WE BELIEVE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHANCE AT A HEALTHY LIFE

Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

March 2024
Newsletter

ALCCRF Chairperson Update

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of the Foundations newsletter.

This will be our last quarterly newsletter before our Multiple District Convention in Darwin and I look forward to catching up with many of our Lions members in what will be our furthest north convention since Darwin 2008. Please come past our ALCCRF Booth and say hello.

We will also be at the Lions International Convention in Melbourne, shortly after Darwin – more in our June newsletter, which will come out just prior to then.

I have received a couple of enquiries regarding direct approaches to clubs from organisations also involved Childhood Cancer Research. These are reputable organisations that have worked with the Foundation in the past. Unfortunately, there is little that we can do about these approaches. Most clubs now have websites with contact email addresses. If you receive emails from a non-Lions organisation that you do not wish to receive in the future, there is usually an **opt-out option** at the bottom of the email that you can select in order to no longer receive their emails. Alternatively, you can phone the organisation and ask to be taken off their mailing list.

Through lack of support the Trustees have decided to drop the Julikemychops initiative. That of course doesn't stop Lions wishing to grow sideburns and shaving them off for a fundraising activity option. This initiative, like the Biggest High Tea, offer clubs an alternative to the Lions Biggest BBQ. Realistically only your imagination restricts clubs fundraising options.

At the start of February, we have had some changes in personnel. Long time Trustee PDG Peter Lamb (11 years), has retired as W Districts Trustee and has been replaced by Brian Williams. Kerrie McMahon, V Districts (7½ years) has also retired, we have yet to find replacement. I thank both Kerrie and Peter for their hard work and devoted service over the years and welcome Brian, who many will remember as our National Chairperson, Youth of the Year 2013-2019.

PDG Peter Lamb

Lion Kerrie McMahon

Lion Brian Williams

OFFICE WORKS – I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Office Works for carrying out some printing of posters for the Foundation free of charge. Office Works has a small budget at each location for carrying out free printing for Not-For-Profit organisations. So, clubs that have an Office Works close by, it is worth talking to their local Manager as they may be able to assist with your small print runs, particularly posters as we no longer carry posters to supply to clubs simply as the postage of these items are prohibitive. Even paying to have a poster printed is a fraction of the cost of the postage.

URGENT REQUEST VACANCY - As mentioned above we have a Trustee vacancy in Victoria. Any Lion interested in this position can apply through the Multiple District Office website - https://lionsclubs.org.au/members/resources/committee-vacancies/ or contact me if they want more information. We have two Trustees in Victoria, it is southern Vic where the current vacancy is. Email - alccrf.chairperson@lions.org.au

My usual quarterly update of our current projects is as follows:-

1. **Telethon Kids Institute** (TKI) - Paediatric Cancer Immunotherapy ($1.05m) That component of the project now completed. Additional funding of $200k & $375k approved, Outstanding commitment $475,000.

2. **Cancer Australia**, Priority-Driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme
   a) **Dr Jessica Buck** – Exploiting and enhancing brain-resident immune cells for the treatment of paediatric brain stem glioma, University of Western Australia /TKI ($54.8k) Outstanding commitment $1,838.
   b) **Dr Klaartje Somers** - Targeting nicotinamide adenosine dinucleotide (NAD) metabolism to overcome therapeutic resistance in acute myeloid leukemia University of New South Wales/CCI ($100k) Outstanding commitment $100,000.
   c) **Dr Kate Vandyke** - Priming the blood-brain barrier to improve drug delivery and treatment outcomes in diffuse midline glioma, University of Adelaide ($100k) Outstanding commitment $100,000.

3. **WEHI** – Enhancing CAR-T cell therapy to treat childhood leukemia ($596k) Outstanding commitment $298,000.

4. **Griffith University's, Institute for Glycomics** - Focus on Sarcoma – early markers, improve diagnosis targeting pathways to treatment ($800k) Outstanding commitment $350,000.

5. **University of Newcastle** – Development precision immunotherapeutic strategy for paediatric brain tumours ($635k) Outstanding commitment $547,500.

