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CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA + CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION UPDATE

VOL:35 | MAY 2022

## WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

## COVID-19 AND FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER

**CELEBRATING**

**JUSTIN LANGER**

INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

**RESEARCH**

**NEXT GENERATION**

OF RESEARCHERS AT TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE

**PROJECTS**

**LOCAL IMMUNOTHERAPY**

FOR SARCOMA RESEARCH

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# FOUNDATION
UPDATE

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Andrea Alexander

**GENERAL MANAGER**
Kylie Dalton

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**
Wendy Kearns

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**
Sophie Galati

**DIGITAL MARKETING OFFICER**
Tony Le

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR - AEM**
Michele Dalton

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GEOFF CATTACH AM
*CHAIRMAN*

> **"The past couple years have been particularly challenging for our Foundation, as it has been for the whole world."**

I extend my deepest gratitude to our incredible supporters who have not let the uncertainty put a stop to their generosity.

If the recent state of the world has taught us anything, it's that we must remain hopeful and resilient, qualities that families facing childhood cancer have held long before the pandemic. As we have been required to go through periods of isolation, we should remember that this is what children with cancer have been experiencing for most of their lives.

I, along with everyone else at the Foundation, have not lost sight of what we set out to do over 40 years ago. That is, coming together to fund research into childhood cancers, so that less children must endure the trauma of a cancer diagnosis.

We remain optimistic for the year ahead, especially after our long-awaited return to events with our sell-out Rhythms of Life concert. We have some more exciting projects in store that we can't wait to share with you as the year progresses. Behind all our events and campaigns is the underlying goal to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research, so that we can create better outcomes for children.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy, and safe 2022. Please consider donating, becoming a member, volunteering, or attending any of our community events so that we can continue funding the ground-breaking research into childhood cancers. Together, we can make a real difference.

Geoff Cattach AM
Chairman

# Become a Member

Want to help make a real difference for children diagnosed with cancer and their families? Become a CLCRF member today! Now more than ever, we rely on the support of our members to ensure we can continue funding the ground-breaking research into childhood cancers.

Our members receive regular updates from the Foundation, being the first to know about the latest news, events, and concerts. Members are also invited to attend our Annual General Meeting, where they will have voting rights.

CLCRF is a low maintenance, low involvement charitable organisation and, as a member you can be confident that your financial donation is going towards an important cause. An Individual Memberships costs just $25 a year and a Family Memberships is $50.

**Become a CLCRF member by heading to http://bit.ly/CLCRF-Membership today!**

**ANDREA ALEXANDER**
*CEO*

It is our shared commitment to ensure that no life is cut short by childhood cancers that keeps us as a Foundation connected to our devoted donors, particularly at a time in our lives when we live in a fractured world.

As I write this to you, we continue to navigate a global pandemic and a flood crisis in Australia. These are surely defining moments of our society, for the not-for-profit landscape and for CLCRF.

CLCRF is an organisation underpinned by hope and optimism, however whilst we are acutely aware of these large-scale issues, it is the positivity of our own community that is so encouraging. The sell-out Rhythms of Life concert saw a triumphant return, with a smorgasbord of tunes of which concertgoers relished. Having had to forego our beloved in concerts in 2021, this was a truly uplifting event.

On a personal note, I wanted to share that one the most fulfilling elements of my role as CEO is regularly chatting with our donors directly via telephone. There's nothing more motivating or satisfying than simply talking to our stakeholders to personally thank them for a significant donation. These conversations strengthen my determination to align and focus our team. I love to hear your stories, understand your drive to beat child cancer and offer my sincerest thanks on behalf of CLCRF.

Further, CLCRF was a recent beneficiary of a big-hearted Gift in Will from a long-time supporter and friend of the Foundation. It was a huge surprise that not only elicited a feeling of immense gratitude, but also a sense of the magnitude of what this donation could achieve in terms of childhood cancer research. Truly, heart warming.

We believe in the power of lived experiences and empathy to bring out the best in people, and the potential of people to bring that raw emotion to fundraising and advocating on the Foundation's behalf. We are continually moved by our donor community and the lengths they will go to, to raise money to support our Mission. We hope you find the stories within this edition as inspiring as we did.

Ultimately, everything we do is grounded in a greater purpose: to provide funding for world class research into fighting cancer and finding new and less toxic treatments for children with these life-threatening diseases. We could not aspire to this purpose without you. Until next time, keep well.

Andrea Alexander
CEO

## Book your table now!

**After a record-breaking quiz night last year, where we raised $20,659 for childhood cancer research, we are excited to announce that our much-loved Keep the Flame Alive Quiz Night will be back this year on Saturday, 23 July.**

**So, mark your calendars, grab your brainiest bunch of friends, and get ready for an awesome night out for a great cause. With so many great raffles, a door prize, a silent auction, and plenty of fun games with prizes, we guarantee that no one will walk away from the night empty-handed!**

**This year, the popular event will be held at Ascot Racecourse, one of Perth's oldest and most elegant events destination. Tables of 10 are available for $250 ($25 per person), with profits going towards the important research into childhood cancers, so that more children can live the long and fulfilling lives they deserve.**

**Our Keep the Flame Alive Quiz Night is always a sell out, so we recommend you don't wait too long to secure your table. We would absolutely love it if you could join us on the night and help us smash another fundraising record!**

**When:** 6:30pm – Saturday 23 July

**Where:** Ascot Racecourse

**Food & Drink:** BYO snacks for your table – all drinks (alcohol + soft drinks) must be purchased from the venue - No BYO drinks

**clcrfquiznight.com**

# Fostering the next generation of researchers at Telethon Kids Institute

One of the great things about the research projects that CLCRF funds is the opportunity to foster the next generation of researchers. The Telethon Kids Institute has around 100 students enrolled from several universities around Australia, conducting research projects from laboratory-based projects to population-wide studies.

We recently met with Taylor Ferguson, a Curtin University student who has commenced the first year of her PhD in Associate Professor Rishi Kotecha and Dr Laurence Cheung's Leukaemia Translational Research laboratory. Taylor is continuing her studies from last year, where she completed her Honours degree alongside the respected researchers.

As part of this team, Taylor has been looking at a specific subtype of leukaemia, which has a rearrangement of the KMT2A gene and is associated with a poor prognosis. "Previously, my lab did a large drug screen to identify some novel agents that could be used," said Taylor. "So, my project is to further investigate these novel agents in detail and move them forward in the preclinical setting." The ultimate goal is for these novel agents to be translated into clinical trials.

Confessing that this was the only Honours project she applied for, Taylor had her heart set on the opportunity to help make a difference for future generations of children. "I did a mini research project at university which was to do with infants," Taylor explained. "This drew my attention as to how vulnerable they are, especially to the side effects of chemotherapies. So, when I saw this project, I decided that it would be something I'd be interested in, to work towards improving outcomes for these infants."

The prognosis of infants diagnosed under the age of one with KMT2A-rearranged acute lymphoblastic leukaemia is poor, with a 5-year event-free survival rate of less than 40%. "Because they are babies, they don't have the ability to tolerate the chemotherapies the same way that older people might be able to," explained Taylor. "So, if you're trying to reduce the leukaemia disease burden, you have to increase the intensity of the chemotherapy. Unfortunately, babies can't tolerate these high doses."

There is a significant need to find new therapies to improve outcomes for these babies, which can only come with more funding. "Just to give these babies a fighting chance, especially those with this aggressive gene rearrangement, is the reason why extra funding is needed."

When asked what her favourite thing about her job has been so far, Taylor stated that she has enjoyed becoming part of a team. "At university, it's very much everyone for themselves and you do your own work," she explained. "But in this team environment, you realise everyone is working towards a common goal. And so, it's like a little community. Everyone wants to improve the outcomes for children with cancer, and specifically in my team, it's for infants with leukaemia."

Although now finding her feet in research, Taylor did not always know that this was the work she wanted do. "I kind of went through every career that I possibly could. When I first went to university, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do. The more I got into science, the more I decided how much I loved it. And research is like focused science in a specific area. You also have outcomes that you can build off, and which other people can use to improve treatments or therapies."

Grateful to be placed in this role, Taylor expressed how lucky she feels to be at the Telethon Kids Institute. "It's a very good environment and the team that I have is just amazing," she said. "Everyone's been very supportive, and they all help me whenever I need it, which, at the beginning was a lot."

