



THE 1870 SOCIETY TIMES

ISSUE 2 • 2020



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

Photo by Jay Town, Herald Sun

Please note that the photos that appear in this document were taken over a period of years, and those taken during the COVID-19 pandemic adhered to strict social distancing regulations. All health and safety guidelines were followed in the production of this newsletter.



Sue Hunt and Jessica Freaan from the RCH Foundation

The 1870 Society, named in honour of the hospital's founding year, celebrates those who are thinking about or have chosen to leave a Gift in Will to the RCH Foundation.

We would like to sincerely thank you for your commitment to the RCH and the future of children's health. 2020 marks 150 years of the RCH providing outstanding care to Victoria's children. It is safe to say that when we began 2020 and this milestone year, we didn't envisage it quite like this. This has been a challenging year for so many and I do hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Due to COVID-19, the RCH has had to adapt and innovate the way it cares for sick children and their families. The hospital, thanks to supporters like you, has been able to face this challenge head on – just like it has faced other challenges over the past 150 years.

Now more than ever we are grateful for members who have generously planned to include the RCH Foundation in their Wills or Trusts. It gives us the power to say 'yes' to new hospital projects that arise now and in the future.

In this edition you will meet fellow members of the 1870 Society and hear about why they have chosen to leave a legacy, learn about how funds from bequests are currently supporting ground-breaking COVID-19

research and the Orthopaedics Department at the RCH, and reflect on our virtual 1870 Society events hosted throughout 2020.

We believe an investment in the future of the RCH is a gift to children now and for generations to come. That is what the 1870 Society is all about.

On a personal note, over my 10 year tenure as Chief Executive Officer of the RCH Foundation I've been witness to many extraordinary advancements in healthcare with philanthropy at its core. I am personally very proud of my membership of the 1870 Society and sincerely thank you for your interest and commitment to this wonderful hospital.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sue Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
1870 Society member

Jessica Freaan
Senior Executive, Planned Giving

New COVID-19 research to understand impacts on children

As hospitals, research institutes and healthcare centres around the world race against the clock to support the public during COVID-19, teams at the RCH are leading the way in understanding the implications on children.

Researchers from the RCH, University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute are collaborating with teams globally to understand why children are less likely to display signs of COVID-19, and the key is in their blood. This study has been funded by the wonderful bequest of Beryl Sparks. Beryl nursed and then volunteered at the RCH, and has created a legacy beyond her lifetime with her gift for haematology research.

"As COVID-19 infection numbers continue to rise globally, we wanted to understand why initial data has shown that children with COVID-19 are at lower risk of infection and often show mild or no symptoms compared to adults," said Professor Paul Monagle.

"There have been reports of a small number of children in Europe, the UK and the USA who have COVID-19 and exhibit multi-system inflammatory conditions, which we believe could be linked to blood cells and vessels."

Although COVID-19 is recognised as a respiratory virus, Paul and his team across the RCH campus are now studying its impact on the cardiovascular system to understand why children are protected from severe infection but may exhibit these inflammatory symptoms. Significantly, another philanthropically



Professor Paul Monagle

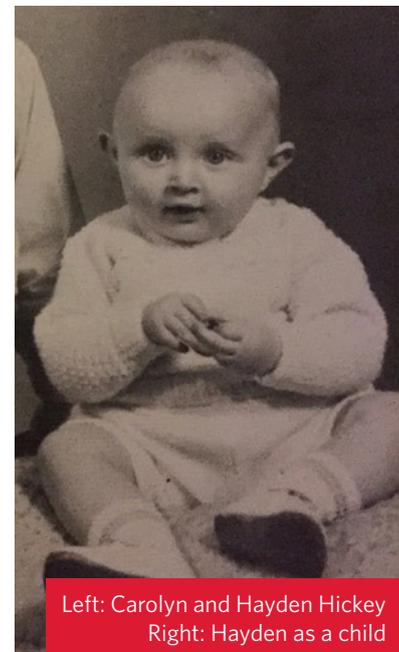
funded study is playing a vital role in this new COVID-19 research. The Harmonising Age Pathology Parameters in Kids (HAPPI Kids) studies, also led by Prof. Monagle, have resulted in an extensive database of age-specific 'normal' references for blood samples in children and young people.

