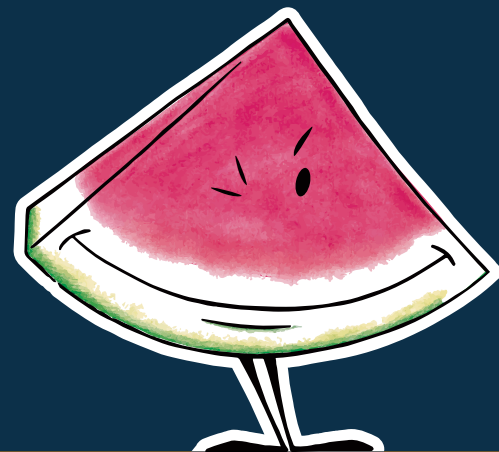


Pips 'n' Pieces

HUNTER MELANOMA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2025

Welcome Sue-Ellen Evans

Back in 2023, the Hunter Melanoma Foundation received funding to launch a pilot program - the Sun-Safe Workplace Awareness Program (SWAP). This specialised training initiative was designed to improve sun safety knowledge among outdoor workers, who face a higher risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers due to the nature of their work.



Since that initial pilot, we've been quietly working behind the scenes to refine the program and prepare it for a broader rollout. Our goal has always been to secure the funding needed to deliver SWAP in a more formal and sustainable way - and now, that goal is becoming a reality.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Farrelly family, we are delighted to welcome Sue-Ellen Evans to the HMF team as Project Manager of the SWAP Program. Sue-Ellen brings extensive experience in national program management, workforce development, and stakeholder engagement across aged care, disability, and community services. She has led large-scale government initiatives, built strong partnerships with industry and community organisations, and delivered training programs that create real impact. With a proven track record in shaping workforce reform and driving positive change, Sue-Ellen is well-placed to lead the SWAP Program into its next exciting chapter.

Melanoma News

For the past few years, the Hunter Melanoma Foundation has proudly been part of the Australian Melanoma & Skin Cancer Alliance (AMSCA). This nationwide network brings together people, researchers, and health professionals who share one goal - to improve the lives of those affected by melanoma and skin cancer. By working side-by-side with others across the sector, we can share knowledge, strengthen our voice, and make a greater impact for our community.



AMSCA
Australian Melanoma
& Skin Cancer Alliance

As a member of AMSCA, I feel privileged to be connected with incredible, like-minded people whose passion for defeating melanoma matches my own. Right now, the Melanoma Institute Australia is leading the way in developing a roadmap for a targeted national melanoma screening program - something our country currently lacks. With melanoma being the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in the Hunter New England Local Health District, and seeing firsthand the positive impact of our own Spot Check Clinics, we are proud to contribute our knowledge and local insights to help shape this important national initiative.

We are also privileged to contribute to the work of MSCAN and the Australian College of Dermatologists as they develop a national Skin Cancer Scorecard. This scorecard will serve as an evidence-based roadmap for advancing melanoma and skin cancer advocacy across Australia, while amplifying the voices of consumers, clinicians, researchers, and advocates.

As a small but mighty charity with a strong focus on our local community, it's inspiring to be part of these significant national initiatives - knowing that our local experience can help drive change on a much larger scale.



Arabella Tarpey

We're delighted to welcome Arabella Tarpey as the newest ambassador for the Hunter Melanoma Foundation. As a melanoma survivor, Arabella brings passion, energy, and a strong commitment to raising awareness about melanoma prevention and early detection. We will be sharing Arabella's story with you all in the coming weeks - so stay tuned. We're excited to have her join our ambassador team and look forward to working together to make a difference.

Our Impact

At the end of each financial year, we take time to reflect on the past 12 months and prepare an Impact Statement. This helps us stay focused on our goals and measure our progress against our strategic plan. We're proud to share this with you - our members, donors, and supporters - so you can see the real difference your generosity makes in our community.

In the last 12 months we have held 6 Spot Check clinic days, providing free skin checks to 620 people in our community. During these clinics doctors identified 91 suspicious spots that required further investigation - including 12 suspected melanomas.