Taylor explained that she would love to stay in the realm of leukaemia research. "I really enjoy the work," she said. "It's such a horrible disease, if there's anything I can do to contribute to the research for it, that's the research I want to do."

We are delighted to be able to support young researchers like Taylor as they aim to improve the lives of children with cancer. You can help support Taylor's research, and give infants with leukaemia a fighting chance by making a donation towards childhood cancer research today.
Simply head to www.clcrfgiving.org

## Behind the lab coat

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I'm a bit of a homebody. I really enjoy spending time with my family. We moved from Scotland and it's only the five of us here, so we're very close. I like to just relax and just have a good time reading books, going out with friends, things like that. I'm a very simple person.

**What's your favourite genre to read?**

I usually read sci-fi or fantasy.

**What's your favourite quote?**
My parents always tell me take every opportunity and you only fail if you never tried. They actually say that to me quite a bit.

It's especially relevant in research, because not everything goes according to plan but you have to keep trying and keep persisting. Resilience is what gets outcomes at the end.

## Get your hands on CLCRF Merch!

Have you checked out our online shop recently? We have added so many new and exciting products for you to get your hands on! With everything from face masks to esky bags, we have everything you need to treat yourself, your family and your friends.

With every purchase supporting the vital research into childhood cancers, buying our merchandise is a great way to help make a real difference in the lives of children with cancer.

So, what are you waiting for? Head to our website and check out our merchandise today:

**childcancerresearch.com.au/shop**

# Justin Langer inducted into Hall of Fame

Congratulations to CLCRF Patron Justin Langer who has been inducted into Australian Cricket's Hall of Fame! Langer, former men's national team coach, made his international debut 29 years ago and went on to have a celebrated Test career, appearing 105 times in the Baggy Green, and scoring 7,696 runs at an average of 45.27.

"With his role as national coach in the spotlight all summer, Langer was given the ultimate accolade with his induction into the elite group," said Scott Bailey from Perth Now.

As a coach, Justin helped lead Australia out of the ball-tampering scandal, and he led successful campaigns in both the Twenty20 World Cup and Ashes.

"Justin has had a tremendous impact on Australian cricket, both at the top of the order alongside Matthew Hayden, as a coach of Western Australia and more recently ... the Australian men's team," expressed Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley.

Even with his increasingly busy schedule, Justin has always remained eager and honoured to be a part of CLCRF, of which he has been the Patron for 22 years. Since his initial appointment in 2000, he has been a wonderful ambassador who has helped us raise much needed awareness for childhood cancer research.

On behalf of everyone at the Foundation, we commend Justin for this incredible and well-deserved honour!

# 28th Annual General Meeting

**On Wednesday 8 December 2021, Our Foundation held its 28th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club in Peppermint Grove. It was a balmy evening with stunning views where we caught up with some long-time supporters and new friends.**

**Chairman Geoff Cattach gave his reports on CLCRF's operations during the 2020/2021 financial year, alongside Secretary and Chief Executive Officer Andrea Alexander.**

**In his address, Mr Cattach noted that since the very first dollar was donated to CLCRF, over $35.9M has been raised to fund childhood cancer research. That is something this Foundation and those associated with its legacy feel immensely proud of achieving.**

**The AGM was capped off with the annual Christmas celebration, where members and guests enjoyed delicious canapés and drinks overlooking the Swan River.**

**We thank those who joined us at the AGM and Christmas celebration. Our members are critical to the ongoing success of our Foundation.**

**As a member, you can not only take pleasure in knowing you are helping to raise funds for childhood cancer research, but you will also be invited to participate in our exciting events each year.**

**Interested in becoming a CLCRF member?**
**head to**

**http://bit.ly/CLCRF-Membership**

# Kerrin's well-deserved weekend away

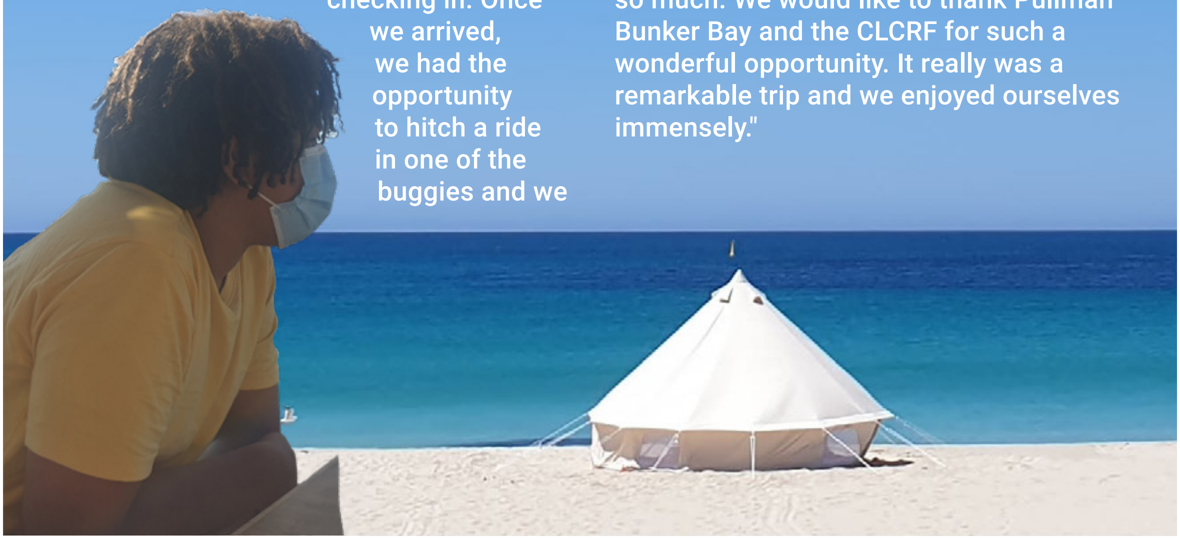
In July of 2020, CLCRF ambassador Kerrin Hampson was nominated by multiple different people to win a 2-night stay in a 2-bedroom villa at Pullman Bunker Bay Resort in the Margaret River wine region. This was part of our 40Kin40days campaign, where we had 40 days of giveaways to celebrate the Foundation's 40th Anniversary.

Kerrin's son Marley was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia when he was just 15 months old. Now, at 13 years old Marley is cancer-free, but still facing side effects from the harsh treatments he endured.

In January this year, Kerrin finally got a chance to make use of her prize, taking Marley and his brother Morris for a well-deserved weekend away. Here's what Kerrin had to say:

"I'm not sure words can describe my reaction when I found out we were the winners of the Bunker Bay stay. To have been nominated for the prize blew me away. I actually cried. I'm not one who moves in the world of luxury and this is definitely above the usual camping in tents. I am beyond grateful. The boys had packed for our trip the night before and were hoping to leave at 7.30am. That's how high the level of excitement was.

We hit the road and when we got to Dunsborough, we hit Meelup before checking in. Once we arrived, we had the opportunity to hitch a ride in one of the buggies and we were given some sweet tips on some local places to enjoy while enjoying the ride. We visited both. The villa was amazing – huge tub, super soft robes, bush view…we unpacked and hit the beach.



The breakfast buffet was a huge success. Plenty of quality fuel for the gruelling day ahead. The options were endless and when we were full, we went on a day trip. Straight down to Hamelin Bay to visit the rays, with stops dotted along the way back. The weather was perfect for our descent to Injidup spa. The water was amazing, and the swell had us guessing whether or not we would have a 'spa' or a little bit more. One wave had the entire pool area clambering for something to grab onto which was hilarious.

The Lavender Tea house next for my personal favourite – Lavender ice-cream. Canal Rocks next, and some very nerve racking jumping off the rocks. Clancy's for dinner and then a trip to the beach at night to see more stars than I can remember seeing in my entire life. It was the perfect end to a perfect day.

This stay has meant so much to us. Having finished his cancer treatment hasn't been the end for Marley. There are more side effects popping up continuously and we hover at a certain level of constant stress. Having the opportunity to relax a little and make some memories in one of our favourite places in WA has meant so much. We would like to thank Pullman Bunker Bay and the CLCRF for such a wonderful opportunity. It really was a remarkable trip and we enjoyed ourselves immensely."

# WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

## COVID-19 and Families of Children with Cancer

**FOR PEOPLE ALL AROUND THE WORLD, LIFE AS WE KNEW IT STOPPED WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

For people all around the world, life as we knew it stopped with the COVID-19 pandemic. Everything we did was impacted. We were separated from family and friends. Masks mandates were introduced, and everyone started hand washing and sanitising regularly. Going out put us at risk as we feared this new disease.  As news of deaths, variants and long-term effects of COVID-19 filled the media, we were forced to adjust to a new normal marked by anxiety and fear of the unknown.

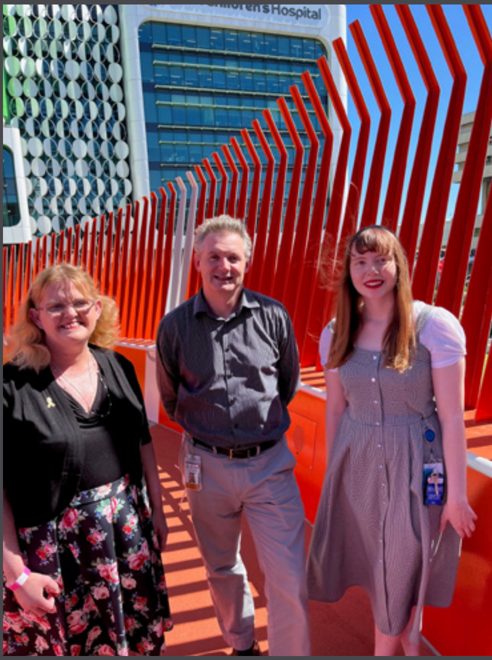
Jenny Davies, a Curtin university PhD student and a team of researchers set out to explore how families of children with cancer have experienced the pandemic. This research was recently published in the Journal of Paediatric Psychology, and the resounding message was "welcome to our world."

For families of children with cancer, the lifestyle Australians have had to adjust to during COVID-19 is all too familiar. Families of children with cancer undergo long treatments that mean their children are vulnerable to infections and even the common cold can put a child who is neutropenic in hospital. After diagnosis, cancer families have to get used to staying home and changing every aspect of their family's life in order to protect their sick child. As one dad in the study commented, "COVID lockdowns feel like what life is like in treatment."

For Jenny, childhood cancer is a topic close to home. In December 2013, her daughter, Amelia, was diagnosed with cancer at age 12. As families of children with cancer know, this experience changed her life. "I'll never forget that first oncology visit, seeing so many unwell children with nasogastric tubes, surgical scars, IV poles. Families of children with cancer go through so much, and I want to use my experiences to help give these families a voice," said Jenny Davies.

Eight years on, both mother and daughter are determined to use this experience to help others. The experience inspired Amelia to study medicine (she is now in her 3rd year of post-grad medicine) and Jenny to pursue a PhD exploring the impact of childhood cancer on families.

As part of her PhD study, Jenny interviewed 34 parents of children with cancer from across Australia



about their experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This research paints a complex landscape of navigating the pandemic in the midst of childhood cancer treatment.

Increased awareness in the community about infection control measures helped protect children with cancer. “When COVID happened, [people] started taking care… social distancing, wiping everything, covering their mouths,” said one father, with another adding “it’s actually positively impacted us, she wasn’t getting colds and flus she’d normally get.”

Jenny found that participants found that staying home during lockdowns simplified conversations. “We actually… enjoyed it…he was so compromised with his immune system. It was easier rather than having someone turn up with a sniffle…and having to say ‘Sorry, you cannot come in’…we did not have to have any difficult conversations.”

> **"For families of children with cancer, the lifestyle Australians have had to adjust to during COVID-19 is all too familiar."**

Fear of infection also means missing out on school, birthday parties and social gatherings, for both the child with cancer and their siblings. This is an isolating experience, leaving kids feeling like “the odd one out” and parents feeling guilty.

An unexpected outcome of the pandemic was that immunocompromised kids no longer felt they were the only ones missing out, as we all were forced to find new ways to connect through social isolation.

“Through previous research we’ve done, we’ve often heard that parents of children with cancer feel torn trying to care for their sick child whilst also keeping up an income and caring for the siblings. It can feel like an impossible choice,” said Jenny.

The COVID-19 pandemic helped alleviate some of these pressures through the shift to online work and schooling.

As one of the participants in her study noted, “one of the good things is that COVID allows me to work remotely… it’s a big weight off my shoulders … allows for income to keep coming in” adding “if this had happened in 2019 it would have been a different approach.”

## A LONELY EXPERIENCE

**But despite the silver linings of the COVID-19 experience for families of children with cancer, there were devastating consequences.**

**One father commented that only being allowed one parent on the ward was “one of the worst parts of the cancer experience” explaining “…I couldn't see my partner for three months … five minutes at the door of the hospital …a little kiss and good night, that was horrible.”**

**Participants also reflected that being away from siblings was difficult. “My little one…I couldn't help him with his online learning… They had to fend for themselves … The guilt … I can't begin to tell you,” one mother described. This loneliness was particularly pronounced for those who received a diagnosis during the tight lockdown rules.**

**As reflected in one mother’s reflection “The very first moment we discovered their diagnosis, I was sitting alone, and my husband was in the ED waiting room. I then stayed with my child and it meant we were left to process this news solo and not together… the last thing I wanted was to sit with my own thoughts” recalled one mother.**

**Participants in Jenny’s study described how COVID-19 meant that normal social interactions became impossible, with one participant describing how they “really needed that extra bit of just sitting down, and having a coffee, and just sharing.” This isolation was not just confined to parents. Some participants reflected that the isolation also impacted their children. With one mother commenting “I think the impact on [child diagnosed with cancer] was that he very much lived in an adult world for 12 months because there weren't any siblings or peers.”**

**COVID-19 travel restrictions also prevented overseas family from visiting and providing support which families indicated made it an isolating experience. Another negative of COVID-19 was that many of the hospital-based supports that are so very important had to stop as one parent described “a lot of the stuff that I think they do to keep the kids’ spirits up…All that stopped completely. Making a difficult situation far worse.**

story continued overleaf...

continued from previous page

## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM COVID-19?

“There are many lessons to be learnt from this research” said Jenny. “COVID-19 had undeniably changed all our lives, and we have had to develop new flexible ways of working and connecting online when we can’t be there in person. These changes can help keep families of children with cancer together during a difficult time and take a huge weight off their shoulders.”

This study underscores the significant and life-changing impact that a child's cancer diagnosis has on families. While the general population have found the changes implemented because of COVID-19 difficult to adjust to, families in this study found that they were similar to changes they had already experienced and, in many cases, the changes provided benefits to them. This provides insight into the experiences of families whose children are receiving treatment for cancer, which will assist in improved understanding and ultimately enhanced delivery of supports to families whose children are receiving treatment for cancer.

At CLCRF, our mission is to see a future where children can live the cancer-free lives they deserve. In the meantime, we aim to support these families going through treatment now and continue funding the vital research that will lead to improved outcomes. Jenny’s research shows that cancer families have been experiencing the disadvantages of the pandemic long before it even started. Now, more than ever, we are committed to providing these families with a hopeful future.

"This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP)"

# Write a Will today with Safewill

Don’t have a Will yet? Safewill makes it extremely easy and affordable for all Australians to write their own Will online, guided by tips from legal advisers. Designed with the user at its core, the platform uses modern design and technology to make the whole process as smooth and stress-free as possible.

The Will documents through Safewill were created in collaboration with one of Australia’s most-trusted law firms and they are regularly updated by an in-house legal team. So, you can rest easy knowing you will be following all current legal requirements when writing your Will.

As a supporter of CLCRF, we are thrilled to be able to offer you 50% off your Will through Safewill! This means you can write your own individual Will for just $80, instead of the usual $160. To get started, all you need to do is head to www.safewill.com/childcancerresearch and your discount will be applied automatically.

If you wish to include a gift to CLCRF in your Will, Safewill has made it easier than ever for you to do so. The platform allows you to split your estate and leave specific gifts to the people or charities who matter most to you.

Giving just 1% of your estate as a gift to the Foundation makes a huge difference and will help us to continue funding the vital scientific research into childhood cancers well into the future.

→ Get started now

For further information, simply head to www.safewill.com/childcancerresearch.

# Jean Menkens' generous Gift in Will

Jean Menkens recently left an exceptionally generous gift in Will of over $100,000 to CLCRF. Jean, a long-time friend of the Foundation, passed away just two months shy of 90 years of age in July 2021.

