



PIPS 'n' PIECES

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AUGUST 2024



Melanoma News

CALVARY MATER RECEIVES FUNDING FOR SPECIALIST NURSE

In February 2022, the Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) and Melanoma Patients Australia (MPA) published a state of the nation report on melanoma in Australia. One key recommendation was to enhance diagnosis, treatment and care for melanoma patients by introducing and funding a National Melanoma Nurse Program.

The Australian Federal Government has committed \$14.8 million to support the initiative to be managed by the Melanoma Institute Australia.

The funding will allow for the equivalent of 35 full time nurses across the country, with a goal of improving clinical outcomes and overall wellbeing for melanoma patients through quality supportive care and education.

We are excited to advise that Calvary Mater Newcastle has secured funding from this initiative to employ a Specialist Melanoma Clinical Nurse Consultant with a Full Time Equivalent of 0.6 – ie three days per week. Working closely with oncologists,

surgeons and surgical nurses, this nurse will assist patients with complex treatment needs to ensure continuity of care and improved clinical outcomes.

By providing dedicated, specialised support, this initiative aims to improve the quality of life for melanoma patients and their families. With the continued support of the Australian Federal Government and the Melanoma Institute Australia we are taking a critical step forward in the fight against melanoma.

HMF JOINS AMSCA TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL MELANOMA SCREENING PROGRAM

Melanoma is known as our national cancer in Australia. Why? Because we have the highest incidence per capita in the world. In fact, melanoma is the 3rd most diagnosed cancer in Australia. Among men, it is the second most common cancer after prostate cancer, and among women, it ranks third behind breast and bowel cancer.

When HMF was formed in the 1980's, Newcastle and the Hunter region had the highest melanoma rates in the country. Since then, we have been dedicated to reducing these rates by educating the community about melanoma prevention and early detection.

The most recent state wide data from the Cancer Institute of NSW reveals that, while we remain among the top 25 melanoma hot spots in the state, we are no longer at the top of the list. Currently, Port Stephens LGA ranks 12th, Lake Macquarie LGA is 15th, Maitland LGA is 20th, and Newcastle LGA is 24th.

However, figures released by the Hunter New England Local Health District in February this year indicate that melanoma remains the second most diagnosed cancer in the district, just behind prostate cancer. This highlights that we still have significant work ahead to achieve our mission of defeating melanoma in the Hunter Region.

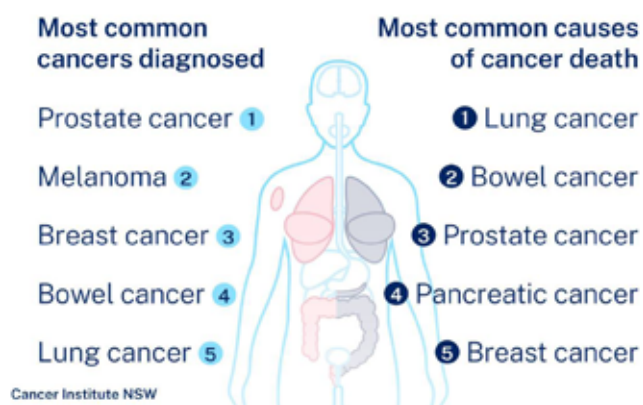
Early detection plays a vital role in reducing the fatality rates of melanoma but often there are many challenges associated with this.

Our data from surveying community members who attend our free spot check clinics tells us that many people don't know where to get their skin checked, many find it unaffordable and others find accessibility and wait times to be an issue.

So if prostate, breast and bowel cancer all have national screening programs, why doesn't melanoma? Great question, and one we've been asking for some time.

HMF are very proud to be a part of the Australian Melanoma & Skin Cancer Alliance (AMSCA). This group comprises 12 Australian organisations that provide a sector-wide voice for the leading consumer, research, and clinical organisations working to improve outcomes for people affected by melanoma and skin cancer. Together, we strive to advocate for comprehensive screening programs and better support for those impacted by these conditions.

The group consists of representatives from:
ACEMID – Australian Centre for Excellence in Melanoma Imaging & Diagnostics
ACD – Australian College of Dermatologists
AMRF – Australian Melanoma Research Foundation
ASCF – Australian Skin Cancer Foundation
HMF – Hunter Melanoma Foundation
MASC – Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials
MIA – Melanoma Institute of Australia
MPA – Melanoma Patients Australia
MRV – Melanoma Research Victoria
MSCAN – Melanoma & Skin Cancer Advocacy Network



SCCA – Skin Cancer college Australia
SCC – Skin Check Champions

In May this year, representatives from AMSCA prepared a Consensus Statement, which was presented at a Parliamentary roundtable meeting organised by the Department of Health and Ageing.

