

Reflections on your life ...

can help save
precious lives



Geoffrey and his wife Stephanie,
proudly supporting RMH



**The Royal
Melbourne Hospital
Foundation**

The impact you can have

... a legacy for generations to come



I have learned a great deal about philanthropy and the impact it can have on our health services both here and in the UK. It has indeed become part of my own life journey.

As a donor I have experienced the sense of connectedness when I have made a gift that I know is going to make a difference.

When I think of leaving a bequest, I think of it in the context of looking after my family first and then causes and organisations that I am passionate about. In that context these causes almost become part of my family.

I believe that leaving a bequest is a significant and meaningful decision and should reflect one's own life and values.

I encourage you to consider leaving a bequest to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Bequests have underpinned the great work of RMH since our earliest beginnings and will provide a legacy for a future that needs your support now.

We are so very grateful to everyone who leaves a gift in their will to our Hospital. You are ensuring our growth well into the future so that we can continue to provide the best care possible for your loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley".

Prof. Shelley Dolan
Chief Executive
RMH



The memories of my days at RMH have left an indelible mark on my heart”

– Geoffrey



Reflections by RMH volunteer Geoffrey

My connection with the Royal Melbourne Hospital began on a sunny afternoon after a visit to my surgeon nearby. As I stepped into the RMH lobby I was greeted by the friendly faces of the dedicated volunteers. Their warmth and kindness drew me in and in that moment, I knew I wanted to be part of their incredible team.

As a Meet and Greet volunteer, I cherished every minute spent supporting patients, comforting caregivers and welcoming visitors. Wearing my RMH volunteer shirt filled me with pride.

The connections forged; the lives touched – they will stay with me forever.

As I reflect on the countless times I escorted ambulatory patients into the Emergency Department, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude.

I've made the decision to leave a gift in my Will to support RMH. If my contribution can help improve the equipment there, even in a small way, this will bring me immense joy.

... my giving can help others



Ian and Audrey Johnston with their three daughters, Debra, Jennifer and Susan. Ian's bequest to RMH is funding education and training.

Reflecting on her father's legacy



Debra Johnston with Professor James Tatoulis AM, the surgeon who gave her father another 34 years of life, and Sue Parkes – Executive Director RMH Foundation.

When Dad passed away at the age of 90 years, he left a generous gift in his Will to the RMH. I was so glad to ensure that my Dad's gift in support of RMH would be executed as he wanted. Fulfilling your loved one's final wishes is a great honour. Being able to act on Dad's behalf, and to see the impact his gift has on the work being done by the dedicated people at RMH, it's something very special.

Dad and Mum had many years of happy life together, with three daughters, myself and my sisters Jennifer and Susan. Sadly, Mum passed away from liver cancer in 2014. Our father was grief-stricken, but he was comforted by memories of the life they had shared and in the home they had built together. Dad was a man who gave everything a go, he was always fixing things. In the 2nd World War, he joined the Airforce and helped to build airstrips!

Back in 1989, Dad had life-changing heart valve replacement and coronary bypass surgery at RMH. He then enjoyed a further 34 years of symptom-free living, embracing every moment and building our mud-brick home in country Victoria.

He had enormous trust and respect for the team at RMH and especially for Professor James Tatoulis, the surgeon responsible for his extended long life.

Recently, I visited RMH and met with Professor James Tatoulis and Sue Parkes at the RMH Foundation. This was a very emotional experience as I could express my gratitude for the life-saving surgery given to Dad all those years ago and learn about the ground-breaking advancements being made at RMH in cardiothoracic research. I know how proud my parents would be to know their legacy is having such an important impact.

... gives Debra great happiness



Dad loved fixing things, in the late 80's he and Mum bought 10 acres and built our family home. Thanks to RMH 'fixing' our Dad's heart health, he had a further 34 years with us. He was incredibly grateful for this gift of life."

– Debra

Reflections by Peg on her life

My giving will help save lives



The Honourable
Margaret Lusink AM (Peg)

When Peg reflected on her life, she didn't have to think too hard before deciding to leave a gift in her Will to RMH. Peg's family ties to RMH run deep. Her late husband, Dr Graeme Larkins, was a leading medical practitioner at RMH, and her younger sons, the late Dr Stephen Larkins and Professor Richard Larkins AO, and grand-daughter, Professor Sarah Larkins, all trained at RMH.