"Jean spent her entire life looking after children in need," said her proud niece, Julie. "So, it is no surprise that she would bequeath generously to CLCRF."

Jean worked in the Oncology Department at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) from 1974-1994 and she was instrumental in building a Total Care Unit there.

Jean's role at PMH was to support parents of children with cancer and help them when their world started to fall apart. Jean provided a great source of comfort to families by interpreting what was happening to them, explaining how treatments could possibly affect them, and listening compassionately to alleviate worries and fears as families navigated their treatment journey. Deservedly, Jean was awarded the PMH Service of Excellence in 1993 and received her 20 years of service badge in 1994.

Before her illustrious career at PMH, Jean worked for "Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Association" for four years, working in Malaya and Cyprus. She then spent four years with The Save the Children Fund in Vietnam, Amman, Jordan and Dacca, and three years at Greater Niagara Hospital in Ontario, Canada and Ronald Ross Hospital in Zambia, Africa.

In 1970, Jean received a Member of the Order of the British Empire award from the Queen for her Service to War Injured Children in Vietnam from 1966 to 1969. "I could go on forever about all the wonderful things Jean has been involved with," expressed Julie.

We commend Jean for her incredible career and thank her for her service to the community. She devoted a huge portion of her life helping children in need, and her incredible gift will help her to continue this beyond her lifetime.

Should you wish to receive more information about how you can leave a gift to CLCRF in your Will, so that we can continue funding the ground-breaking research into childhood cancers, please feel free to contact our office by calling (08) 9363 7400 or by sending an email to admin@childhoodcancerresearch.com.au.

# Include a gift of hope in your Will

No matter how big, when you include a gift to CLCRF in your Will, you are giving hope to children of the future. Your gift will help ensure the ground-breaking research into childhood cancers will carry on after you're gone, so that outcomes for children with cancer can improve.

Leaving a gift in your Will is an extremely generous gesture and a special way to make a lasting impact. Anyone can leave a Gift in Will and it is a relatively quick and easy process. Most gifts are made by ordinary, hard-working people who want to make a positive difference to the community.

There are several ways you can support CLCRF with a gift in your Will. You can leave money, property, or a percentage of your estate. Leaving this gift should give you the peace of mind that you are not only planning ahead for those you care for in your Will, but you will also be helping to make a real difference.

As the Foundation receives limited government funding, we rely on the generous support of the community to help us in our commitment to see children live the long and fulfilling lives they deserve. Leaving just 1% of your estate can assist us greatly.

For further information, or to advise us that you have included CLCRF in your Will, – in the strictest confidence – please contact us on (08) 9363 7400 or email admin@childcancerresearch.com.au.

If you have already left a gift for CLCRF in your Will, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

> “There are still particular cancers such as brain tumours and neuroblastoma with survival rates as low as 50%, and while research is being conducted, it needs more funding."

# Commitment helps Finlay ring the bell

**PUBLISHED: 8 DECEMBER, 2021 IN MEDICAL FORUM**

While 2021 was dominated by our unwelcome guest COVID, it wasn’t all bad, as Cathy O’Leary, Medical Forum explains.

For many West Australians, 2021 has been a year of uncertainty, missed family reunions, and anxiety about what the pandemic still has in store for us. But for the Higgs family, it was the year their youngest son Finlay got to ring a bell on a hospital cancer ward, marking his five-year remission from a rare cancer – stage 4 high-risk refractory and relapsed hepatoblastoma. His survival was made possible by Perth doctors using the latest research and knowledge to tailor an unconventional treatment plan for Finlay, who ultimately faced a less than 10% chance of survival.

Back on the Australia Day long weekend in 2015, Finlay was a seemingly healthy 18-month-old when his parents, Katey and Darren, noticed that the right side of his stomach seemed distended. He was initially taken to Joondalup Health Campus for an ultrasound, and then referred to Princess Margaret Hospital where his parents were given the news their son had a rare “one-in-a-million” liver cancer.

Not only did he have a large tumour growing in the right lobe of his liver, it had spread through his diaphragm and metastasised in multiple spots in both his lungs.

“It was a bit of a blur, you go into a bit of shock, and initially I couldn’t cope, and then a few days in you realise it’s really happening,” Mrs Higgs tells Medical Forum.

“And then, all of a sudden, I switched into gear and said, ‘give me all the information you’ve got’. You have to learn pretty quickly.

“Our primary oncologist was pretty upfront. She said it’s primary liver, it’s stage 4 high risk, it’s spread, and the prognosis is less than 30%.

“While they tend to drip-feed information so as not to overload you, we soon knew what we were facing, and hospital quickly became our home.”

Finlay began a gruelling 18-month journey of chemotherapy and surgery, including multiple liver and lung resections, with him initially responding to treatment before relapsing mid-2016. By that time, he had already received 12 rounds of chemotherapy – above the protocol levels – so a surgeon who had already done several lung resections agreed to go in one last time, in the hope of removing the last of the cancer.

August this year marked five years since Finlay had that last surgery and was put on ‘watch and wait.’ He has been cancer-free ever since.

As per tradition, Finlay, now aged 8, was invited back to Perth Children’s Hospital clinic 1H to “ring time” on his cancer.

"I couldn't predict how I was going to feel when we got to that five year milestone, but it was very, very good," Mrs Higgs says. "It was like a big 'up yours' to cancer – we thought 'go ahead and do it kiddo.'

"There's lot of things ongoing but when his oncologist used the term 'we've cured him', it was unbelievable." Mrs Higgs says they were indebted to researchers who had paved the way for treatments to deal with Finlay's rare disease, in particular the Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation and the Telethon Kids Institute. "People can learn from his case and the protocols the doctors used. We owe so much to research, and it's so good they're doing such amazing work right here in WA."

The Higgs, who have two older children, Harrison, 9, and Milla, 11, know that Finlay still faces health challenges caused by side effects of his treatment – including severe osteoporosis, hearing loss and developmental issues. He will need to keep visiting PCH's late effects "survivors" clinic for yearly check-ups.

"But we appreciate other families are not as lucky as us," Mrs Higgs says. "The day Finlay rang his five-year bell, another little one we know was starting the whole journey again for the fourth time. "There is a bit of survivor's guilt, but we just feel so blessed that we got this gift, that Finlay beat the odds."

Andrea Alexander, CEO of the Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation, first met Finlay in 2016 soon after he had been diagnosed with a cancer that is detected in fewer than one in a million children worldwide. Because of the isolating nature of his diagnosis, the foundation was determined to help Finlay realise his dream to go camping with his family, and launched the Friends of Finlay Campout as a fundraising event. Andrea says she would be happily unemployed tomorrow if research discovered a cure for cancer. "It's unfortunate that many of us know of or love a child who has been diagnosed with cancer or leukaemia, and the number of Australian children impacted by these diseases is staggering," she says.

"While we have witnessed survival rates improving throughout the foundation's 40 year-plus existence, there is much work to do to improve this journey for children of the next generations," Andrea says. "There are still particular cancers such as brain tumours and neuroblastoma with survival rates as low as 50%, and while research is being conducted, it needs more funding.

"Research is the only answer to finding a way for our children to live cancer-free. Increased funding equates to further research, resulting in better outcomes. It's that simple."

Meanwhile, the one thing Mrs Higgs is now struggling to get her head around is Finlay's new-found passion for skateboarding.

"He's already giving me a few grey hairs because of all the osteoporosis risks, even though he has all his safety gear," she says. "We worry that he's doing quite a high-risk sport, but after everything he's been through, he's got to live his life and do what he wants to do."

– Cathy O'Leary, Medical Forum

## Become a Regular Giver

**One of the most powerful ways of supporting our Foundation is by becoming a regular giver. Giving more regularly to our cause can help us meet our goals and it is also a simple way that you can help to make a real difference in the community.**

**No matter how big or small, a regular donation to CLCRF will help us in our commitment to continue funding the ground-breaking research into childhood cancers, so that future generations of children can live cancer-free.**

**Regular givers can choose to have donations automatically deducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or at any other interval of your choice. You will then receive a one-off receipt at the end of each financial year so you can easily keep track of your tax-deductible gifts. Regular donations can be altered or cancelled at any time.**

**Regular donations enable the Foundation to more effectively plan for the future and offer financial stability to support our long-term research projects.**

**If you would like to make a valuable difference and donate regularly towards childhood cancer research, please contact our office at (08) 9363 7400 or send an email to admin@childcancerresearch.com.au**

# Become a Corporate Member

At CLCRF, we believe that people and organisations are interconnected and responsible to one another and to society in ways beyond short-term earnings. We are thrilled to be able to offer the opportunity for Corporate Memberships.

