



# — THE — **1870** SOCIETY TIMES

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of The 1870 Society Times, a newsletter dedicated to telling the inspirational stories behind Gifts in Will at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

RCH patient Sebastian and Phoebe Thomson, Senior Prosthetist and Orthotist



For almost 150 years the RCH has been caring for some of our sickest and most vulnerable children. In recent years, almost one fifth of the RCH Foundation's support to the hospital has been made possible thanks to Gifts in Will.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank not only those who have already included a gift to the RCH Foundation in their Will, but also all those who are taking the time to consider doing so. We appreciate and are proud to be able to acknowledge your commitment to creating a brighter future for sick children.

Gifts in Will give the RCH Foundation the power to say 'yes' right away to new opportunities as they arise. These unique gifts enable the hospital to:

- discover new treatments and cures for childhood illnesses and diseases
- pioneer new initiatives in patient care
- ensure our children benefit from the newest equipment and technological advancements
- attract the world's brightest medical minds and provide ongoing education and training.

Inside this edition you will meet Professor Kerr Graham. Professor Graham gave a moving and inspiring talk to our 1870 Society members in March about his personal story and the power of philanthropy to turn innovative ideas into reality to support patients like Sebastian, who features on the front cover. You will also learn about fellow 1870 Society members and the incredible difference their generosity is making.

Adding a bequest to your Will could be the most important gift you ever give.

**Sue Hunt**  
Chief Executive Officer  
The RCH Foundation  
1870 Society member

**Jessica Frean**  
Senior Executive, Planned Giving  
The RCH Foundation

## Professor Kerr Graham

In a career that spans more than three decades, RCH clinician and researcher Professor Kerr Graham is one of the world's most eminent paediatric orthopaedic surgeons.

He spoke recently at an 1870 Society members' luncheon about his career, what drove his early passion for innovation and gait analysis and the work of the Orthopaedic Department at the RCH.

Originally from Belfast in Northern Ireland, Professor Graham trained in gait analysis – evaluating the effect of orthopaedics treatment on walking disabilities – at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Even when the technology was in its infancy, Professor Graham saw its potential, saying, "It was a huge technological leap that I had been exposed to in Toronto and instinctively I knew that this was where the future was."

Professor Graham was drawn to Australia in 1994 with the idea of establishing the nation's first hospital based gait laboratory. This vision was brought to life thanks to generous support from the Hugh Williamson Foundation. "Innovations don't happen without vision. Without forward thinking and generous individuals or groups, innovations simply remain as ideas and not reality," said Professor Graham.

Professor Graham became the Founding Director of the world leading Hugh Williamson Gait Laboratory, which is a leader in the analysis of walking disorders in children.

The purpose-built gait laboratory employs a unique mix of doctors, physiotherapists and engineers. Using state of the art equipment, highly specialised staff are able to determine why children walk the way they do. Knowing this, it is then possible to tailor treatment for each child.

The laboratory sits within the Orthopaedics Department, which looks after children with a range of musculoskeletal conditions. Children develop



musculoskeletal problems from a number of causes: genetic predisposition, trauma, infection, neurological impairment, metabolic disturbance, and tumours both benign and malignant.

Due to the nature of the work of Orthopaedics and the gait laboratory, it's not uncommon for children to be seen from birth until age 18 and beyond.

It's forming close bonds with his patients over this long period of time and seeing the outcome of their determination and hard work that Professor Graham says is definitely what keeps him going and gets him up in the morning.

We look forward to welcoming you to further events throughout the year, where you will have the opportunity to meet the hospital's clinicians and learn more about the impact philanthropy can have on the future of children's health. Please visit [www.rchfoundation.org.au](http://www.rchfoundation.org.au) or phone **Jessica Frean** on **03 9345 6389** to find out more.



## A revolution in microorganism identification

Imagine having to wait days with uncertainty for your sick child's diagnosis, in addition to the stress of already being in hospital.

Thanks to the generosity of Gladys Scott, the RCH Microbiology Lab recently received a major boost that will cut waiting times down to a matter of seconds.

The lab analyses hundreds of thousands of specimen samples from children every year and provides high quality clinical and diagnostic services to medical and nursing staff. Gladys' bequest is enabling a major investment in a Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization - Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF) instrument. The MALDI-TOF is an automated analyser which will make diagnosing infections much faster and improve patient outcomes.

"Little had changed since the time of the 19th century in terms of identifying microorganisms so MALDI-TOF is a revolution," said Associate Professor Andrew Daley, Head of the RCH's Microbiology Lab.

"Previously, organism identification was based on biochemical reactions and sugar fermentations which took anywhere from a few hours to several days. The MALDI-TOF identifies an organism's protein 'fingerprint' and takes only a few seconds to perform," said A/Prof Daley.

Gladys left an incredible legacy, bequeathing her entire estate to charity. Responsibility for distributing her

bequest was given to her Estate Trustees including long term advisor and friend, David Ackland.

"As a Trustee you are acting in their shoes, you want to make sure the money will be used for a good purpose. Gladys had a love for children and she mentioned 10 charities to consider giving money to in her Will, one of which was the RCH," said David.

Recently, David, his wife Yvonne and fellow Estate Trustee David Kennedy visited the RCH's Microbiology Lab to see this cutting-edge technology installed and to meet with staff.

"It's been fantastic to be involved in the process and to see the benefits of the MALDI-TOF. We feel blessed as Trustees to help others in our community, especially children," said David.

*The hospital gratefully acknowledges this gift, given in loving memory of Gladys' parents, Gladys Muriel Marriott and Alfred Marriott.*



Scientists Dr Vanessa Clifford (right), Gena Gonis, and Dr Nigel Kelly, keenly share the significance of MALDI-TOF with visiting Trust guests



Tuberculosis bone and poliomyelitis patients at the RCH in 1938

## A polio survivor's gift creates a bright future

Sue Maslen remembers her mother Joyce for her determination. "She had a hard life, she was a real battler," said Sue.

"When she was just a young girl, Mum spent a long time in the care of the RCH. She suffered from poliomyelitis, more commonly known as polio, in one of her legs. The effects of it stayed with her all her life, but so did the gratitude she had for the hospital," said Sue.

Joyce Maslen combined her gratitude for the hospital with her passion for the land. Every year Joyce donated the proceeds of the sale of a vealer or bullock to the Good Friday Appeal.

Joyce began her dairy farming career with just one calf. Through her dedication and hard work, she ended up breaking records for milk production and farming along with raising prize winning bulls.

Early on in Joyce's farming career she was milking twenty cows by hand twice a day. She then used the milk to fill twelve gallon cans, loading them onto a trolley and wheeling them onto the roadside.

Joyce was acknowledged for her commitment to farming and cattle breeding when she was honoured with a lifetime membership of the Guernsey Cattle Society. At the age of 80, Joyce gave up milking but continued farming by raising and selling beef cattle.

Building on her tradition of giving to the Good Friday Appeal, Joyce also left an extraordinary gift to the hospital in her Will, donating the majority of her estate.

Sue Hunt, Chief Executive Officer at the RCH Foundation, reflects "Joyce's Will says a lot about her and the kind heart and future-focused thinking she had. We are extremely humbled and grateful for her generosity. She knew exactly what it means for a child to be cared for by the RCH."

In 2016 Joyce passed away at the age of 87, survived by her two daughters, two grandsons and two great grandsons.

"In a lot of ways I'm very much like her. She was tough, a no nonsense lady. She taught us to be independent and she would always help someone if they needed it," said her daughter Sue.

Through her legacy, Joyce has done for the RCH what the hospital did for her - provide lasting care and a brighter future for sick children.

*Special thanks to Edward Troutbeck for Joyce Maslen's biography.*



Meet your 1870 Society community

## Barry and Katrina Knight

Barry and Katrina Knight are proud parents to their three children, including daughter Paris. They can still vividly remember being rushed to the RCH on referral from a paediatrician in Geelong who told them to take Paris to the hospital right away. She was only three.

"At the time, other than having identified a tumour, we didn't know what was in front of us and whether Paris would survive or not," said Barry.

Upon arriving at the RCH, the Knight family met Paris' surgeon. They were told she would need surgery the following day.

"The nurses, doctors and carers were so amazingly supportive. Nothing was too much trouble and they took the time to answer all our questions and listened to our concerns. Even with our particular challenge, we soon realised that there was always someone worse off," said Barry.

Thankfully, the tumour was removed in its entirety and after three weeks at the RCH, Paris was able to go home.

Paris and her family would continue to come to the hospital for regular check-ups. Initially, these were every

1870 Society members Barry and Katrina Knight with their daughter Paris

three months, however over time they have extended and the family now visits the RCH once every two years.

At their last scan, Paris and her family received some devastating news. The tumour had returned.

"It was an emotional shock as it just came so out of the blue," said Barry.

While it's likely Paris will require further surgery, this latest discovery hasn't dampened her spirits. Barry describes Paris as an active and energetic girl, who loves her sport.

"Katrina and I love seeing her be so active. It reminds us how lucky we are," said Barry.

Barry and Katrina recently reviewed their Wills and decided it was time to include a charitable gift.

"When we decided to update our Wills, our solicitor prompted us to consider any bequests we might like to leave. We both immediately agreed the RCH was dear to our hearts and a contribution was worthwhile," said Barry.



Associate Professor Warwick Teague with Wendy Bowen, Marjorie Tivendale's friend and executor of her Will

## Marjorie's lasting legacy

Marjorie Tivendale used the power of a residual bequest to make a difference that will be felt at the RCH for years to come.

An active and social woman all her life, Marjorie passed away at the age of 95. After providing for personal bequests in her Will, she directed that all of her residual estate benefit the research and treatment of children in the hospital's Burns Unit.

This remarkable and transformative gift was made in loving memory of her sister Effie and brother-in-law Alwin Seidel. Together, they have an enduring legacy at the hospital, which is providing vital care to sick children, just as Marjorie wished.

As the designated state-wide major trauma centre for paediatrics in Victoria, the RCH sees a vast number of critical cases every year. With a responsibility to treat

the most severely injured children, it's essential that the RCH remains at the forefront of trauma care. Associate Professor Warwick Teague is ensuring this happens.

As the Director of the RCH Trauma Services, he leads a team which oversees the hospital's protocols and procedures for the care of severely injured children. A/Prof Teague is passionate about ensuring the processes around trauma care are well maintained and, where possible, improved.

"This gift has been wonderful, humbling and inspiring. It is a testament to the importance placed by many, including Marjorie on the care of children with burns, and the participation of the RCH in that care," said A/Prof Teague.



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## Contact us

If you are considering a gift in your Will, would like further information or have any questions, please contact:

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Further information is available on our website at

[www.rchfoundation.org.au/1870Society](http://www.rchfoundation.org.au/1870Society)