand how the Dry July funding helps patients at The Alfred.

Dry July is about so much more than giving up alcohol for the month, it's about helping to provide cancer support and care that makes life better for cancer patients, their families and carers.

Funding received through Dry July has gone towards a music therapy program for patients and loved ones affected by cancer, helping them to explore and express difficult emotions. It has also seen the implementation of a patient accommodation program, increasing access to care for our regional and rural patients, giving them a home away from home.

To read more, visit dryjuly.com/beneficiaries/thealfredmelbourne

Upcoming events

13 November 2022 – Maribyrnong River Run 2022:

This new running festival takes participants along the Maribyrnong River Path Network on 10km, 5km and 2km courses. Medals for all finishers and a fun and friendly atmosphere. Sign up using the discount code ALFRED for a 10 per cent discount!

To find out more information about these or any other events that support fundraising for The Alfred Foundation, please visit fundraising.alfredfoundation.org.au/whatsonatthealfred

Are you interested in creating your own fundraiser?

Organising your own fundraiser is a great way to take action and support The Alfred. You could take on your own unique physical challenge or ask your friends and family to give to The Alfred in lieu of gifts. You could also create a tribute page to celebrate the life of a loved one.

Head to fundraising.alfredfoundation.org.au and create your own page today.

The Alfred Foundation

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