Just like an individual membership, corporate members will be sent newsletters to keep you informed about the Foundation and the success you are helping to achieve. You will also be invited to participate in events each year, including our AGM where you will have voting rights.

A Corporate Membership costs just $50 for 1-10 employees, $250 for 11-50 employees, and $500 if you have more than 50 employees. Being a Corporate Member comes with many benefits, including member discounts at CLCRF events, first chance to advertise in CLCRF

We would love to have your organisation by our side as we help researchers find more effective treatments for children with cancer.

**Simply head to http://bit.ly/CLCRF-Membership and fill out an application.**

## Contact Us

Alternatively, you can give us a call on (08) 9363 7400 or send an email to admin@childcancerresearch.com.au.

## CORPORATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### SCEALES LAWYERS

In August last year, the Foundation was thrilled to have received its very first Corporate Member, Sceales Lawyers. The team at Sceales Lawyers made the decision to support CLCRF and childhood cancer research simply because it is a very worthy cause.

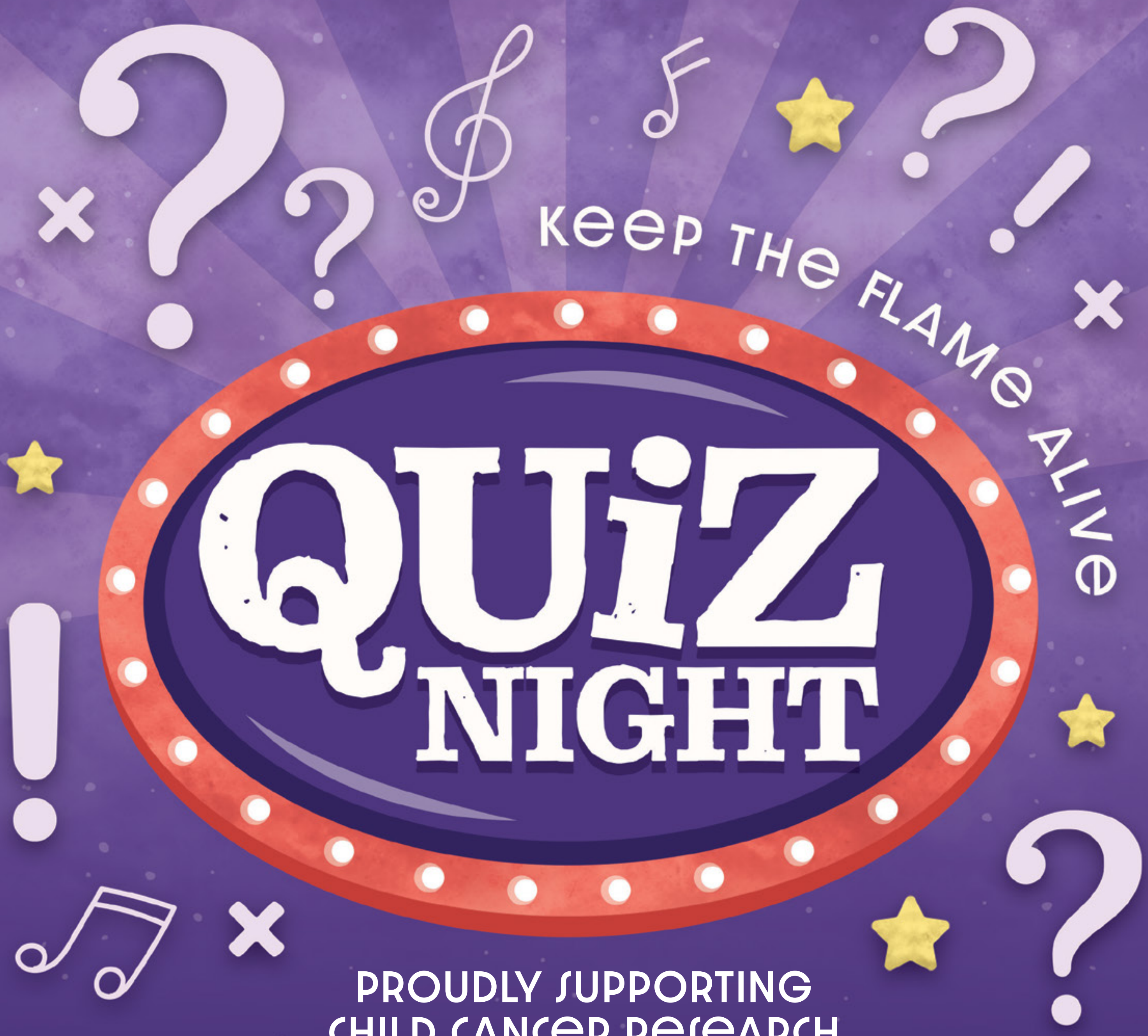
“We are fortunate enough that none of our firm members, nor their families have had to endure childhood cancers,” said Practice Manager Alesha. “We would like to do all we can to support those children and their families that do have to face the battle.”

Sceales Lawyers is a Perth-based law firm established in 1994 by Robert Sceales. The firm advises principally in relation to taxation, general commercial, trusts, Wills and estate matters. If you would like to learn more about this well-established law firm, head to www.sceales.com

## Be the change

**We know that the Foundation alone can’t affect the change needed. The changes we want to see in the realm of childhood cancer research can only come about through the efforts of many committed stakeholders. We also acknowledge all Corporate Members who have partnered with us by extending our fundraising even further:**

- **West Coast Turf**
- **QPC Group**
- **PJ Public Relations**
- **Milner International College of English**
- **Mailing Solutions**
- **Quik Impressions**



KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE

# QUIZ NIGHT

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
CHILD CANCER RESEARCH

## SATURDAY 23 JULY

TABLES OF TEN // $25 PER PERSON
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM // QUIZ STARTS 6:30PM

*Grab your tickets now!*

## CLCRFQUIZNIGHT.COM

CHILDREN'S
LEUKAEMIA + CANCER
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**FIRST FLOOR, ASCOT RACECOURSE GRANDSTAND**
**71 GRANDSTAND RD, ASCOT WA 6104**

# SOUTH WEST BIKETREK

Riding for childhood cancer research

# VIRTUAL RIDE

## ???KM

STARTS **1 SEPTEMBER**
FINISHES **15 OCTOBER**

**SET YOUR OWN KM GOAL**

**RIDE IN YOUR OWN TIME**

## OPEN TO ALL AGES & ABILITIES

Whether you are an experienced cyclist or just getting started, individuals and teams can sign up and join the South West Bike Trek from wherever they are!

**GO THE DISTANCE TO BEAT CHILD CANCER ON YA BUM!**

## *Join Us Register Today!*

**Get your workplace or school involved or challenge your family and friends. Register now to raise vital funds for research into childhood cancers and make a huge difference to the lives of children and their families living with cancer.**

**REGISTER NOW**

**swbiketrek.com.au**

RAISING
**VITAL FUNDS FOR**

CHILDREN'S
LEUKAEMIA+CANCER
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

# Local Immunotherapy for Sarcoma

**CLCRF has helped fund so many important research projects at the Telethon Kids Institute, working together with the Institute for decades to help improve the lives of children battling cancer.**

One of the exciting research projects that we are currently helping to fund is the Local Immunotherapy for Sarcoma project, headed by Associate Professor Joost Lesterhuis.

Joost is the Head of the Sarcoma Translational Research team at the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre, a team that aims to discover and develop safer and more effective treatments for sarcoma through inventive and rigorous research. One of the team's current focuses is on developing immunotherapy approaches for childhood sarcoma that can be applied during surgery to prevent relapse.

Sarcomas are a group of cancers of the bone, muscle, or connective tissue. About 15% of cancers in children and adolescents are sarcomas, whereas it makes up only 1% of cancers in adults. "The biggest problem that has been facing sarcoma is that there hasn't been a lot of progress in the last three decades," said Joost. "Basically, we treat children with sarcoma the same as we did three decades ago."