The Spot Check clinics remain our most important and impactful program - saving lives through early detection. But the impact doesn't stop there. Each melanoma detected and treated before it reaches Stage IV saves the health system an estimated \$187,000 per patient. That means, in the last year alone, our clinics have not only saved lives but have also saved the health system approximately \$2.224 million.

Educating the community about the prevention and early detection of melanoma is also a core part of our work at HMF. Over the past 12 months, we have delivered 29 education sessions to schools, workplaces, and community groups, and taken part in seven community activations to spread the sun-safe message even further.

Our patient support services also remain at the heart of what we do. In the past year, we have provided 50 instances of practical or emotional support to 25 patients, helping them and their families navigate the challenges of a melanoma diagnosis.

Thanks to your continued support, we're able to deliver these programs, provide vital services, and make a real difference in our community. Together, we are helping to prevent melanoma, detect it earlier, and support those affected every step of the way.

Spot Check Running Tally

2312

Skin Checks

The number of community members who have received free skin check

408

Spots Found

The number of suspicious spots requiring follow up

91

Suspected Melanoma

The number of possible lives saved through early detection

\$17m

Dollars Saved

The potential savings to the health system through early detection

Fundraising



HMF RACE DAY – Our Biggest Yet!

Our annual Race Day has always been the highlight of the HMF fundraising calendar – and this year was no exception. For the first time ever, we welcomed a Naming Rights Sponsor and invited them to fill the Pavilion with their business contacts. Farrelly Construction Services jumped at the opportunity to have a fantastic day out while supporting a cause close to their hearts.

Although the event came on the heels of significant weather in Newcastle - and the races themselves were cancelled due to track conditions - the atmosphere in the Trackside Marquee and Pavilion didn't miss a beat. In fact, it became our most successful Race Day to date!

A definite highlight was our race sponsors nominating one person from their team to take part in a “parade

ring dash” wearing blow-up horse and jockey suits - a spectacle that had everyone laughing and cheering.

Special thanks to:

- 7x Paralympian Christie Dawes for taking on the MC role in the Pavilion
- Farrelly Construction Services and all their Pavilion guests
- Our generous race sponsors
- Newcastle Racecourse
- Our dedicated volunteers
- Everyone who joined us to support the cause

Thanks to you, the day raised over \$60,000.

Next year marks the **30th anniversary** of the HMF Race Day – and we can't wait to celebrate this milestone with an even bigger and better event.

Melodies for Melanoma



In April, we hosted our very first **Melodies for Melanoma** at Flamingos Live and what a night it was! The buzz hasn't stopped, with guests still talking about the incredible performances and the electric atmosphere at this one-of-a-kind fundraiser.

Five brave local celebrities stepped out of their comfort zones to perform live with a band, and they did not disappoint. Our stars included 7-time Paralympian **Christie Dawes**, NBN News Reader & Journalist **Jane Goldsmith**, *Nine's Travel Guides* favourites **Matt & Brett**, and Newcastle's Deputy Lord Mayor **Callum Pull**. Each brought their own style, energy, and enthusiasm, wowing the crowd with their vocal talent.

The fabulous **Timberlina**, Newcastle's Queen of Drag, kept the night flowing with her trademark quick wit, sparkle, and humour, leaving both the audience and our celebrity performers in stitches.

The night kicked off with all five celebrities performing a high-energy rendition of the Black Eyed Peas hit "I Gotta Feeling", setting the tone for an unforgettable evening.

- **Matt & Brett** were first up with *You Spin Me Round (Like a Record)* by Dead or Alive, earning themselves the **Encouragement Award**.
- **Christie Dawes** followed with Pat Benatar's "*Hit Me With Your Best Shot*", delivering such an energetic and powerful performance that she took home the **Best Performance Award**.
- **Callum Pull**, decked out in full 1970s style - complete with a wig - had the crowd singing along to Neil Diamond's "*Sweet Caroline*", winning the **Crowd Favourite Award**.
- Closing the night, **Jane Goldsmith**, supported by backup dancers from the NBN News crew, brought the house down with Shania Twain's "*Man! I Feel Like a Woman*", and also took home the **Best Fundraiser Award** for her incredible fundraising efforts.