Full details of the current projects can be found on the Foundations website - https://alccrf.lions.org.au/our-research-projects/ along with our finalised projects and our 10-year history – https://alccrf.lions.org.au/finalised-projects/

And as I always remind the readers of our newsletter, your ongoing support ensures that we reach our vision of **100% Survival for Kids with Cancer**, remembering that:-

"Every child deserves a chance at a healthy life"

Ron Skeen OAM
ALCCRF Chairperson

Proudly Supporting

Australian Government Cancer Australia · Monash Children's Hospital · HUDSON INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH · TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE · WEHI brighter together · Griffith UNIVERSITY Institute for Glycomics Queensland, Australia

Final Report to Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF)

Project Name:
An innovative approach to tackling treatment resistance in medulloblastoma by using bioinformatics and machine learning.

Chief Investigator:
Associate Professor Melissa Davis, Joint Division Head, Bioinformatics.

Date of report: 5 February 2024

Funding Received: $220,000

Funding Spent to date: $220,000

A/Prof Melissa Davis

Medulloblastoma is a devastating brain cancer that largely affects children and young adults. It is the most common childhood brain cancer yet sadly there are few treatment options. Existing treatments have serious and ongoing side effects and for patients that relapse following treatment, there are currently no effective therapies.

In December 2021, WEHI was grateful to receive a grant of $220,000 from The ALCCRF towards a two-year research project in WEHI's Bioinformatics division. Support from ALCCRF has enabled a postdoctoral researcher at WEHI, under the supervision of Professor Melissa Davis, to carry out sophisticated machine learning, data analysis and modelling of drug sensitivity and resistance in childhood brain cancer, giving hope to the families of children diagnosed with medulloblastoma.

The project used machine learning to expand the genetic map of medulloblastoma to discover the genes and pathways that control tumour dormancy, drug resistance and relapse. By discovering how cells that are tolerant to existing therapies survive treatment and lead to drug resistance, the team identified weak points in the process that can be targeted by drugs and used in combination with existing effective therapies to prevent relapse and resistance.

The project aimed to help improve survival rates for children with medulloblastoma by developing evidence that new drug combinations are more effective at killing cancer than standard-of-care drugs. By taking a computational approach, the route from fundamental biological discovery to clinical trials can be drastically shortened.

Accelerating understanding of drug resistance in medulloblastoma

In the first six months of this project, we undertook a study to map the gene activity in a patient-derived laboratory model of aggressive medulloblastoma. This data provided important insight into the interactions between the brain and the tumour by demonstrating how the tumour responds to treatment, a critical first step towards identifying drug combinations that may work alongside existing therapeutics. The project's focus on developing bioinformatics approaches to improve understanding of drug resistance and relapse in medulloblastoma patients has since produced exciting new computational methods and analysis pipelines. Applying the new methods to WEHI's medulloblastoma dataset, we identified processes

that explained resistance following treatment. We then used a new method, known as vissE, to study medulloblastoma tissue, by identifying regions of cancers that had different biological processes active. The vissE analyses of medulloblastoma data led to new biological insights that have piqued the interest of WEHI's collaborators, including Dr. Laura Genovesi, a leading paediatric brain cancer researcher at the University of Queensland. These processes are observed at the interface of the tumour and normal tissue, but not at the core of the cancer. In order to better understand post-treatment resistance mechanisms, researchers then performed a bioinformatics analysis of medulloblastoma tissue post-treatment data and found that specialised cell types in the brain, known as microglia and astrocytes, were assisting cancer cells in evading treatment in a region-specific manner.

These findings and insights will be further explored using next-generation high-resolution childhood brain cancer tissue datasets that allow studies to be conducted at the sub-cellular level. Real-world patient datasets are being acquired with the assistance of WEHI's clinician collaborator and leading Australian childhood cancer researcher, Professor Jordan Hansford, and hold the promise of improving our understanding of the complex mechanisms of resistance in childhood brain cancers.

To prepare for the analysis of these highly complex datasets, and with ALCCRF's support, WEHI's bioinformaticians have developed new bioinformatics methods and pipelines specific for these data. Our biggest contribution to the field of computational cancer biology to date has been a correction to a standard analysis pipeline that will improve data analysis and enhance insights gained from spatially-resolved tissue data. Our current efforts are directed towards developing methods that are able to automatically identify differences in the tissues that make up a patient's tumour, which will help to identify potential combination therapies that may be able to eradicate cancerous tissue.