The relatively high incidence of the disease in children and the regularity of relapse makes the development of more effective treatments a high priority. "We really need to do better," said Joost. "Because, at the moment, the primary treatment that we have available is surgery. With surgery, you really want to get rid of the tumour with a wide margin around it. Which, in some cases actually means amputations of limbs."

Unfortunately, in many cases, some cancer cells will remain after surgery, which can then grow out in time and cause the cancer to come back. This means children must also go through harsh chemotherapy or radiotherapy before and after surgery. Even after all this, some children will still relapse.

"Once sarcoma returns, the prognosis becomes rather grim," explained Joost. "One in three children will actually die from their sarcoma. So, we really have to do better."

Currently, Joost and his team are developing a gel that can be left behind in the wound bed by the surgeon after sarcoma surgery. Children can then go home while the gel locally releases immunotherapy in the period that follows the surgery.

The aim is for the gel to attract and activate immune cells to mop up any remaining cancer cells, hopefully preventing the relapse of the sarcoma. The nature of the gel itself means that it safely degrades on its own.

This is such an exciting project and one that our Foundation is extremely proud to help fund. By continuing to fund this project, with the help of our generous community of supporters, we can see outcomes improve for so many children with sarcoma.

When you donate towards CLCRF, you are helping to support world-class researchers like Joost and his team at the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre. This helps us get closer to seeing a future where children can live the cancer-free and side-effect-free lives that they deserve. If you would like to donate, simply head to www.clcrfgiving.org.

# BEAT CHILD CANCER GIVING DAY

**ON MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2021, THE FOUNDATION HELD ITS INAUGURAL BEAT CHILD CANCER GIVING DAY. THIS WAS A THRILLING DAY FULL OF SO MANY EMOTIONS AS WE ATTEMPTED TO RAISE OVER $100,000 FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH.**

$142,190 raised

Through the Matched Giving Day, our generous partners doubled our supporters’ donations, dollar-for-dollar as part of an intense 24-hour gamified fundraising campaign.

Leading up to the exciting day, we enlisted the help of our own team of champions to help us achieve our ambitious goal. Our champions included wonderful friend of the Foundation, Glenda Swinbourn, who reached out to her big-hearted family and friends and raised an incredible $3,600 towards the campaign.

Glenda’s 16-year-old son Mitchell has been continuously fighting a rare cancer for over six and half years. “The world of childhood cancer is more brutal than you could ever imagine,” said Glenda. “We need to achieve big things because palliative care for children is something no parent should have to experience.”

Also making up our team of champions was Stuart Gale from Quest Apartment Hotels, CLCRF Ambassador Kerrin Hampson, and friends of CLCRF, Michele Dalton and Pat Seymour.

On Beat Child Cancer Day, our staff and volunteers spent all day on the phones and emails, encouraging our supporters to make a meaningful donation to improve outcomes for children with cancer.

All donations made on, and leading up to, the day were doubled thanks to our Major Matched Giving Partners.

In total, our wonderful community of ordinary superheroes rallied together

**"... our wonderful community of ordinary superheroes rallied together to raise an astounding $142,190, with another $32,000 pledged..."**

to raise an astounding $142,190, with another $32,000 pledged, to fund world-class research into fighting childhood cancer – a result we are still in awe of!

We are so thankful for the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, Tate Family Foundation, Clive Seymour, Cindy & Terry Lissiman, Beyond Bank, John Hughan and everyone who helped make the day a success by donating online, through the mail or over the phone.

We also thank our volunteers who graciously took time out of their day to help our busy team on the day, Georgie Nicholas and Rebecca Kenna-Gardiner.

Hope and Power, the powerful cancer-fighting superheroes behind our Giving Day, do not rest. Pursued by a force that will not bring them down, Hope and Power are driven to accept challenges most humans would never consider in their quest to fight against the brutality of cancer.

And so, as the inaugural Beat Child Cancer Giving Day has come to an end, another mission begins. An adventure that is destined to take Hope and Power to the farthest reaches of the earth and beyond, in search of life-saving treatments for those children in need.

With her powers of unconquerable optimism, Hope extends her deepest gratitude to you. Until next time, on Thursday 3 November...

**The Matagarup Bridge, along with other treasured landmarks in Perth, were lit up in brand colours to shine a light on our quest and to provide a beacon of optimism.**

**On our inaugural Beat Child Cancer Giving Day on 15 November, we won one small battle in reaching our target... but the battle to beat child cancer continues...**

$43,546.69 raised

# SOUTH WEST BIKE TREK 2021

***OUR ANNUAL SOUTH WEST BIKE TREK HAS COME AND GONE AGAIN, WITH RIDERS FINISHING THEIR 6-DAY AND 600KM JOURNEY ON 16 OCTOBER 2021. THE BIKE TREK HAD A VIRTUAL ELEMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN 2021, WITH SOME SUPPORTERS RIDING AT THEIR OWN PLACE, IN THEIR OWN TIME.***

The bike trek saw 21 live riders and a handful of virtual riders raise a total of $43,546.69! We thank everyone who participated to help us reach this incredible result.

Riders of the live event travelled through the beautiful South West region, passing Fairbridge, Preston, Harvey, Bunbury, Busselton, Margaret River and Augusta. This event was once again organised by loyal CLCRF supporter Eric Maddock, with the help of his wife Annette.

“It’s over for another year and I think it all went well,” said Eric. “We met up with lots of good friends made over quite a few years. And once again, we’ve enjoyed raising awareness and funds for this great cause to help so many sick kids.”

The live riders experienced dreadful weather at the start of their journey, but they were not deterred. “On our second day, we had a shocker,” explained Eric. “Nobody was feeling great. But then I read a post from CLCRF about a poor little 8-year-old who lost his fight against leukaemia, and I remembered why we do this ride every year. We sat and cried.”

As always, there are many people and businesses that need to be thanked for helping our riders out along the way. A huge thank you to the following:

Binningup Seniors Club, Café Mooba, Jarra Infusion, The Beach Shak Café, Mr Barker Chicken, Coles Warnbro, IGA Shoalwater, Woolworths Greenfields, Smart Diet Solutions, Harvey Professional & Business Women, Scope Engineering, Swings and Roundabouts, Bunbury Toyota, Cornelia Ewald, Falcon Lions, Pinjarra Rotary, Waroona Lions, Harvey Rotary, Harvey Council, Harvey Primary School, South Bunbury Rotary, Eaton Scout Camp, Boyanup Lions, Busselton Rotary, Jurrian and Wendy at Camp Grace, Cowaramup Lions, Margaret River Rotary and Leeuwin Lions

“Without the help we get from all of these people, we could not do this,” expressed Eric. “So, I must extend a huge thanks to each and every one of them and also to Annette Maddock and all the riders over the past 20 years; thank you guys and ladies for a great job.”

We thank Eric for his dedication and support. Year after year, Eric has led a safe and successful event, all for the love of the cause. “My hope is we will continue towards a goal of zero deaths from this terrible illness,” Eric expressed.

We look forward to another successful event this year! Our live event will take place from 9 October to 15 October, 2022.

# SOUTH WEST BIKETREK

Riding for childhood cancer research

# IS BACK FOR 2022!

After twenty years of enormous success, Western Australia's premier charity bike ride, the South West Bike Trek, is back! Riders will make the epic 600km journey from Perth to Augusta and raise vital funds for the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation. It is the biggest fundraising event in support of childhood cancer research in WA and, since it begun in 2002, has raised over $800,000 for child cancer research.