The latest Federal Budget announcement included a \$10.3 million allocation to develop an evidence-based roadmap for a targeted national skin cancer screening program.

The funding has been allocated to the Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA), which will collaborate with Cancer Australia and the broader sector, including AMSCA members, to research and develop this evidence-based road map over the coming years.

Collectively, we recognise the immense challenge that melanoma and skin cancer pose in Australia. Our dedication to establishing a national screening program is driven by the need to reduce mortality rates and improve outcomes for those affected by skin cancer, ensuring a healthier future for all Australians.

Fundraising News

LAKE MACQUARIE TRIATHLON FESTIVAL: A BRIGHT NIGHT

The Lake Macquarie Triathlon Festival took place over the weekend of March 14-16, featuring an aquathon, open water swim, and 4 triathlons including standard distance, sprint distance, short distance and junior distance. HMF partnered with organisers, H Events, to host a 5km fun run / walk on the Friday night.

The "Out Of The Sun Run" provided a fantastic opportunity for participants to get active, enjoy the beautiful dusk scenery of Lake Macquarie, and support a great cause. The event attracted seasoned runners, serious athletes, and those simply looking for a fun way to spend their evening. To add to the excitement, participants were encouraged to wear fluorescent clothing, making the event more vibrant.

It was great to have some of our business partners entering numerous staff members in the run and we extend our thanks to PKF, DYN IT & Broadley Signs for their continued support.

Thanks to our wonderful community, we had great prizes to give away in a random prize draw after the run. The event raised over \$7,000 for HMF, and we are looking forward to making it an annual tradition.



TEMAN VISITS

Throughout May and June, HMF had the delight of visiting 3 Hunter Teman villages, where we were treated to some beautiful sweet treats, delicious sandwiches and most of all, friendly faces.

Claudia, our executive officer spoke to each village about our role in the community, and how through education, research, early detection and patient support we are working towards our mission to defeat Melanoma in the Hunter.

As a charity our work relies on the support and generous donations from our community and together Teman and its wonderful residents helped us raise over \$2300.

We would like to thank all of those involved for your generous donations and warm hospitality.

BENGALLA MINE

It was a pleasure to be invited back to the Bengalla Mine site for the third year in a row to enjoy morning tea with the staff. We discussed the importance of knowing your own skin to identify any changes, emphasizing the need for quarterly self-skin checks at the 'change of season, check for change'. The Bengalla team certainly knows how to host a morning tea, and we are grateful for the funds raised that support our education programs each year.



HMF RACE DAY

The HMF Race Day has always been one of our biggest fundraising events each year. This year, we were blessed with beautiful sunshine and a sold-out trackside marquee, creating a fun-filled atmosphere. The reshaped Punters Club fundraiser was a resounding success, with some participants taking home some substantial winnings from their bets.

Our raffle was once again hugely popular, featuring the fantastic prize of an e-bike valued at \$3,399, generously donated by the Hunter Valley Bicycle Centre (East Maitland).

Overall, the day was a tremendous success, raising \$30,000. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated, and a special thanks to all our Race Day sponsors and prize sponsors.



Thank you to our Race Sponsors

Thank you to our Prize Sponsors

HIKE FOR HMF

Kirrilley & Kylie – the two K’s – are embarking on an inspiring journey as they lace up their hiking boots for a monumental challenge – The K’s to Mount K – Hike for HMF.

This extraordinary trek isn’t just a test of endurance and friendship; it’s a heartfelt tribute to honour the memory of Scott Polglase, a vibrant life lost too soon to melanoma.

Scott was Kirrilley’s first husband whose legacy lives on through the HMF Gimme 5 money box campaign. Kirrilley understands the impact that support from HMF can have on patients and families who have been impacted by melanoma.

On the 2nd of July, these long-time friends of 22 years, started a 6 month training program, gearing up for a rigorous 22km climb to the summit of Mount Kosciusko, Australia’s



highest peak. Their four-day expedition this December 4th-7th promises not only breathtaking views but also an opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

Every step they take aims to raise vital funds for HMF, supporting the crucial work we do in combating this aggressive cancer.

You can support the K’s by making a donation to HMF here.