A brand-new method benefitting childhood cancer research worldwide

The potential of the methods developed for this project goes beyond this specific study and can be used to better understand different subtypes of childhood brain cancers. These computational methods will form the backbone of future computational analysis in the study of childhood brain cancers, ensuring maximal insights from valuable brain cancer datasets.

The first new approach was the vissE method that enables researchers to identify common biological processes that are found in the experimental data and map these results onto networks of interacting genes and drugs. This method was well received by researchers and bioinformaticians and led to the implementation of vissE into a web application, vissE cloud. To ensure widespread usage, vissE and all computational methods developed have been implemented as open-source software that can be readily used by the scientific community and we have designed and delivered multiple workshops to train researchers around the world to use these new tools. The application has since been widely adopted by the research community as evidenced by over 600 analyses completed to date. Since February 2023, it has been accessed by scientists over 16,000 times from more than 40 countries.

The generous support from the ALCCRF has helped WEHI to develop essential computational approaches to study high-resolution tissue datasets, critical for studying childhood brain cancers in unprecedented depth. The state-of-the-art computational and machine learning methods developed will help derive insights from complex datasets generated by next generation technologies. With this grant, we have demonstrated the ability of these methods to study therapeutic mechanisms and treatment resistance in medulloblastoma. We thank ALCCRF for granting us the opportunity to develop these essential methodologies that fill a critical gap in global childhood brain cancer research.

Interim Report to Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF)

Project: Enhancing CAR-T cell therapy to treat childhood leukemia
Chief Investigators: Professor Marco Herold & Dr Emily Lelliott
Date of this report: 25 February 2024
Funding Approved: $598,000
Funding Received: $296,000
Funding Spent to date: $176,000

Leukemia is a cancer that arises from abnormal white blood cells. It is the most common cancer diagnosed in children, accounting for approximately 35% of all childhood cancers. Most cases occur in children under ten years of age.

CAR-T-cell therapy is an innovative therapy recently approved to treat childhood leukemia. This therapy involves collecting the patient's T cells (a type of immune cell) and engineering them to selectively seek out and destroy cancer cells. It is generally used for high-risk leukemias as a last line of treatment after traditional treatments, such as chemotherapy, have failed. The therapy has proven remarkably successful, leading to remission in ~90% of patients. Sadly, however, around half of these patients will eventually relapse and succumb to the disease.

Researchers in WEHI's Herold Lab are studying CAR-T cells to improve survival rates for children diagnosed with leukemia. Their innovative approach using CRISPR gene editing technology seeks to enhance the effectiveness of CAR-T cells to prevent relapse and to improve treatment outcomes for patients who do relapse. Laboratory head Professor Marco Herold and Dr Emily Lelliott have employed a two-pronged approach to this project with both parts underway simultaneously. Their progress so far has laid the groundwork for further advancements in CAR-T cell therapy.

Part 1: Identifying genes to improve the effectiveness of CAR-T cell therapy

The first part of the project aims to identify genes that could be altered to generate CAR-T cells with optimal, long-term cancer-fighting ability to improve the effectiveness of this therapy and prevent relapse.

The generous funding from the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) has enabled the Herold Lab to optimise and carry out state-of-the-art genetic screens which has led to the identification of genes that may regulate CAR-T cell quality. So far, the researchers have screened over 2,000 different genes, and from this they have identified a list of around 100 candidate genes to study in more depth. While some of the genes in this list have known roles in cell biology, the function of others is entirely unknown. WEHI will therefore be the leading institute to explore the role of these genes in CAR-T cells and determine if they can be targeted to improve outcomes for patients.

Next Steps

1. Researchers have so far evaluated around 2,000 genes using a large-scale screen. Using their now optimised protocol, they will conduct additional large-scale screening to evaluate additional genes.

2. Using smaller-scale screens, the researchers will further evaluate the 100 promising candidate genes that they have already identified in their previous large-scale screen. They will also further evaluate any other promising candidate genes that arise from their additional large-scale screens.

3. Together, the above steps will narrow down and ultimately identify the best gene targets for enhancing CAR-T cell activity. These genes will be tested as new therapeutic avenues to enhance CAR-T cell therapy using laboratory models of leukemia.

Part 2: Engineering CAR-T cells inside the body

This part of the project is aimed at testing new therapeutic technologies that will enable CAR-T cells to be engineered directly inside the body, generating cheaper and better-quality CAR-T cells.