Peg speaks vibrantly, as she reflects with happiness on her lifetime memories. She is known as a trailblazer for women in the law, being the first woman to become a partner in a Melbourne law firm. Peg was the first Victorian woman appointed to a superior court of record when she was made a judge on the newly established Family Court in 1976. Peg sat on the board of a number of hospitals and represented the Euroa Bush Nursing Hospital on the Victoria Bush Nursing Hospitals Association.

"I really admire the role that the RMH plays in the healthcare system of Victoria and Australia, and I am incredibly proud of my family's deep association with this wonderful hospital. It provides world-class care to everyone who needs it, regardless of their financial status. It has dedicated doctors, nurses and other staff who have chosen to work in the public system. Their role in the COVID-19 pandemic was outstanding."

... I can ask for nothing more



I know my gift in my Will can help the hospital to continue its wonderful role caring for the sick, training the next generation of health workers and advancing medical knowledge and care."

– Margaret

Their lasting impact

When Katie Brown's husband Don tragically lost his life after a road accident, the family's lives changed forever. Don had recently retired when he was struck by a car in February 2021. He was cared for in the RMH Intensive Care Unit (ICU), but sadly he passed away a week later.

Tommy, Don's son, recalls the time they spent in ICU by Don's bedside: "The hospital was fantastic while we were there. It was the most horrible thing you could go through, but the staff were so gentle and made it as easy as possible."

"Just after Dad passed away, we were getting a lot of flowers, but we wanted to do something that would have a lasting impact, so we asked people to donate to RMH."



Don Brown's wife, Katie, with grandson Archie, at their fundraising stall.

Then Don's family created the *Don Brown Conference Fund* to provide access to educational courses and seminars for RMH ICU nurses. Family and friends in Victoria and the UK have raised funds for the *Don Brown Conference Fund* through many fundraising activities, including knitting stalls and running half marathons!

... inspires Don's family and friends



Funds raised in memory of Don will support the professional development and training of RMH ICU nursing staff. As a major referral centre for Melbourne, the RMH ICU prides itself on development and training programs for all critical care staff to provide world's best practise in intensive care. We are humbled by the family and community who have rallied to raise funds, thank you is not enough."

– Michelle Spence, ICU Nurse Unit Manager, RMH

Join us in our life-saving work

At RMH we are fortunate to attract medical professionals and staff who choose healthcare as a career, because they have a mission to save lives and to help alleviate pain and suffering.



Prof Jo Douglass AO,
MBBS, FRACP, MD
RMH Executive
Director of Research

Professor Douglass graduated in medicine from Monash University and trained in respiratory medicine and allergy in Melbourne and in the UK. She holds an MD in translational immunology in Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases. In recent years, Prof Douglass has led five investigator-initiated clinical trials supported by more than \$1.5 million in funding.

“At the RMH, excellence in clinical care is underpinned by an embedded culture of research which strives to improve the way care is delivered, treatments developed and refined, and therapeutic pathways and procedures made as safe and effective as they can be. Offering the best care to every person who seeks care, is underpinned by research which can deliver advances.”

“The pathway to achieving clinical research excellence is not easy. Philanthropy can make a vast difference in enabling research-interested and active clinicians to remain engaged with a clinical science career pathway and to deliver transformations in care, vastly improving outcomes for patients and their families.”



A/Prof Mark Putland
MBBS, MPH, FACEM
RMH Director
Emergency Medicine

Associate Professor Mark Putland joined the RMH team as Director of Emergency Medicine in 2018 after 10 years working across regional and metropolitan, private and public emergency departments, as well as for the Victorian critical care retrieval and coordination service. His primary focus is on building, maintaining and supporting the high-performing Emergency Department team and continuously developing this vital component of the Victorian Emergency and Trauma system.

“As one of the busiest Emergency Departments in Australia, our clinicians treat and care for over 80,000 patients every year. Emergencies happen 24/7, 365 days of the year. The Emergency Department is often the first interaction our patients and their loved ones have with the RMH.

We want their first interaction to be as positive and stress-free as possible. Support from donors is critical and is helping us to continue to provide the best healthcare experience to our community.”

Each year, more than 300,000 people are treated at RMH. Healthcare is constantly changing and evolving, new treatments lead to greater outcomes. However, this all doesn't happen overnight, the reality is that saving lives requires dedication, commitment, courage and care.



