



FoundationNEWS

TINY WARRIORS: BABY JAXX'S NEONATAL JOURNEY



The Neonatal Unit at Northern Hospital Epping is a haven for tiny warriors, where every breath is a victory and every heartbeat a testament to resilience. For baby Jaxx, born prematurely at 30 weeks, this was where he spent 52 days to ensure he was growing healthily. Without round-the-clock care, babies like Jaxx may not have a fighting chance.

In January 2023, Jaxx's mother, Brianna, was rushed into the hospital via ambulance, where Jaxx was born just six minutes after its arrival, weighing only 1800 grams.

"On the Saturday he was born, I was in quite a bit of pain. I took some Panadol and headed off to work but realised something wasn't right. He was delivered in just six minutes once I arrived to the hospital via ambulance." Brianna said.

This is where Jaxx began his long journey in the Neonatal Unit.

"He was on oxygen and had a feeding tube the whole time. You can imagine how scary this is for some parents."

At the time, this was an incredibly stressful and traumatising occurrence of events for Brianna and her family, with Brianna saying, "there were times I felt like I couldn't walk back inside the hospital. I don't know how I did it, but you just need to push through."

While Brianna mentioned the care at the NICU was incredible, the lingering fear that something bad could happen at any minute was all too real. The upset with being around hospitals after already spending so much time there, and not knowing the outcome, can put anyone at unease.

Due to her experience with Jaxx, Brianna has decided to initiate a fundraising effort to help Northern Hospital Epping fundraise for cot cams – these are small cameras inside the isolettes, so parents who are needing to leave their baby in hospital overnight, or for an extended period of time, can still keep an eye on them at home. This allows for parents to get some rest while knowing their child is being taken care of and can see them at any time they wish to through an app on their phone. This will make the lives of the families easier, and their minds put at ease, knowing their little one is receiving the utmost of care.

"I remember seeing that Monash Children's Hospital had them," said Brianna, "and thought to myself, wow, I wish I had that. You're putting complete trust in the healthcare workers and just hoping for the best."

Baby Jaxx and Brianna are both doing well, with Jaxx much healthier and stronger, now a year on.

"Everyone was amazing. The nurses in the NICU are so beautiful, we couldn't have asked for anything more."

Please donate today to support families like Brianna and Jaxx by scanning the QR code. Any amount can make a difference. Thank you for your contribution to this cause.



A HEARTFELT REFLECTION

As we reflect on last year's fundraising efforts of Northern Health Foundation, we are proud of the remarkable sense of community achievement. In 2023, the Foundation worked tirelessly throughout the year, alongside individuals, businesses and organisations to support the growing healthcare needs of the north. The stories of resilience, generosity and unity are what constantly inspires the team to support these important initiatives within our health service.

The Foundation will continue with its innovative approach to fundraising, including the ongoing support from our Workplace Givers and Northern Health Foundation patrons: Josie Minniti, Bev Carman and Trudi Hay. In 2023, the combined fundraising efforts of our patrons and workplace givers contributed to the renovations and upgrades of the Palliative Care Unit and its courtyard, where patients and their families can now enjoy the beautiful space and artwork.

Plans are underway for expanding healthcare initiatives and floating innovative ideas, focusing on the wellbeing of our staff and consumers. A major part of this will be the beginnings of a Cancer Wellness Centre right here in our hospital, with a broader vision for cancer services in the north.

To begin the process, the Foundation hosted its annual Gala Ball on Saturday, 6 May 2023 where sponsors, corporate partners, Northern Health Executives, board members and guests gathered to raise funds for this project. Over \$70,000 was raised in support of research, planting the seeds of what can be achieved when we

come together for a worthy cause. This year, the Foundation is asking guests to imagine the possibilities of a new cancer centre and what this can mean for our community. The Foundation is hoping to support the research that underpins this exciting project.

Pina Di Donato, Executive Director Public Affairs and Foundation, touched on the event, saying, "these are exciting times at Northern Health as we grow as a health service, continuously innovating and advocating for better outcomes for our diverse community. Northern Health Foundation is proud to support our staff and researchers as they explore the possibilities."

"While the challenges of the upcoming year are acknowledged, the Foundation and its supporters remain hopeful and undeterred, with a shared vision for a healthier and more resilient community."

If you would like to support the Foundation in their 2024 fundraising efforts, please contact foundation@nh.org.au or on 8405 2897. Similarly, you are welcome to visit the Foundation office located in the main foyer of Northern Hospital Epping.



PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT REOPENS AFTER MUCH NEEDED TLC



Featured Image (L-R): Melissa Grenville, Director Foundation, Pina Di Donato, Executive Director Public Affairs & Foundation, Josie Minniti OAM and Foundation Patron, Rino Minniti, Peter McWilliam, Foundatoin Board Chair, Kerrie McWilliam and Bev Carman, Foundation Patron.