"The data from the HAPPI Kids studies are vital to understanding the impact of COVID-19 in children as we need accurate reference points for comparison," said Prof. Monagle.

This incredible database of age specific references is made possible thanks to the generous support of RCH1000, a group of donors committed to funding research at the RCH.

This COVID-19 research involves extensive collaboration across Melbourne and internationally, including with hospitals in France and the UK. The results from these studies will be vital to understanding the impact of COVID-19 on blood clotting both in children and adults right around the world. This will then help clinicians to decipher which treatments to use to combat symptoms of COVID-19.

Gifts in Wills are one of the key sources of funding for research at the RCH. By funding research like this, **you are changing the lives of children and their families beyond your lifetime.**



Left: Carolyn and Hayden Hickey
Right: Hayden as a child

MEET A MEMBER OF THE 1870 SOCIETY

Hayden Hickey

Hayden Hickey is an active man. He spends his working days at a truck wreckers dismantling machinery and at 71 years old, Hayden doesn't plan on stopping any time soon. It could be the Queensland sun and fresh country air that keeps him going, but Hayden credits it all to the RCH.

Originally from Swan Hill in regional Victoria, Hayden was taken to the RCH as a toddler to undergo major surgery. Although he doesn't recall the name of his condition, Hayden now knows that his heart is not in the right position, laying down on its side across the middle of his chest. He remembers his mother telling him the surgery was to relieve the multiple points of pressure on this vital organ from his ribs. It was a complicated surgery and Hayden had to be resuscitated three times during the procedure.

Hayden faced many health complications in his early childhood due to his heart condition; he was in and out of hospital with bouts of pneumonia and infections with his chest scar, delaying his school start by a year. As he grew, he became stronger and continued to visit the hospital for check-ups until he was 16 years old.

"From what I gather I wasn't supposed to live, but I kept going. I wouldn't be here without the RCH, the doctors, nurses and surgeons who treated me," said Hayden.

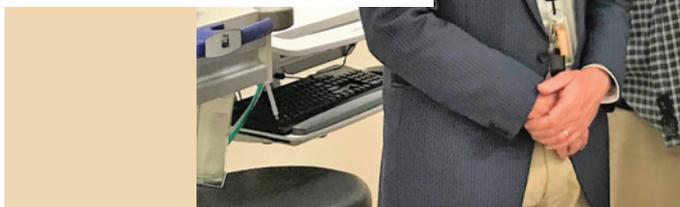
Despite this early setback, his condition has never stopped him living life to the fullest. Hayden has played over 600 senior games of football and has spent his working life as a carpenter, joiner, builder and farm manager. When he goes for check-ups now, doctors are often surprised at how fit he is despite his rare heart position.

Hayden and his wife Carolyn, who have been together for 39 years, reviewed their Wills last year. While reflecting on his good health, Hayden made the decision that he would like to gift a significant part of his estate to the RCH and join the 1870 Society.

"You see so many kids that don't get the chance that I had, some don't make it. Carolyn and I don't have our own children so I wanted to give something back and make a difference," said Hayden.

Despite not wanting to retire, Hayden would like a "break" from work. The Hickeys plan to sell in Queensland and travel before resettling in Bendigo. There, Hayden will continue his hobby of restoring vintage cars, and will be close enough to Melbourne to visit the RCH again, this time as one of our most wonderful supporters.

By leaving a Gift in Will, you are creating a legacy that will **give sick children a brighter future, for generations to come.**



Left: Laurie Davis Junior and A/Prof Teague
Right: Members of the Davies Family

Bequest supports Burns Unit innovation

When Laurie Davies Junior first learned of his dad’s wish to leave a bequest in his Will to the RCH, he wasn’t the least bit surprised.