To this end, WEHI's researchers have now developed and tested a new therapeutic avenue that may be used to generate CAR-T cells inside the body in an affordable and more accessible way.

Generating CAR-T cells inside the body requires the delivery of genetic instructions that tell T cells to become "CAR"-T cells. As proof of concept, our researchers have successfully delivered genetic instructions that tell T cells to emit a green fluorescence.

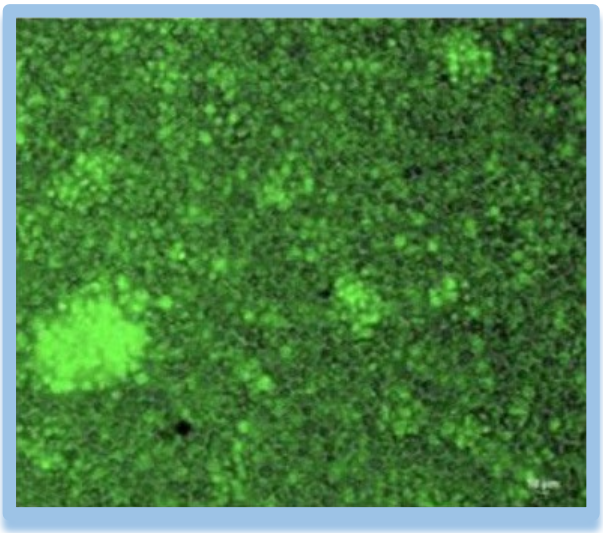


Figure 1. T cells that are being maintained in the laboratory after being provided genetic instructions that tell them to emit a green fluorescence.

Next steps

These proof-of-concept studies have shown that it is possible to deliver genetic instructions to T cells in the body.

1. The team are now developing this same method to deliver genetic instructions that tell T cells to become cancer fighting CAR-T cells. Once optimised, we will deliver these genetic instructions to T cells and examine their ability to kill tumour cells in the laboratory.

2. After successful results are obtained in the laboratory, the researchers will test this genetic delivery method in live models. Using mouse models of leukemia, we will evaluate whether this method can be used as a new anti-cancer therapeutic to generate CAR-T cells in the mouse which can go on to eradicate the mouse's leukemia.

The funding from the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation has enabled WEHI researchers to conduct innovative work aimed at improving CAR-T cell therapy for childhood leukemia. By identifying genes that enhance CAR-T cell function and developing a method for in-body engineering of CAR-T cells, the project has the potential to reshape the treatment of childhood leukemia.

The Foundation's generous support for this project positions the team well to achieve their goals, and significantly improve treatment outcomes for children with leukemia by making the therapy more effective, accessible, and affordable. WEHI would like to thank the Foundation for supporting this cutting-edge research and we look forward to keeping you updated as the project progresses.

Farewell afternoon tea for Trustee PDG Peter Lamb at the Telethon Kids Institute

Left-right:
Associate Professor Joost Lesterhuis (head of cancer unit), PDG Peter Lamb and Alecia Benzie (head of development)

PDG Peter Lamb and new Trustee Brian Williams with the TKI team

Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

ALCCRF - Genome Sequencing project for Kids with high risk cancers.

Hundreds of Australian children with high-rick cancer have had access to the Genome sequencing technologies that has guided their treatment, following the project approval.

The Lions Kids Cancer Genome Project is a collaborative partnership bringing together Australia's national personalised medicine program in childhood cancer – the Zero Childhood Cancer Program, led by Children's Cancer Institute and the Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick – and state-of-the-art capability in whole genome sequencing and analysis at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

Whole Genome sequencing will take place following diagnosis or relapse of cancers with the poorest prognoses, such as brain tumours. Genome spequencing looks at the entire genome and it's 20,000+ genes in order to define the genitic changes associated with a given cancer. This makes it possible to develop personalised cancer treatment by integrating this genetic information with other biological and clinical data.

In addition the study will identify genetic changes in each child's DNA that might predispose to cancer, helping to build up a database of genetic risk factors that could assist with prevention and treatment strategies in the future.