**This trek sets off on 9 October from Sir James Mitchell Park, South Perth Foreshore with riders travelling across some of the most spectacular roads in WA before winding up in Augusta on Saturday, 15 October.**

**The South West Bike Trek is a charity bike ride that will be conducted at a leisurely pace, although all riders need to be able to ride at least 20km/hr. The trek is not a race in any form and the group will work together to ensure each other's wellbeing.**

**2021 saw the introduction of the not-quite South West Bike Trek with the introduction of a virtual ride! After great success, the virtual ride is back for 2022. Whether you are an experienced cyclist or just starting out, individuals and teams can sign up and join the South West Bike Trek from wherever you are!**

**Simply set up your profile, nominate the distance you would like to aim for and start fundraising for an important cause! You can even sync your distances travelled by connecting your Strava or FitBit account to your account.**

**Get your workplace or school involved or challenge your family and friends. This is a fun experience that can see you turning your daily cycle workout into a ride that can change children's lives – all from the comfort of your own home, neighbourhood, gym or group fitness session.**

**Its FREE to register to be a part of this virtual event, all we ask is that you raise a minimum of $450 along the way. Register now to raise funds for research into childhood cancers and make a huge difference to the lives of children and their families living with cancer. Want to know more? Pedal on over...**

**SWBIKETREK.COM.AU**

# RHYTHMS OF LIFE

## MUSIC TO HEAL THE SOUL

THE ROSE PARKER BAND JOINS THE STEVE HENSBY BAND ON STAGE FOR A MAGICAL NIGHT AND RENDITION OF ROSE'S SONG SHE WROTE FOR CLCRF, KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE

The joyous healing power of music transported audiences from all over Perth recently when the Rhythms of Life concert took to the stage at the Quarry Amphitheatre, City Beach, on Saturday 12 March.

All in aid of the childhood cancer treatment families supported by the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (CLCRF). Thanks to the continued and highly valued support of Lotterywest, the team at CLCRF managed to bring our community the concert they'd been missing, finally.

Going back a little, we take a journey of how it took over two years to get this concert up and running, and then almost didn't go ahead. 2020 certainly presented CLCRF with many obstacles, and cancelling the Family Night Out not once but twice added to the concerns. However, with a strong belief in our community and knowing how music can truly heal the soul, there was nothing that would stop us from creating a night of entertainment for Perth people, and that we did!
Many thanks need to be given to the Rose Parker Band and the Steve Hensby Band for the fantastic contribution on the night and throughout the lead-up. Due to this support, we managed to create a night to remember. They both showed up week after week to help the team promote the event with Perth local radio, news media and on their own socials. Without their keen understanding of how important music can be to a community already doing it tough, we might not have sold out.

> "...we can happily share that this event supported our community with music to heal their souls and raised us $15,500, which will fund the vital research we undertake and children who are diagnosed with cancer."

Sure, COVID presented us with more worries than we should have had, but the music shone through even with a 50% crowd in attendance. The crowd still managed their covid safe dancing on their

$15,500 raised

blankets, and there was a feeling of pure joy being felt by everyone. We were right, music heals the soul, and we couldn't be prouder of the efforts of our volunteers and team that helped make this event happen.

WA is experiencing covid-19 in a way that it has been protected for the past two years. It makes us all feel a little uncertain, and honestly, it's how our community feels every day when they have a child diagnosed with cancer. So having Perth people show up to support our event and get behind us with donations and purchasing our products means the world to us. It means the world to those children that we support through vital research.

Additionally, I'd like to make a personal thank you to all of the volunteers that work tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this event to its musical crescendo. We're very blessed with this team that show up event after event and give their all to our Foundation.

With the support from the Quarry Amphitheatre and the Town of Cambridge for their help navigating the changing rules every week, we got there in the end.

Once again, thanks to the generous grant from Lotterywest, which allowed us to go ahead with planning for the Rhythms of Life 2022. Knowing we had access to those funds allowed us to book local artists who really needed our support as well. Thanks to our local member for Nedlands, Dr Katrina Stratton MLA, for presenting us with that cheque and attending our event. We certainly hope we can count on your support for 2023.

Due to this support, we can happily share that this event supported our community with music to heal their souls and raised us $15,500, which will fund the vital research we undertake and children who are diagnosed with cancer.
Please consider making a donation or finding a way to support our cause in 2022 because we can't do this without you.

Kylie Dalton
General Manager

$20,000 raised

# Consulate Court Christmas Lights

The residents of Consulate Court, Thornlie once again lit up their houses for Christmas, in turn raising $20,000 for childhood cancer research!

Each December the residents of Consulate Court 'light up' their street to celebrate Christmas and to spread joy amongst the community and the thousands of visitors the street attracts throughout the month.

Residents have been 'lighting up' on December 1st each year for the past 28 years. In 2021, nine houses in the Cul-de-sac participated, including new residents to the street getting into the spirit of the event. The displays were interactive with musical toys, laser light shows, bubble machines and dancing snowmen all designed for kids and adults alike to leave with a smile on their face!

Decorated homes carried donation collection points for those visitors wishing to show support to CLCRF, the chosen charity partner of the residents of the street. Other special events held throughout the month included welcoming Christmas Carollers and a Bake Sale to help raise as many funds for childhood cancer research as possible!

We are still reeling from excitement of having been selected as the Consulate Court Christmas Lights charity partner, which led to an almost unbelievable fundraising total of $20,000!

A big thank you to the neighbourhood, everyone that donated, and our incredible volunteers who were there to help collect donations throughout the Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you all again at Consulate Court this Christmas!

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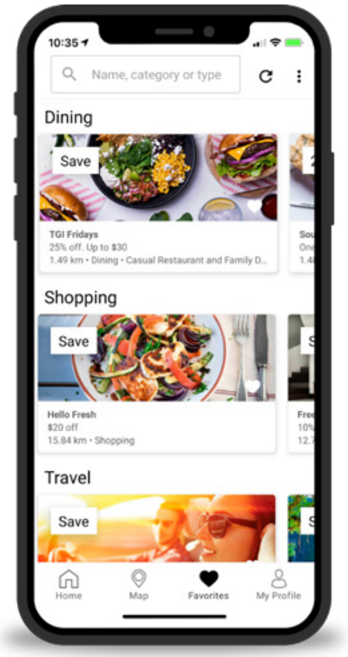
# Support childhood cancer research with an Entertainment Membership!

There are always more ways to enjoy your every day, and Entertainment does just that. From dining, to shopping, to travel and more, joining the Entertainment community means getting more of what you need and love, giving back to the causes you care about and sharing in the moments with those around you.

CLCRF has been fundraising with Entertainment for over 20 years, offering our supporters a great way to save money while supporting the vital research into childhood cancers. An Entertainment Membership allows you to conveniently search, save and redeem thousands of offers in your area in an instant. Amazing offers are added regularly, so you can be assured more value all year round! Plus, 20% of every Entertainment Membership sold through CLCRF comes back to the Foundation.

**Purchase an Entertainment Membership today by heading to: http://bit.ly/CLCRF_Entertainment.**

Entertainment



# A Peachy Sponsorship

The Foundation recently acquired sponsorship from Personnel Employed at Alcoa Charity Help (PEACH) for new laptops and monitors.

At the height of the pandemic, when having to work from home during lockdowns, our Foundation has struggled due to the lack of laptops available for the staff. With this sponsorship by PEACH, we have been able to purchase laptops for our team members to ensure we do not face this setback again.

These new laptops will also give our team the ability to be mobile and work with our childhood cancer community in regional spaces. This will offer opportunities for our team to get out there and have access to our informational resources at the tip of their fingers.

We are particularly excited about what this funding means for events such as our beloved South West Bike Trek, which PEACH has been supporting for many years. With laptops on hand, our team can do more work from the event as the rider's travel through the South West region.

We thank PEACH for their continued support of the Foundation. Founded in 1979, PEACH was inspired by a small group of enthusiastic Pinjarra refinery employees keen to help those in need in their local community.

There are now nearly 1,000 people contributing each month, helping to fund so many worthy causes.

PEACH
PERSONNEL EMPLOYED AT ALCOA CHARITY HELP

# Nambung Country Music Muster donates

## $5,000 raised

The 2021 Nambung Country Music Muster took place in October just two hours north of Perth in the Cervantes region. From all accounts, the 2021 event was the most successful one yet, drawing a crowd of approximately 1,400 people in around 200 caravans, campers, and tents.

The popular four-day event has taken place on the third weekend of October since 2016 and has a heavy emphasis on featuring Western Australian talent. Not only do attendees get to enjoy music, dancing and a great country atmosphere, but they also get the pleasure of knowing they are helping to support important causes.

Nambung Station owners Gloria and Brain White announced that a total of $25,000 was raised at this year's event. CLCRF is so thrilled to once again be one of the organisations benefitting from the funds raised, with $5,000 going towards childhood cancer research!

We thank the Nambung Country Music Muster for their loyal support of our Foundation, and we congratulate them on another successful event. We look forward to continuing this relationship and wish them even more success for this year!