“Dad was a really gentle person, he loved kids, and I just knew if he had the money he would do anything he could to help others.”

Laurie Senior planned his Will in 2007, gifting a percentage of his estate for the Burns Unit at the RCH.

According to Laurie, it was the 2002 Bali Bombings that was the catalyst for his dad wanting to support children who had suffered burns.

“The Bali Bombings really hit home for Dad and that really opened him up to wanting to support the Burns Unit. It was something he thought would be good to help with,” Laurie said.

The generous bequest will boost the Burns Team’s technological capabilities with the gift of over \$115,000 supporting new laser technology, and helping fund a new Academic Burns Surgeon position.

The new laser technology can be used during different stages of wound care and recovery, particularly for children with deep scarring. Director of the RCH Trauma Services and burns surgeon, Associate Professor

Warwick Teague says the laser technology enables the Burns Unit to provide a more comprehensive and holistic therapy service to children and their families.

“With this new technology there is an opportunity to use the laser to help heal and treat scarring, whereas you would normally have to consider surgery which is more invasive, or steroid treatment which may not be as effective in some cases,” A/Prof Teague said.

“The breadth of offering we will now be able to deliver at the RCH is unique – we have the opportunity to be leaders in burns management.”

The bequest has also helped support an Academic Burns Surgeon position that will be responsible for further developing and expanding the team’s research capabilities, ensuring the service is always offering the most contemporary burns management and is constantly improving.

Laurie Junior, along with his son, Scott, and daughter Carlie, presented the cheque to A/Prof Teague and the team in late 2019, fulfilling a deathbed request from his dad.

“We were extremely impressed with everything; to be able to see where the money is going and to see that it’s going to help so many kids was humbling,” Laurie said.

“The fact that every patient gets their own space and room in the Burns Unit, and that one parent can stay, we were so impressed with the level of care and the whole hospital – and Dad obviously.”

Steps for the future

The RCH Orthopaedics Department is one of the busiest areas of the hospital. Featuring a dedicated team of clinicians, nurse specialists and physiotherapists, the department looks after children with musculoskeletal conditions, that range from those that arise suddenly such as fractures, to conditions associated with living with disability and pain.

Thanks to the generous bequest from Phyllis and Syd Bellion, the Orthopaedics Department now includes a new specialised Orthopaedic Surgeon, to advance the care it provides to children in need.

This unique gift was over 70 years in the making. Phyllis' mother Jessie Hopkins advised Phyllis in the 1940's that she eventually wanted the family home in Footscray to support the hospital's Orthopaedic Department.

Phyllis and Syd honoured her mother's wish, with the property coming to the hospital after Phyllis' lifetime and Syd's life tenancy.

Thanks to this long planned gift, the RCH now has a new Oncology and Limb Reconstructive Surgeon. The two subspecialties are cornerstone services that are not only key to orthopaedics but also to multiple other departments including oncology, plastics, genetics, pathology and radiology. Dr Stewart Morrison took up this new position in June 2020.

"This amazing gift has allowed us to support and bring in local graduate, Dr Stewart Morrison who was identified as being an outstanding talent. He has already made an impact," said Associate Professor Leo Donnan, Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Significantly, the Orthopaedics Department were not only able to employ a new surgeon within the department, but have a two year transition period which means senior staff are able to mentor the surgeon appointed into the new role.



Phyllis Bellion

"Too often due to funding constraints, a more senior clinician has to retire before a new member can join the team. This means that a lot of the knowledge walks out the door. However, thanks to this gift, we have been able to nurture and mentor Stewart into this surgical position."

"This incredible gift has allowed us to capture local talent; someone who we know will make a major contribution to clinical care, research and advancing the department," said A/Prof Donnan.