SHORTLAND WATERS CHARITY GOLF DAY

The Shortland Waters Ladies Golfers frequently visit the HMF office with their filled “Gimme 5” donation boxes, demonstrating their familiarity with our work and the significant role the local community plays in funding it. This year, HMF was honoured to be selected as the beneficiary of their fundraising golf day. We were thrilled to attend the event and gratefully accept a generous donation of \$6,150.

FIA Conference

Executive Officer, Claudia Tolhurst, attended the Fundraising Institute of Australia conference in Brisbane in February this year. It’s crucial for HMF to stay current and proactive in all aspects of our work. One of the key takeaways from the conference was the impact of the gradual removal of cheques from society on charities.

We know that cheques will be phased out by June 30, 2030. While this may seem distant, six years will pass very quickly. We’ve already received enquiries from members and donors about alternative arrangements. To ensure a smooth transition, we are proactively planning and have implemented options for

contributions via direct debit, direct credit, and credit card.

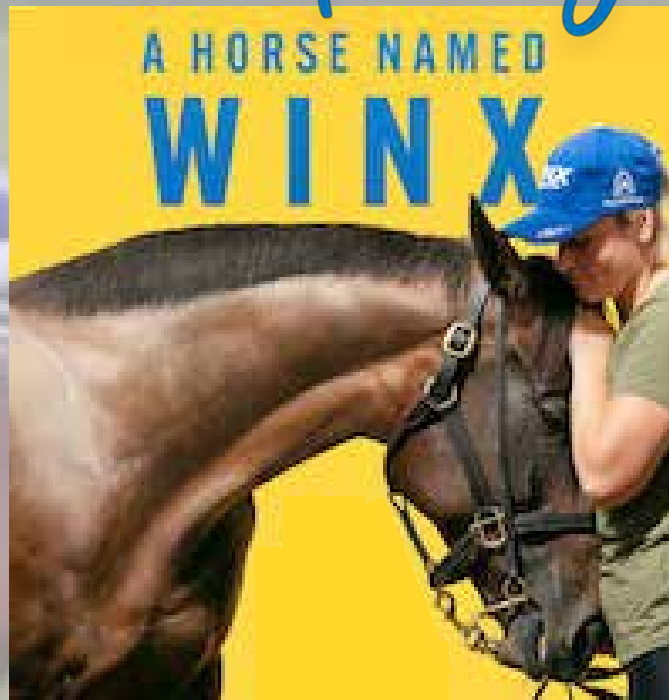
If you would like to set up a one off or regular contribution using any of these methods and would like to discuss further, please contact HMF Fundraising and Administration Support Officer, Rebecca Boyd on 0407 605 376 (Wed/Thur) or email rebecca@hmf.org.au.

Maintaining our donor and member base is essential to our survival and we are committed to making this transition as seamless as possible.



MOVIE

Fundraiser



Join us for a fabulous movie day featuring the inspiring film - "A HORSE NAMED WINX"
For just \$65, enjoy the luxury of a Gold Class seat, champagne OR coffee on arrival, a delightful morning tea, and a general admission ticket to Newcastle Racecourse. Plus indulge in a complimentary popcorn while you watch the incredible story of WINX, the champion racehorse.



Impact Statement

Each financial year we take a look back at the work we have completed and measure the results to ensure we are achieving the goals we set in our Strategic Plan.

This year we have exceeded some of our targets as we continue to strive towards our goal of defeating melanoma.

Spot Check : We provided 4 days of free skin check clinics seeing 475 community members and finding 78 suspicious spots including 21 suspected melanomas. This takes our total over the last 5 years to 1692 skin checks, 317 suspicious spots and 79 suspected melanomas.

Community Education Sessions: We delivered 30 education sessions to the community including community groups, schools and the workplace.

Community Events: We attended 12 community events to raise awareness of HMF and melanoma.

Patient Support: We provided patient support including transport to treatment and our support group services to over 40 patients.

Thank you to our community of donors, sponsors and members who are the driving force behind our programs.



HMF Support Group

The HMF support group meets every two months on the last Thursday of the month. This diverse group includes melanoma survivors, individuals currently undergoing treatment, and those who have lost loved ones to the disease, all coming from different walks of life. Members often find comfort in hearing each other's stories, comparing notes on treatments, or simply knowing they are not alone in their challenges. For those who feel they need support, but are not ready to join a larger group, our support group facilitator, Lisa Hamilton offers one-on-one support meetings. To find out more or to set up a one-on-one with Lisa, you can contact her by phone on 0448 458880 or email: support@hmf.org.au.