A/Prof Kethly Fallon
BScN, MBA, Grad Cert
Cancer and Palliative Care
RMH Chief Nursing Officer

Kethly Fallon joined RMH as Chief Nursing Officer in 2023, following her role as Chief Nursing Officer and Executive Director Nursing Services at Alfred Health. With more than 35 years of experience as a nurse and operational and professional leadership roles, Kethly is passionate about nursing as a profession.

“More than 11,000 dedicated health professionals work at RMH. We offer nurses a comprehensive range of career opportunities, resources and employment options to meet their individual needs.”

“Our commitment to patient care at RMH is paramount. Our long, proud tradition of caring for the sick has a real presence in everything that we do, every day. The many expressions of gratitude expressed by our patients, and their support for our hard-working teams through donations is so rewarding for us all.”



Prof Finlay Macrae AO,
MBB, MD, FRACP, AGAF
RMH Head of Colorectal
Medicine and Genetics

Professor Finlay Macrae recently reached 20 years of service as head of the RMH Department of Colorectal Medicine and Genetics. However, his commitment to RMH now spans more than 40 years. He started at the Hospital as a Registrar in 1978 in the Department of Gastroenterology and has been Director of the RMH Bowel Cancer Surveillance Service for over 30 years.

Under his leadership, Prof Macrae has worked tirelessly to secure funding through the RMH Foundation for the Department's various research projects, to advance treatment and care for those with or at risk of bowel cancer.

“I see the Royal Melbourne Hospital as a place to leave my legacy. For care, teaching and research. To the clinical arm of one of the top three of the world's largest precincts of medical care, teaching and research.”

... together we can make a lasting impact

How the impact of giving...



Kidney transplant patients, Belinda and Nico, were blown away by the generosity of people around them.

Eighty people received or gave a kidney last year as part of a life-saving international donation program run out of the RMH. Traditionally, kidneys have been donated directly to a person in need – often by a family member or friend. However, donors are not always a match for their desired recipient.

Melbourne mum Belinda knows that feeling all too well. Belinda had known for decades that she would need a kidney transplant due to a genetic condition. It hasn't stopped her from living life. However, in the last four years, her condition deteriorated. Battling fatigue and exhaustion, Belinda started the process of being approved for a kidney donation.

“My transplant was pre-emptive; we were trying to work towards it all year. My husband Nico went into the testing process, and a few of our friends came forward and offered to be donors.

Late last year, Belinda and her husband Nico took part in a paired kidney exchange – Nico donated his kidney so Belinda could receive another, from a stranger.

“I had read about a paired exchanged – I thought it was such a fantastic concept - that so many people had a chance at renewed health all at once.”

Belinda and Nico were able to share a room while at RMH, which they say was ‘lovely’ although it was hard to watch one another in pain. Belinda is now easing back into work and looking to the future. She’s excited to have more energy and time to spend with her children.



It's great to see the program working the way we hoped – by matching more people with more kidneys, especially after a turbulent few years during the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative is matching kidney donors and recipients with others in need.”

*– A/Prof Peter Hughes, Lead Physician for Transplantation,
Director of the Paired Kidney Exchange Program, RMH*



David Stewart's final wish – a gift in his Will to help others

David Stewart was an incredibly generous, dedicated and loving husband, father and dear friend to many. Diagnosed with polycystic kidneys at a young age, he and his family have had a long relationship with the Nephrology team and RMH. David underwent a nephrectomy (removal of a kidney) in 2012 and spent a lot of time in RMH and Melbourne Private Hospital and the dialysis unit prior to receiving a kidney transplant.

In the 10 years since his transplant, there were many hospital visits. David and his wife Glenys participated in the pairing transplant program in 2012 and were big supporters of the initiative. They also contributed to information sessions for prospective kidney donors and recipients at RMH.

Gifts in Wills help make possible innovative programs for patients like Belinda and Nico at RMH.

*... helped Belinda and Nico undergo
paired kidney transplants*

The impact you can have

When your kindness lives on



John Perrett lived a very modest lifestyle and would rarely spend money on himself.

John Perrett is remembered as a person who lived modestly, a passionate cricket supporter who watched the games on a very old television.

He was born in Sunshine and grew up in St Albans, riding horses across the paddocks, playing football and tennis. Most of John's working life was as a pharmacist and he worked on his father's small farm in Gisborne. Despite his professional success, John chose to remain living in a modest 3-bedroom home in St Albans, which his parents built in 1959.

In the early 1990s John received a kidney transplant at RMH. Back then, the life expectancy for people with kidney disease was not as promising as it is today. The transplant gave John another 30 years of life, something he never took for granted. When he passed away in 2020, John owned five properties in St Albans. He left two to his long-term tenants and the remaining three properties were kindly gifted by him to RMH in his Will.

John knew that ongoing medical research, excellent clinicians and ongoing care were pivotal to his continued good health.

... beyond a lifetime



John's incredible legacy will live on for generations to come. His vision and kindness will have an enormous impact on all renal patients, particularly around transplantations, patient medical and surgical care, equipment and operating theatre refurbishment."

– Professor Nigel Toussaint, Deputy Director of Nephrology, RMH

Your legacy

... a gift that keeps on giving – forever

When planning your legacy, consider the important ways you can make a lasting impact

- Leave a gift to RMH in your Will, in the form of a bequest to be executed after you have died.
- Make a living gift, commemorate the values you hold and the wishes you want to see realised in your lifetime with a gift to RMH before you die.

Here are just some of the urgent areas of need your giving can be directed to:

- **Enhanced Patient Care** – your gift can contribute to improved patient care by funding the purchase of advanced medical equipment and technology. This may include state-of-the-art diagnostic tools, surgical equipment, or monitoring devices, allowing RMH to provide more accurate diagnoses and effective treatments.
- **Facility Improvements** – your gift can support renovations, expansions, or upgrades to hospital facilities. This may involve creating more comfortable patient rooms, modernising operating theatres and treatment areas, and enhancing infrastructure to better meet the needs of patients and staff.
- **Research and Innovation** – your gift can fuel medical research and innovation by supporting research projects focussed on developing new treatments, therapies, or medical technologies.

- **Education and Training** – your gift can contribute to the education and training of healthcare professionals, ensuring that RMH has a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.
- **Patient Assistance and Support** – your gift can provide vital assistance to patients in need, through financial support for medical expenses, assistance with transport, or access to support services such as counselling and social work. You can help to alleviate the burden of illness and trauma for patients.

To discuss how you would like your giving to make a difference, please contact the RMH Foundation.

Contact details overleaf.





What you need to know

... about how you can give

Leaving a gift in your Will or giving a gift in your lifetime to Royal Melbourne Hospital will be a powerful way to make an important difference in your community. Here are some of the questions you may have about making a gift:

Can I choose how and where my gift will be used?

Yes, if you would like to direct your gift to a particular area of need - to patient care, cancer, cardiac care, emergency, research, or more, then please contact us for assistance. Alternatively, you can allow RMH to direct your gift to the most urgent and critical need.

Will my gift be used in a way that fits with my personal values?

Yes, consider what your wishes are and how you want the values you have in your life to be expressed. Talk to your legal advisor to ensure your Will achieves what is important to you.

Contact the RMH Foundation to discuss what you can achieve through your giving.

Do I need to let RMH know that I'm gifting to RMH?

Yes, if you are happy to do so. It is entirely up to you, there is no obligation. If you do notify us, then we can thank you properly and share with you the advancements being made in the areas of care you want to support.

How much should I give?

This is entirely up to you, every donation, large or small, is extremely valuable and will make an impact on saving lives. Your gift will be deeply appreciated and applied to the area of your choice or to the most critical and urgent need.

What steps do I take?

If you are gifting in your Will, take the enclosed form to your legal advisor so they will have the correct wording for including RMH in your Will. This form also details the ways you can leave a gift in your Will, perhaps you wish to leave a specific amount, or a percentage of your estate. There are options for you to consider.

If you are gifting in your lifetime, you may wish to discuss your giving with your Accountant or legal advisor to receive advice on the most effective way for you to give.

Thank you

for considering
a life-saving gift



**The Royal
Melbourne Hospital
Foundation**

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Our purpose: Advancing healthcare for everyone, every day.

Our community promise: Always there when it matters most.

Our values: People first. Lead with kindness. Excellence together.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital began in 1848 as Victoria's first public hospital with only 10 beds to our name. With you beside us, we have since cared for generations of Victorians and we are now treating more than ever.

Our care extends from our Parkville hospital through Royal Park and mental health services across the inner west of Melbourne. We are a designated state-wide provider for services including trauma, neurosciences, nephrology oncology, cardiology, and virtual health.

We are surrounded by a precinct of brilliant thinkers, and we're constantly collaborating to set new benchmarks in health excellence – benchmarks that impact across the globe.

All of this is made possible because of the philanthropic support of people like you.



**The Royal
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Melbourne Health ABN 73 802 706 972