Dr Morrison initially came to the RCH as a trainee doctor before completing his fellowship training in the USA. Whilst at the RCH he was identified as someone who had 'outstanding knowledge, enthusiasm, compassion and technical expertise'. Since returning to RCH, Dr Morrison has been reunited with several children and adolescents that he treated before he left for the USA in 2018.

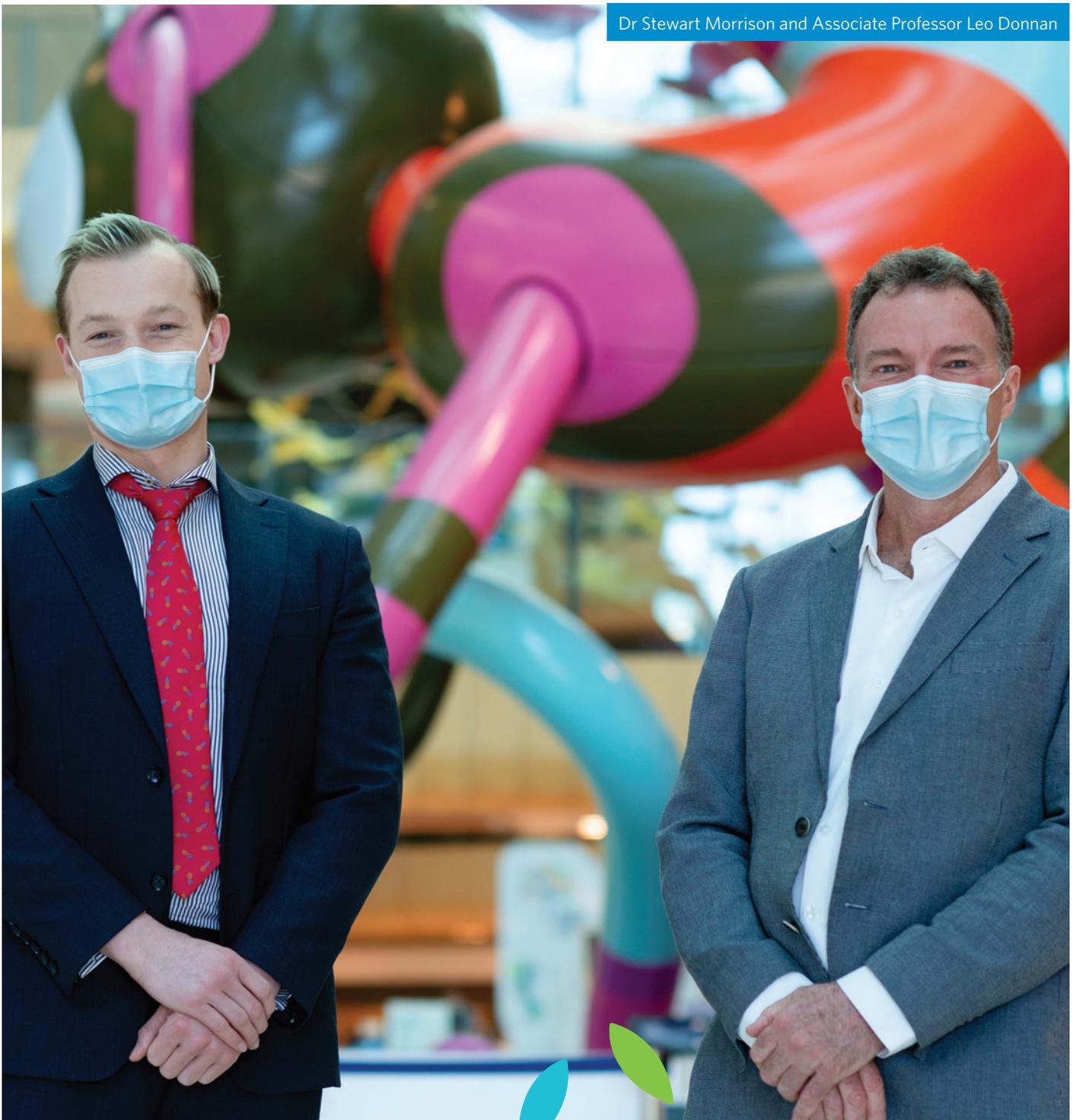
"We have the privilege and challenge of supporting these children and families through chemotherapy, eight hour surgeries, and some of the darkest moments of their lives. Two years later, to see them back in the clinic – now reporting issues like 'a knee that clicks' or 'wanting to discuss leg lengthening' because it is interfering with their surfing; it is amazing how far these kids can come in just two years," Dr Morrison said.