- Over the last few decades global medical research efforts have seen survival rates from childhood cancer improve dramatically.
- Today, more that 8 out of 10 children in Australia survive their dissease.
- Lions Australia has been supporting childhood cancer at least as far back as 1976.
- Lions formalised its support for childhood cancer research over 18 years ago establishing the Lions Cord Blood & Childhood Cancer Research Appeal.
- Since then Lions has raised more that $14 million for childhood cancer research.
- The establishment of the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) has taken Lions commitment to focus on achieving 100% survival for kids with cancer to a new level.

Every year, too many children, and therefore schools and families, are affected by cancer. The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) provides funds to allow continued research into causes, treatments and, hoefully one day, cures for childhood cancer....

FUNDRAISING IDEAS for ALCCRF - BIGGEST HIGH TEA & JULIKEMYCHOPS

BIGGEST BBQ – Thank you to those Clubs that participate in this Fundraising event through the year, if your Club hasn't done so, consider holding a BBQ & forward the funds onto ALCCRF.....

AUSTRALIAN COIN LINE - aims to help ALCCRF in this goal - WHAT YOU CAN DO. - Lions Clubs: Contact your local schools and encourage them to form their own coin line. Keep in touch, collect money raised and send to ALCCRF (include "Coin Line, your club ID") Make a donation.

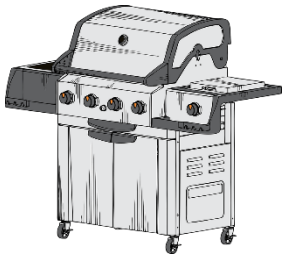
Approach Businesses, Organisation's and Individuals to raise funds each year, use your imagination

The winning Clubs of the Biggest BBQ raffle were
Lions Clubs of Collie, Mareeba and Wollongong,
each Club winning a Matador 6 burner hooded BBQ from Bunnings.

PDG Jeff Needham and Helga Henke from Collie Lions Club collecting the 2023 Winning BBQ from Bunnings.

Lodge your intention to participate for this years Biggest BBQ to be in the draw for one of three BBQ's

For all details visit the ALCCRF website at https://alccrf.lions.org.au/events/lions-biggest-bbq/



Intention to participate in Lions Biggest BBQ 2024.

LIONS/LEO

Club of _____ District _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Would you prefer to only receive email notification for next year's campaign? YES ☐ NO ☐
If YES, then what is your preferred email address?

Email _____

PLEASE ENSURE ALL SECTIONS ABOVE ARE COMPLETED

Please return this ITP1 as soon as possible to:

Lion Brian Williams, ALCCRF Trustee:
2024 Lions Biggest BBQ
PO Box 44 Kingsway WA 6065

Or scan and email this ITP1 form to:

Lion Brian Williams, ALCCRF Trustee:
bkw@iinet.net.au

National winners 2024!

Simply by participating you could win your club a brand new barbecue!

WIN! ONE OF THESE THREE FABULOUS BARBECUES.

Subject to availability at time of draw. Otherwise, equivalent barbecue to be supplied.

NB: ONLY CLUBS USING THIS FORM (ITP1) TO NOMINATE WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN THIS INCENTIVE BBQ

Every child deserves a chance at a healthy life
Our Vision: 100% survival for kids with cancer

The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation is a Category 'A' Project of Lions Australia.

Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

ITP1

ALCCRF Trustee Paul Shortis attended a fundraiser at the Lions Club of Nathalia for their rock n roll dance. The $1,500 raised was donated to the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

Elliot Cataldo is an 8 year old boy with a big heart and passion for helping others. Since he was a toddler, Elliot has been excitedly attending Townsville Castle Hill Lions Club fundraising events and volunteering with his Grandma Wendy Payne and PopPop Warren Payne. He has helped with planting trees, sweeping the hall, event setup, setting tables, cent sales, selling cakes & raffles, and he regularly collects glasses from optical stores to be recycled for sight.

Last year he was surprised at a club dinner with the presentation of his own name badge, shirt and certificate and was super excited and proud to 'officially' be a member of Townsville Castle Hill Lions Club.

Elliot shared with his Mum Katrina Cataldo of his great plans to continue "helping the world". His little brain then got to work thinking of ways that he could personally help make a difference and contribute to his club and children in need. In November 2023 Elliot came up with the idea that he could make paper Christmas hats and sell them to raise money for a Children's charity.

Elliot was eager to get started on his project and immediately began making his hats before even presenting his idea to Club President Jenny Morris. Elliot proposed that he could make Santa Hats to sell at the club's Christmas party. President Jenny Morris supported his idea and shared with club members prior to the party of Elliot's grand plan. "I am happy to support anyone who comes up with an idea and is prepared to

run with that idea, so please everyone support Elliot. Lion Cub Elliot is the future of our club. Just imagine what he will come up with when he is an adult."

Elliot then hand coloured, colour copied, cut out, and stapled together over 60 Santa Hats (with help from his assistant… Mummy). At the Christmas party Elliot worked hard collecting donations and selling his hats for $1 each. The next day he continued to raise money by collecting more donations and selling the remaining hats to family, friends and neighbours at his neighbourhood Christmas party.

With a combination of his sales and some generous donations Elliot's final fundraising total was a massive $400!! We are so proud of this little champion!

Elliot is thrilled with the outcome of his Santa Hat Project and excited to present the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation with a $400 donation.

As the saying goes "From little things big things grow" and that is exactly what has happened with Elliot's little project. Elliot is excited to know that big things will continue to happen from this donation to help Children like him grow and make their own difference in this world.

Thank you for all you do.

ALCCRF Support from District 201N5

Successful Fundraising BBQ Event by Sydney Host Lions Club

At the beginning of the year on the 6th of Jan 2024, Sydney Host Lions Club extends its heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and supporters, including ALCCRF Chair Janey Tham, as well as DG Paul McInnes, 201N5 and Rissa McInnes, who joined other Lions Club presidents and members in showing their support at the Alexandria Bunning BBQ fundraising event. The event raised over $4,200, surpassing previous records. Special recognition goes to Lion Lochlan Leong and his daughter Alina, who together raised over $750 in donations. The proceeds will go towards benefiting the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day Celebrated at Chinese New Year Dinner

On February 15, 2024, as Chinese communities worldwide celebrated the Lunar New Year, another significant occasion was observed – the International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day (ICCD). The ALCCRF Chair – 201N5, Janey Tham, took the initiative to raise awareness about childhood cancer by organizing an ICCD dinner at Taste of Shunde in Hurstville, inviting Lions Clubs from District 201N5 to participate. The event, graciously hosted by the Sydney Waratah Lions Club and facilitated by President Anita Un, saw the participation of approximately 20 Lions Clubs from District 201N5. Thank you, Alan Chan, the President of Sydney Host Lions Club, for being the Master of Ceremony for the night.

Among the highlights of the evening were cheque presentations from three clubs: The Lions Club of Sydney Host contributed $2,000, raised through the sale of Christmas cakes in December 2023 and a BBQ event in January 2024. The Lions Club of Blacktown Pond also donated $2,000 from their BBQ event in December 2023, while the Lions Club of Sydney Waratah presented a generous contribution of $2,420.73 from a similar BBQ event held in December 2023.

The night was filled with joyous festivities, including trivia games, singing, and lucky draws. Notably, the Sydney Waratah club received an additional $2,431.60 from a raffle donation, further demonstrating their commitment to supporting childhood cancer awareness.

With the presence of DG Paul McInnes, accompanied by his wife Rissa McInnes, Council Chairperson Vin Pang, and many cabinet officers, the event served as a poignant reminder of the importance of raising awareness and providing support for children battling cancer. Through collective efforts and generosity, the Lions Clubs in District 201N5 showcased their dedication to making a positive impact in the community.

Sydney Star Sun Lions Club Promotes ALCCRF at Inaugural Meeting

On February 24, 2024, the Sydney Star Sun Lions Club held its inaugural meeting during the Lantern Festival, focusing on raising awareness for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF).

Club President Jessie Leung invited ALCCRF Chair – 201N5 Janey Tham to present the foundation's mission and initiatives to new members and the community.

The meeting, attended by 50 individuals at a Yum Cha gathering in a Chinese restaurant within North Ryde RSL, saw Tham deliver an insightful presentation on ALCCRF's crucial work in childhood cancer research and support services.

Attendees pledged to organize fundraising activities in support of ALCCRF, marking the beginning of a partnership aimed at advancing childhood cancer research and support services. This initiative underscores the club's commitment to community service and collective action in addressing pressing societal challenges.