# Gaels Got Talent

## $2645.94 raised

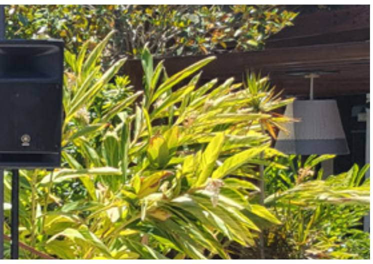
Last year, our friends at Morley Gaels Gaelic Football Club held a talent show to raise funds for childhood cancer research, as well as for a club member going through their own cancer treatment.

Gaels Got Talent took place at The Irish Club Subiaco and all acts were welcome with open arms to help raise money for a good cause. Through ticket sales and a raffle, the Club was able to raise a total of $2645.94 for CLCRF!

The Club would like to thank all of the businesses that donated raffle prizes, the acts who put in so much time and effort for amazing performances, the volunteers who sold tickets and managed the set up and entry to the event, the judges, Willie Bolger who did a fantastic job of MC-ing, and Craic N' On and Dan Noone who helped set up and manage the sound on the night.

Morely Gaels Gaelic Football club have been loyal supporters of the Foundation for many years now, and we thank them for coming up with this fun way to fundraise. This looked like a very entertaining night, and we hope to see them turn this into an annual event!

$1364.50 raised



# A successful performance for child cancer research

Last December, a committed group of incredible young supporters took to the stage at Westfield Carousel to raise funds for childhood cancer research. Ennika and DeriAnne, along with their fellow friends and band members, performed at the popular shopping centre and raised an incredible total of $1364.50 for the Foundation!

“The fundraiser was a great event, and the crowd was good despite it being a very hot day,” said Ennika and DeriAnne’s mother, Ellis. “There are so many people that made this event a success.”

Ellis would like to thank Westfield Carousel for the venue, Chatime for the fruit tea vouchers, B Chong for the Boost Juice vouchers, Lachlan for the sound and video equipment, Joshan for supporting the sound system, and the performers and helpers: Ennika, DeriAnne, Kade, Ike, Nathan, Wayne, Kail, Sam, Daniel, Kav, Ned, Nav and Casey.

The Foundation would like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of Ellis, Ennika and DeriAnne. This was the fourth event these supporters have organised in aid of CLCRF.

“We chose to support CLCRF because the girls’ aunt was diagnosed with cancer at a very young age,” explained their mother, Ellis. “The girls wanted to support cancer research that focuses on children.”

The amount they were able to raise is a true testament to their efforts, and it will go a long way to support the vital research into childhood cancers.

$1000 raised

## 2021 Boar Swamp Camp Draft

**In late November 2021, the Annual Boar Swamp Campdraft took place in Blythewood WA, just south of Pinjarra. We are pleased to report that $1,000 was presented to the Foundation on the night.**

**“Another great event!” said Andrea Alexander, CLCRF CEO, who was in attendance. “I got to spend the weekend with some wonderful people and saw some amazing horsemanship.”**

**Campdrafting is a unique Australian sport involving a horse and a rider working cattle for the title of the best stockhorse and rider. The Boar Swamp Campdraft Club have been supporting CLCRF for over 10 years now and we are excited to continue our relationship well into the future.**

## KARALEE ON PRESTON'S CHRISTMAS DONATION

For yet another year, our loyal friends at Karalee on Preston in Como raised funds for childhood cancer research through the humble Christmas ornament.

Throughout the 2021 Christmas season, visitors to Karalee on Preston had the opportunity to purchase a bauble over the bar for the donation amount of their choice, which they could then hang on the pub’s beautiful Christmas tree.
Through this festive initiative, Karalee on Preston raised a total of $540 – what an incredible Christmas present for the Foundation!

A huge thank you to our friends at Karalee for continuing to support CLCRF. It is through these wonderful community relationships that we can continue our mission to see better outcomes for children with cancer.

$540 raised

## Rebecca's Charity Picnic

$400 raised

Rebecca Kenna-Gardiner is not one to shy away from a fundraising event. She organised her own high tea fundraiser for CLCRF in May 2021, and she volunteered for us at the most recent Perth Tradies Expo and at our inaugural Beat Child Cancer Giving Day.

On Saturday 11 December 2021, Rebecca took her fundraising to Sir James Mitchell Park, where she hosted a Charity Picnic. Attendees enjoyed some yummy food and raffles while overlooking the beautiful city of Perth. Rebecca and her guests raised $400 for childhood cancer research.

“Thank you to everyone for attending and buying raffle tickets,” said Rebecca. “What a great afternoon! A big thank you to Just Grazing for the amazing boxes and cupcakes. And of course to Poppy & Posy for donating their amazing picnic stuff!”

We thank Rebecca for supporting the Foundation through her lovely event.

**If you would like to support the Foundation through your own fundraiser, get in touch with us today!**
**Our team in the office are more than happy to help you in any way we can.**
**Simply call us on (08) 9363 7400 or send an email to admin@childcancerrresearch.com.au.**

## Vanessa's Big Chop for Childhood Cancer

$342.35 raised

During Childhood Cancer Awareness Month last year, one of our incredible supporters Vanessa Simmonds cut her very long hair to raise funds for CLCRF.

With family friend Jaiden a childhood cancer survivor, the decision to raise funds and awareness for childhood cancer research was an easy one to make. “I'm doing the chop for Jaiden,” said Vanessa. “Because without the life-saving research into childhood cancer, he would not still be here today.”

Before the snip on September 28, Vanessa had been growing her hair for 4 years. More than 35cms of hair was removed, which Vanessa donated towards a charity to make wigs for children.

Vanessa created a Facebook Fundraiser page where she asked her family and friends to donate towards the cause before her big chop. She also acquired CLCRF donation tins for those who preferred to donate with cash. Through her incredible fundraising endeavour, a total of $342.35 was raised for the Foundation.

We thank Vanessa for her efforts. As CLCRF receives no government funding, we rely on the generosity of the community to continue funding the vital research into childhood cancers.

## Perth Saree Lovers support childhood cancer research

In January, Perth Saree Lovers held an event at Rise in City Beach to raise funds for childhood cancer research. Perth Saree Lovers is made up of a group of women with a common interest in sarees, the traditional Indian dress.

The group organises many events throughout the year, with the theme of this particular one being “Saree, Sneakers, Sunnies, Sand & Sunset.” Through this event, these wonderful women were able to raise $263 for CLCRF. The Foundation would like to thank Perth Saree Lovers, Anusha Kannan, Udayeeka Kashyap and Navaneet Kannan.

Perth Saree Lovers was formed through a humble Facebook Group. If you are involved in a Facebook Group that would like to help make a difference in the community, consider hosting a fundraiser for CLCRF!

$236 raised

# Help Us Make Change

**Use your empty bottles and cans to make a real difference! All you need to do is donate to CLCRF using our Containers for Change Scheme ID:**

**C10285275**

Every container you save from landfill will help us ensure the ground-breaking research we fund today will help the children of tomorrow, where no life is cut short by childhood cancers.

Since the inception of Containers for Change in October 2020, CLCRF has raised a total of $2389, through the initiative, thanks to our generous supporters.

# DONATE to help fund Child Cancer RESEARCH

## THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA & CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (INC.)

You can make a donation by visiting our website, phoning us or completing this form and mailing it to us.

**childcancerresearch.com.au**

Title:
First Name(s):
Surname:
Company:
Address:
Suburb:
Postcode:
Phone:
DOB: DD / MM / YYYY
Mobile:
Email:

A tax deductible receipt will be forwarded to you for any donation over $2

I would like to make a one-off donation of:
☐ $30 ☐ $50 ☐ $150 ☐ $250 or (amount): $
OR ☐ I would like to make an ongoing donation of: $
every ☐ month ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 12 months
Please debit my: ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard
Card Number:
Card Holder's Name:
Signature: Card Expiry Date:
OR ☐ I enclose my cheque/money order (payable to Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation) - no staples please.

☐ I would prefer not to receive any further information from CLCRF.

☐ Please email my receipt

**I would like to become a member of the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation and am enclosing:**

- ☐ $25 (individual membership) or
- ☐ $50 (family membership) and/or
- ☐ Please send me a Gift in Will pamphlet.

**MAIL**

Children's Leukaemia &
Cancer Research Foundation,
PO Box 1118, West Perth WA 6872.

**PHONE** **+61 8 9363 7400**
Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm (AWST)

**ONLINE**

CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA + CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION