

**WE BELIEVE
EVERY CHILD
DESERVES A CHANCE
AT A HEALTHY LIFE**



**July 2020
Newsletter**

Hello to you all

In our May Newsletter, I wrote of the optimism I felt as Covid 19 restrictions were being eased all around the Nation, now barely 3 months later that all seems to have changed.

I live in Victoria, and although on the Bellarine Peninsula we are not in strict lockdown it is severely affecting what our local Lions Clubs can do, it is hard to plan any fundraising events, Bunnings BBQ's in Victoria are on hold indefinitely, Community events being cancelled and being able to support the community in any way that involves money is having to necessarily be cut back.

Having now looked at that dark side of it, through involvement with Childhood Cancer Research I have a great respect and faith in the Australian researchers that are leading several major clinical trials into vaccines that might help bring an end to this deadly disease although this may take us well into 2021 - we will get through this!

One great positive article included in this issue is the support of a scholarship student at Westmead Children' Sydney. For the \$150,000 funding grant given, Childhood Cancer will receive many years of devoted clinical research from this grateful recipient

Once again, I give my thanks to all the Lions, Lionesses and Leos all around the nation for your support. We are getting closer to eradicating Childhood Cancer, but not there yet - we still need your help - enjoy our Newsletter.

John Thorpe ALCCRF National Chairman
"We believe every child deserves a chance at a healthy life"



Congratulations John Thorpe who was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship at the V Districts LCIF dinner

WILLEMS STORY

Just before his second birthday Willem was falling ill with colds and ear infections and not getting better. Then his mum Michelle noticed a lot of bruises on his body. She took Willem to the doctor, where he underwent a blood test. A few hours later the results were in and the family were told to prepare for the worst - young Willem could have cancer.

Michelle picked her two daughters up from school and took them to their grandparents, and then drove the four hours from their home at Young to Sydney and spent the night in Emergency with Willem. The next day he underwent a range of tests, which devastatingly confirmed Willem had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

He was immediately started on a course of steroid treatment and then went through five rounds of chemotherapy, spending the majority of the next nine months in Hospital with his mum by his side, while Willem's dad Mark stayed at home with their two young daughters.

Willem suffered a number of side effects from his treatment including nausea, ulcers and also leg weakness where didn't leave his bed for two months.



"Willem also stopped talking for a while, I think he was in shock from what was happening to him. He had no energy and just wasn't himself," Michelle said.

Once Willem had undergone his initial treatment, he was put on maintenance chemotherapy for 18 months, which he could take at home, monitored by his local doctor and the Hospital's Outreach Service for patients living in rural and regional areas.

Willem is now in remission and has started pre-school.

"He just loves pre-school and being able to do what other kids do like going to the park or swimming pool," Michelle said. "He was left out of so much before and now his sense of humour has come back and he is enjoying being a normal kid."

"All of the staff at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick go above and beyond what they're paid to do, they are all fantastic and you couldn't get through something like this without them all," Michelle said.



Dear ALCCRF

I am writing to express my gratitude in regard to the scholarship and funding you provided for my PhD in genetic predisposition to childhood cancer at Children's Hospital at Westmead. I have successfully completed my PhD with the University of Sydney and looking forward to graduating once the ceremonies are rescheduled.

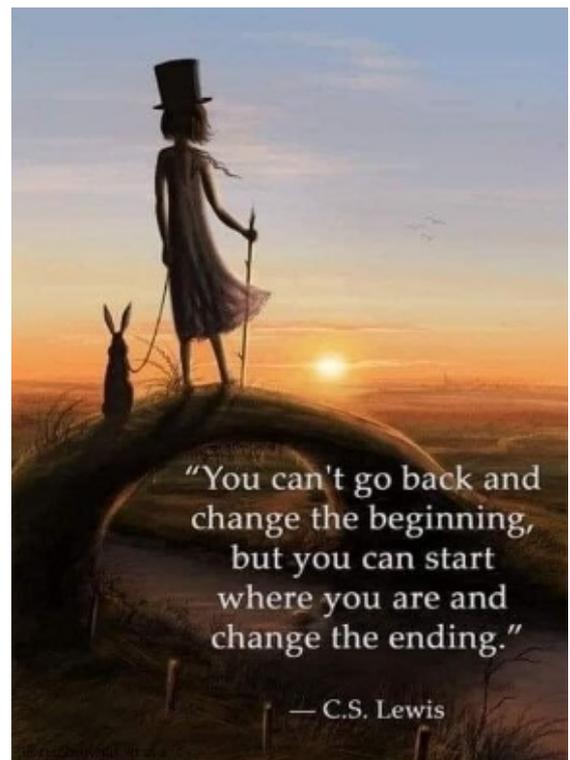
My project investigated the underlying aberrations in the DNA of childhood cancer patients that may have contributed to the development of their disease. We found that some childhood cancer patients do carry 'mistakes' in their DNA that may have caused their cancer. Knowledge of a genetic predisposition to childhood cancer can lead to modified therapies and surveillance.

Importantly, this study has now been expanded to offer germline DNA research testing to every single child cancer patient diagnosed in NSW, and their parents. Through this study we hope to fully understand the genetic causes in childhood cancer patients, and in the future be able to incorporate appropriate genetic diagnostic testing in the childhood cancer clinic.

This research would not have been possible without the support of the ALCCRF for my PhD project. Thank you for your generous support of much needed research into this devastating disease.

Best regards,
Dr Dianne Sylvester

Editor's Note Dianne is a single Mum with 2 kids and without help from ALCCRF she had no hope of a PhD.



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Report by Trustee PDG Peter Lamb
Fundraising Chairman ALCCRF

2020 Lions Biggest BBQ

As at the 30th June 2020, some 120 Clubs have entered their ITP's to register for participation in this year's Lions Biggest BBQ. Statistics from previous years show we would normally expect around 300 Clubs to conduct BBQ fundraisers, but we are hopeful Clubs who haven't registered will do so again prior to Christmas. Every Club who enters and raises over \$500 will qualify to win one of three BBQ's supplied by Bunnings Warehouse stores. This relates to all BBQ's conducted, not just those associated with popular Bunning's BBQ fundraiser.



Funds raised to the end of June accounted for approx. \$65,000 which again is nearly \$200,000 down on the same time last year. So crank up those BBQ's and let's at least crack the \$100,000 mark by December. Consideration can be given to the smaller Clubs who don't have the manpower to conduct a BBQ, so this can be easily resolved by sending a BBQ donation direct to our National Treasurer PDG Ron Skeen. To locate the National Bank deposit details, these may be found on the ALCCRF website at <https://alccrf.lions.org.au/lions-biggest-bbq>

District Chairpersons Teleconference.

Following the success of a previous teleconference conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute's Professor Terry Johns, head of the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre at Perth Children's Hospital, a second teleconference has been arranged on the 31st July, this time involving the 19 District Chairpersons from around Australia. This online meeting will update both the Trustees and District representatives on progress with their Immunotherapy Program, which seeks to replace harsh cancer treatments involving chemotherapy and radiotherapy. TKI as it is known over here in Perth, was forced to suspend research during the COVID-19 pandemic but thankfully is now back up and running, all be on a reduced timeframe. This is partly because a large portion of the research compliment of TKI have been seconded to find a cure for COVID-19, along with research facilities all over the world.

This foundation has pledged \$1.05M over three years to assist TKI, to continue their ground breaking research into an Immunotherapy cure for kids suffering from Sarcoma, Leukaemia, Melanoma and Brain Tumours. Lions should be extremely proud of this funding, which takes the amount raised by the ALCCRF for research into Kids Cancer to over \$10M over the past 10 years.

★ Help us achieve our vision. You can help us reach our goal of helping to create a 100% survival rate for children with cancer. [GET INVOLVED](#)

PROUDLY SUPPORTING



Our Foundation is staffed by Lions volunteers – no employees – 100% of donations goes to the cause



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Prior to Covid-19 Shut Down Mudgee Lions Club Robyn Stoney, Jenny Roberts and Lea Leisfield wearing their aprons at the races fundraising with fairy floss and snow cones

Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF)
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Doing it for the Kids 🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃
Thanks Lions Club of Melbourne Next Gen



LIONS KIDS RUNNING TO BEAT KIDS CANCER

FUNDRAISER LIONS CLUB OF MELBOURNE NEXT GEN
FUNDS GO TO AUSTRALIAN LIONS CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION



The Lions Club of Melbourne Next Gen is a community service oriented club for families, which is currently in the process of being chartered. We believe in teaching our kids to be good global citizens, and the best way to do that is by example and action.

Kids from Lions Club of Melbourne Next Gen are getting active, getting involved and helping beat Childhood Cancer by taking part in the Run Melbourne 3km Kids Run to raise funds for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. But they can't do it alone - we need your support! Please donate generously (via the MyCause link below) and together we can beat Childhood Cancer!

In order for the kids to understand how the money they raise will help kids with cancer and assist research into beating Childhood Cancer, the Lions Club of Melbourne Next Gen organised an educational tour of both the Paediatric Ward of Box Hill Hospital and the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (located at Royal Children's Hospital). We would like to extend our gratitude to the staff at both locations for their tireless efforts for such a great cause.

FUNDRAISING FOR

AUSTRALIAN LIONS CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ALCCRF)

We believe every child deserves a chance at a healthy life. ALCCRF's vision is 100% survival of kids with cancer. Today survival rates average 80%. There is much work that still needs to be done, if one day we are to prevent all kids with cancer from dying.

<http://www.alccrf.lions.org.au/>

- LINKS**
- <https://www.mycase.com.au/page/129924/lions-kids-running-to-beat-kids-cancer>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/270821373258887/>
 - MelbourneNextGen@gmail.com

Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF)
24 June · 🌐

LIONS ROSE BLOOMING



Martin Peebles ▶ Roar
24 June · 🌐

My Beautiful Lions Rose in Bloom.
\$1 from the Sale of each Rose from Treloar Roses goes to the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. Please support ALCCRF.
Proud to be an Ambassador for ALCCRF 🌹



<https://www.treloarroses.com.au/>

Visit Treloar Roses for details of the Lion Rose



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Updates for ALCCRF longest coin line Guinness World Record attempt.

Due to Covid 19 we have unfortunately had to postpone the longest coin line record attempt until November 2021. The positive from this is, it allows us extra time to break the record. Community transmission is going to be an issue for some time, so school coin lines and Lions coin lines probably will not be possible before Christmas.

Your club can still help us break the record. Save your 5c pieces also ask your friends and family to save theirs as well.

Post on your community Facebook pages and promote the work of ALCCRF and the new Telethon Kids Institute's new immunotherapy project that ALCCRF has committed to. Your ALCCRF District Chair can provide you with information to post.

5c can help us work towards 100% survival of children with cancer. Elermore Vale Lions are committed to laying 76km of coins to break the record. Please help us make that possible.

Laying it on the line for childhood cancer

Lion Kate Moore

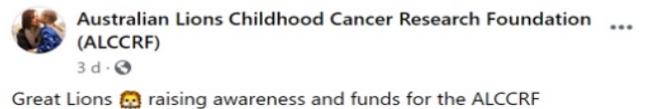
LAYING IT ON
THE LINE FOR
CHILDHOOD CANCER



Australian Lions
Longest Coin Line



Our "Little Star of Hope"



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