MEMBERSHIP DUE ANNUALLY

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Hunter Melanoma Foundation

Membership Renewal New Member Donation

I, _____ (full name of applicant)

Of _____ (address - your receipt will be posted here)

hereby apply to become a members of the abovenamed incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signature _____ Date _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____

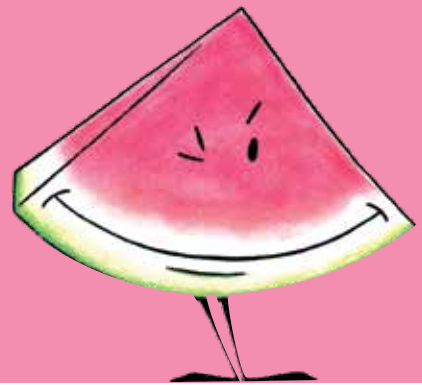
Email address _____

Occupation _____ Date of Birth _____

Membership fees are \$11.00 per year (including GST) payable on the membership anniversary date.



Thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Amanda Logan, Angela Conroy, Anne Davies, Arthur Bailey, Aydan Carter, Aznive Beesley, Barbara Bernasconi, Bengalla Mine Staff, Bethany Kemsley, Brian Marshall, Bronwen Byrne, Cardiff Women's Bowling Club, Carol Corbett, Carole Hooper, Cathy Marston, Celia Burrow, Chantelle Butler, Cheryl Blow, Darrell Harman, Diane Outram, Dianna Christie, Doug Peters, Erin Jackson, Fay Welsh, Felicity Dixon, Fiona Murray, Gary Wand, Glenyce Towers, Grant Crabbe, Heather Connochie, Honey Tree Preschool Bellbird, Ian Pfennigwerth, Jackie Saddington, Jacqueline Williams, Jamie & Karen Croker, Jan Plumridge, Janice McKay, Jeanette Best, Jennie Broekhuysse, John & Janice Taylor, John & Rhonda Drinkwater, John and Julienne Cooper, Jon & Lara Fowler (Housley Communications), Joyce Watt OAM, Judy Patterson, June Howarth OAM, Kairsten Marley, Karen Banks, Kate Baartz, Kathleen Clarke, Kay Fallavollita, Keith Byles, Keolis Downer Staff, Kevin Bolton, Kirrilley Moelker, Kirsty Heffernan, Laura Hinder, Leanne Payne, Lee-Ann McMurray, Len Wardle, Lesley Bayliss, Linda Pringle, Lions Club of Cessnock, Lions Club of Newcastle, Liz Walmsley, Louise Corrigan, Lynne Perrington, Mandy Russ, Margaret Mathieu, Margaret Smith, Margaret Smithson, Marie Parker-Wood, Marilyn Mercer, Merran Wiggins, Merrin Curtis, Michael Fuller, Michele Lane, Murray Heddles, Murray Leyland, Narelle Amato, Nicole Hobbs, Pamela St John-Morton, Patricia Evans, Patrick Warby, Paul Simpson, Raelene Squires, Ray Leggett, Rhonda Davies, Rita Ryan, Robyn Chapman, Ronald Jenkins, Rose Laffan, Rosemary Geyer, Rosemary Neave, Sandra McKendry, Scott Martin, Shortland Waters Lady Golfers, Simone George, Sonya Mullins, Sylvia Byles, Terry Smith, Tricia Phillips, Ursula Williams, Veronica Corbett, Vicki Parker, Warren Handley, Wayne Jackson, Yvonne Smith.



A special **THANK YOU** to PKF Accountants and Business Advisers for their support.

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF FORM & RETURN TO ADDRESS BELOW OR IN REPLY PAID ENVELOPE



Payment Details

Membership \$11 One off Donation _____ Regular Monthly Donation \$ _____

Payment Method

Cheque made payable to Hunter Melanoma Foundation is enclosed

Please debit my credit card:

Card Number Expiry CVW

Direct Debit my bank account BSB Account Number

Signature : _____ Date: _____

I have made a direct deposit to the Hunter Melanoma Foundation Bank Account BSB 082-637 Account 037112575

Yes, I would like to receive regular copies of the HMF newsletter by Post Email

Please send me information about leaving a bequest to HMF Please remove me from the HMF mailing list

Yes, I would like to find out more about becoming a HMF Volunteer.