With contributions from its dedicated patrons, Northern Health Foundation was delighted to re-open the outdoor courtyard of its Palliative Care Unit at Northern Hospital Epping on Thursday, 7 December 2023.

With the sun shining overhead, patrons and their special guests joined with members of Northern Health Foundation Board, management team, staff and patients for a special afternoon tea to officially re-open the gardens after having received an extensive make-over.

Northern Health engineering and maintenance teams worked tirelessly over the past months to complete the project in time for the launch. The project included some structural works, the installation of undercover family entertainment areas, complete with outdoor sofas and dining table.

The entertainment area, which was contributed by patron Josie Minniti OAM and her fundraising network, provides a comfortable space for patients to gather with their loved ones, share meals together, or commemorate special occasions. Josie has been a long-time supporter of Northern Health's Cancer Services.

In a special corner of the gardens, affectionally named 'Kilmore Corner' in recognition of the contribution of patron Bev Carman and her fundraising efforts which center around the Kilmore community, stands a beautiful water feature surrounded by lush plants and decorative wall features. This space provides a tranquil, respite area for patients and family members wanting some quiet, reflective time. The rest of the gardens were funded

through a financial grant from Dry July Foundation, after staff gathered to fundraise for the cause in 2022.

Pina Di Donato, Executive Director of Public Affairs and Foundation at Northern Health, is thrilled with the outcome.

"It was a privilege to be involved in such a special project alongside Foundation patrons, and Northern Health colleagues. I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in creating this beautiful space for our patients and their families", said Ms Di Donato.

Bev Carman was overjoyed and emotional seeing her contribution come to life saying, "it's very rewarding to see the finished result and know that it will bring joy to patients in the Palliative Care Unit."

Josie Minniti OAM was equally moved when seeing the gardens. "It was important for me to bring my family and supporters to see the difference our fundraising makes to Northern Health. It has been such a worthwhile project to be involved in", said Mrs. Minniti.

Northern Health Foundation is proud to partner with Northern Health to deliver projects which can significantly enhance patient experience. The Palliative Care Unit gardens at Northern Hospital Epping are the first of many projects to come.

FUN-RAISING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Northern Health Foundation was established in 2005 to care for the needs of a growing northern community. Throughout this time, the Foundation has celebrated countless achievements, many of which have been due to the hard work and dedication of the incredible patrons who tirelessly fundraise for Cancer Services at Northern Health: Bev Carman, Trudi Hay and Josie Minniti OAM.

Throughout the months of October and November in 2023, Bev, Trudi and Josie individually hosted their special fundraising events, each in the name of a good cause.

On 13 October 2023, the Northern Health Foundation team joined Trudi and her guests at her High Tea event at Mandalay Golf Club. Given that October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Trudi's event was the perfect opportunity to turn the spotlight to Northern Health's Cancer Services, and in particular, promote awareness about breast cancer. The beautiful event raised over \$13,000 for cancer services at Northern Health.

Josie Minniti OAM hosted her 26th annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, 28 October 2023. This is a popular yearly event, attended by guests who are passionate about making a difference through fundraising. The event, which featured Northern Health oncologist, Dr Frances Barnett, as special guest speaker, raised funds for cancer services at Northern Health. Josie's unwavering support and the generosity of her guests over the years has helped provide essential resources and care for individuals and families affected by cancer.

What started out as a cold Oak's Day morning turned into a beautiful, sunny afternoon at Kilmore Racing Club. On Thursday, 9 November 2023, Bev Carman hosted a

beautiful Oak's Day luncheon, which included the highly-anticipated Fashion on the Field parade. Guests strutted their stuff down the runway in support of raising funds for cancer. Thank you, Bev, for your display of kindness and dedication to those battling this disease with yet another successful event which raised over \$7,000.

Executive Director of Public Affairs and Foundation, Pina Di Donato, was privileged to attend the three events and expressed gratitude for the unwavering commitment and selfless efforts of the patrons.

"We are very fortunate to have such amazing support from our patrons. Not only have their efforts over the years touched many lives, but they have created a ripple of hope throughout our northern community. It is with immense gratitude that we extend our sincere thanks to each patron who has devoted time, energy, and passion to make a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer."

"Proceeds from the three events will enable work to begin on the very first Cancer Wellness Room for our health service. This is a very exciting time at Northern Health," says Pina Di Donato.

We look forward to seeing the impact of their fundraising efforts continue to make a positive difference to our patients, staff, and our community.



Thank you

to all our incredible supporters!
We couldn't do this without you.



Stay in contact with us



Northern Health Foundation



@northernhealthfoundation



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