A unique component of Dr Morrison's role at the RCH is that he operates on a fortnightly basis with Dr Mark O'Sullivan who is one of the department's senior musculoskeletal tumour surgeons.

"Similar to the mode of practice adopted by the spine teams – where two consultant surgeons are assigned to the operating lists – having two surgeons working together on cases allows for sharing of knowledge, division of workload, and ultimately more collaborative and finely tuned operations," said Dr Morrison.

"This arrangement would not have been possible without the financial support provided by Phyllis and Syd Bellion. Over the next few years this arrangement will unequivocally enhance the already world class care afforded to musculoskeletal tumour patients at the RCH," said Dr Morrison.

Dr Stewart Morrison and Associate Professor Leo Donnan



The 1870 Society Community

We hope you enjoy learning about your impact on campus, with our newsletters and events, this year in a new virtual format.

VIRTUAL IN CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR JULIE BINES

In July, Sue Hunt hosted the very first Virtual In Conversation event.

Professor Julie Bines presented on her incredible life-saving work across the world, protecting vulnerable babies from the rotavirus. Julie's work both internationally as well as on campus is ground breaking, and we were so delighted to share her insight and personal perspective with you first hand.



WATCH THE PRESENTATION

www.rchfoundation.org.au/1870-conversation

VIRTUAL ANNUAL LUNCH WITH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CATHY QUINLAN

It was wonderful to see so many members online for the 1870 Society Annual Lunch in September. The event, hosted by Sue Hunt, featured a thought provoking presentation from Associate Professor Cathy Quinlan as well as a personal message from the RCH Foundation Chairman, Peter Yates AM.

A/Prof Cathy Quinlan discussed the world-leading Kidney Flagship which brings together the RCH Kidney Genetics service and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute's Kidney Regeneration group. The visionary research program focuses on genetic kidney disease starting in children and extending into adulthood.



WATCH THE PRESENTATION

www.rchfoundation.org.au/1870-lunch

Creating your Gift in Will

After providing for your loved ones in your Will, you have the opportunity to consider the causes and organisations that have special meaning to you and ask yourself: *what would I like my legacy to be?*

Together we can change the future of children's health by solving today's medical challenges and being better prepared for tomorrow's.

If you plan to make a bequest, here are three reasons to let us know:

1. By talking to us before you finalise your Will, we can check the wording and your intention for your gift. Bequests require the RCH Foundation's full legal name: *"The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation Limited as trustee for The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation No. 2 Trust (ABN 75 761 829 818)"*. We can also help you to decide on the type of bequest that will be most effective in the future.
2. You can help the RCH plan for the future. Research takes long term planning and funding, and knowing that support is pledged now helps this. Telling us about your planned gift does not make it binding. We understand that circumstances change, so please just notify us if this happens.
3. The 1870 Society is our way of expressing thanks to all those who make a gift in their Will. Members are invited to the Annual Lunch and behind the scenes opportunities, with your name also publicly acknowledged in the hospital. Privacy and confidentiality are always respected. You decide the frequency of contact with us, and can also choose to remain anonymous.

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, contact **Jessica Freaan**, Senior Executive, Planned Giving at jessica.freaan@rch.org.au or on **(03) 9345 6389**



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