It was a night of courage, laughter, and incredible community spirit raising over \$20,000 all in support of our mission to defeat melanoma. We can't wait to do it again. Who will our 2026 celebrities be?





Community Fundraising

The power of community is at the heart of everything we do at HMF. Every dollar raised through local support helps deliver our programs. So when a community group, individual or workplace commit to raising funds for us, we're always delighted to offer them any support we can to make their fundraising a success.

Special thanks to the team at Penny's Promise who are running several events this year to raise funds for HMF. You can visit their Facebook page to find out more. The Cardiff Boolaroo Cricket Club, who we've been partnering with for 2 years organised a Watermelon Fundraising day with all proceeds going to HMF. Thanks to Jack Hillier, chief organiser, the club made a donation of \$650 from the day to HMF. Once again the Teman Communities at Gillieston Heights, Cooranbong and Cessnock held morning tea events with some fabulous raffles raising a total of \$2500 between the 3 communities. We also received donations from the staff at Bengalla Mine and Hunter Valley Coal Chain Coordinators who also held events to raise funds for HMF.

If you or someone in your community would like to organise a fundraising event, please get in touch.

In The Community

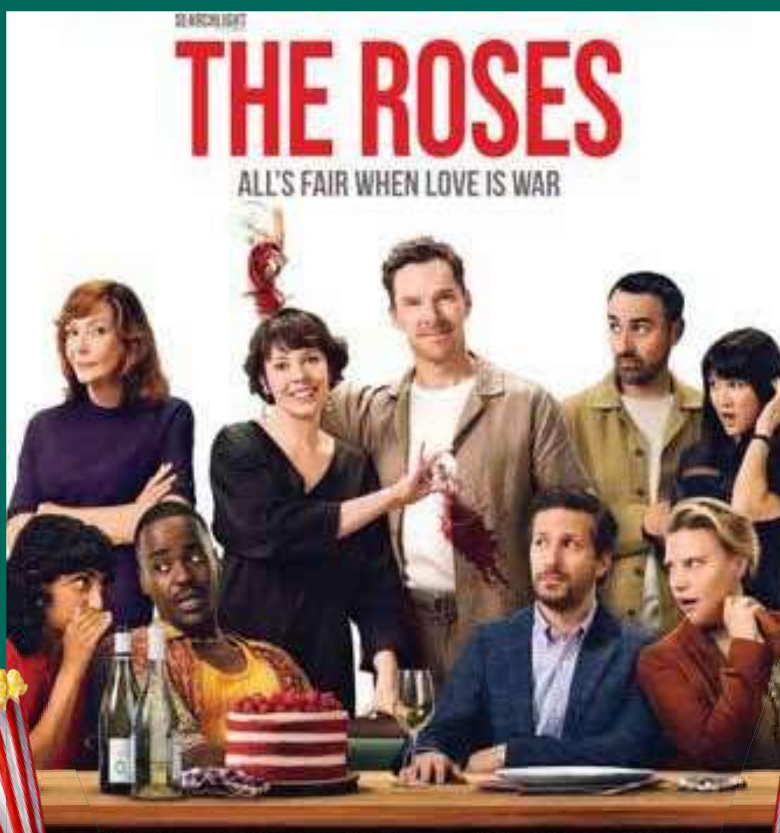
We've been proud to take our message out into the community through a number of key activations. At Surfest, we had the opportunity to partner with the Port of Newcastle and connect with beachgoers and surf enthusiasts, sharing important sun safety advice while providing sunscreen and resources to help keep our community protected. Our new VISIA UV Camera proved to be popular (in some cases unpopular when the results were delivered). The camera shows the UV damage to your skin that isn't visible to the naked eye. It is a great conversation starter and raises awareness of why sun safety is so important.



We were also able to deliver skin checks to the Newcastle Knights, ensuring players and staff could prioritise their skin health while inspiring fans to do the same. Continuing our outreach, we partnered with Hunter Homeless Connect to deliver free skin checks to some of our most vulnerable community members, making early detection more accessible to everyone. Thanks to Dr Tony Azzi from Newcastle Skin Check for donating his time to make these two events possible.

These activations and the many more we do each year, highlight our commitment to being where the community is – raising awareness, encouraging prevention, and supporting early detection of melanoma across the Hunter region.





MOVIE NIGHT

TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 6PM

Event Cinemas - Kotara

\$60 PER PERSON

Join us for a fun-filled movie night featuring The Roses! 🌹🌟 Bring your friends and family, as we come together for an evening of entertainment, laughs, and community spirit.

Includes a welcome drink on arrival, a choice of Nachos or Beef Sliders, A box of popcorn and a Vanilla choc top for dessert. All served to you in the reclining chair comfort of Gold Class cinemas.



Buy Tickets

Watch Trailer



Upcoming events

Save The Date

Attending one of our fundraising events is a great way to support the work we do in the community. We always have fun and it's a great opportunity to meet others who love supporting the cause. For information on any of our upcoming events visit hmf.org.au or send us an email to info@hmf.org.au

Movie Night Tuesday 9th September 2025 - 6pm - Event Kotara

Girls on the Green 30th August - Club Macquarie

Melbourne Cup Day Duke of Wellington Hotel

Knockers & Moles November



We're excited to share some wonderful news with our community. The Hunter Melanoma Foundation has been nominated for not one, but two local business awards!

Our organisation is proud to be a finalist in the **Newcastle Business Club's Outstanding Organisation Award**, recognising the positive impact we make in our region. In addition, we've also been nominated for the **Business Hunter Outstanding Community Organisation Award**, which celebrates the vital role not-for-profits play in strengthening and supporting our local communities.

These nominations are a true reflection of the tireless efforts of our team, volunteers, supporters, and partners who stand with us in our mission to prevent and defeat melanoma. No matter the outcome, being recognised alongside so many other outstanding organisations is an honour in itself and a reminder of the importance of the work we do together.

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.

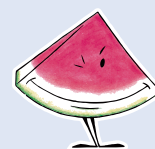
Signature _____ Date _____

Phone (H) . _____ (M). _____

Email address _____

Occupation _____ Date of Birth _____

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



Hunter
Melanoma
Foundation

Thank you for your support



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

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Abby Williams
ACE Sunglasses
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Alistair Brownlie
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Allison Farr
Alyce Barnes
Amanda Beattie
Amy Etherton
Andrew & Kylie Pull
Andrew Sargent
Andrew Woods
Angie Adams
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Anne Davies
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Jarrod Williams

Jeffrey Allen
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Jennifer Tolhurst-White &
Leanne Russell
Jennifer Ingall
Jennifer Schneider
Jenny Chrystal
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Jessica Worboys
Jill Large
Jim Gestautas
Jodi Smith
John Carpenter
John Chapman
Joyce Watt OAM
Judy Sharpe
Julianne Christopher
Julie Keyes
Julie Thomas-Bailey
June Gibson
June Howarth OAM
Karen Farrelly
Karl and Cheryl Smith
Kate Orchard
Kate Pilgrim
Kate Wilkins
Katherine Swain
Katrina Quick
Kaye & Roy Duffy
Kellie Hobson
Kellie Puxty
Kelly Roach
Kelly Williams
Kim Wilton Electrical
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Kyle Rollinson
Kylie Blucher
Lauren Farrelly
Lauren Freemantle
Lauren Kempe
Leanne Smith
Lei Yap
Len Wardle
Leona Zeal
Lesley Bayliss
Lesley Gallagher
Liam Aglio

Linda Collins
Linda Lane
Linda Waters
Lions Club of Cessnock
Lisa and Rob Keyes
Lisa Crawford
Lorraine Tolhurst
Lucy Gardiner
Lucy Portell
Lynda Pernice
Lynne Jurd
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Mary Thomas
Mat Freeman
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Maureen Ali
Megan Smith
Melissa Folpp
Melissa Wills
Merewether Womens
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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 _____ CVV _____

☐ Direct Debit my bank account BSB _____ Account Number _____

Signature : _____ Date: _____

☐ I have made a direct deposit to the Hunter Melanoma Foundation Bank Account BSB 082356 Account 241800287

☐ 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.