Support Childhood Cancer Research with Sydney All Bright Chocolate Fundraiser

Indulge your sweet tooth while making a difference! Sydney All Bright is thrilled to announce our latest fundraising initiative in support of the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF). We're selling delicious chocolates, and every purchase contributes directly to funding vital research and support services for children battling cancer.

Whether you're a chocolate enthusiast or looking for the perfect gift, our range of delectable treats has something for everyone. From creamy milk chocolate bars to decadent dark chocolate truffles, there's no better way to satisfy your cravings while supporting a worthy cause.

To order your chocolates and join us in the fight against childhood cancer, simply contact Lisa or Alicia today! Together, let's spread sweetness and hope to children and families affected by cancer. Thank you for your support!

For orders and inquiries, please contact 📞 Lisa: 0434 389 383

Looking for a different fundraising event to support ALCCRF ?

There is still plenty of time for your Lions Club to host a Biggest High Tea for 2023-2024!

Planning information can be found on the ALCCRF website https://alccrf.lions.org.au/events/biggest-high-tea/ you will also find a writeable poster and Facebook tile to promote your event.

A tips and tricks information sheet for a successful high tea and an information sheet about ALCCRF to use at your event.

Why not invite your Childhood Cancer District Chair or ALCCRF Trustee as your guest speaker for your Biggest High Tea?

Needing further information?
Contact Lion Kate Moore on 0409228075 OR
email alccrf.biggesthightea@lions.org.au

The ladies from Adamstown Lions enjoying the Raymond Terrace Lions Biggest High Tea.

"The End of the Line, or Maybe Not"

The Coin Line funding project has reached and exceeded its goal.

The original goal was to raise $200,000, just enough to break the world record of 76 kilometres for a continuous line using coins the same size as a 5-cent piece. By June 2023 we had achieved that goal, but that was only enough to just break the record, but not smash it. But how did we get to this point?
The Coinline all started with the late Lion Ron McLeod of Elermore Vale LC in Newcastle. For over 20 years he had been conducting a monthly "Coin Trail" at the local shops and directing the funds to the Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. From these weekly Coin Trails, it is believed that Ron personally contributed over $120,000 to childhood cancer causes.

The Club was keen to take Ron's concept and promote it to a wider national audience. So, a committee was formed the promote the concept to other Lions Clubs. Slowly but surely funds were raised and an attempt to break the Coinline World Record was conducted at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. The attempt unfortunately failed, due to lack of sufficient funds.

The committee then focused heavily on fundraising. Covid came along and hampered progress. But them the ALCCRF became involved and adopted the "Coinline" as a fundraising event and promoted it nationally. From that point the funds raised virtually doubled each year. To the point that by June 2023 there was enough to re-attempt the record. However, a decision was then taken to convert the project to a "Virtual Coinline", saving the cost of staging an actual line. This meant that more funds would be available for the Foundation.

At a meeting with the Foundation's Treasurer in 2023 we decided to continue with the campaign a little longer, with the new goal of $250,000. Thanks to a great response from Lions, Leos, and private donations I'm pleased to say we now have a total of over $259,000 and still growing.

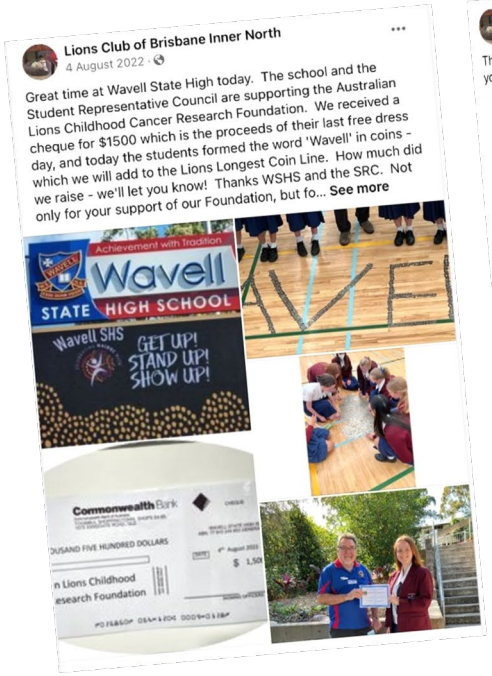
Enormous thanks must be given to the Coinline Committee, which will now disband having reached their goals. They are happy to have contributed to a substantial sum supporting the cause of Childhood Cancer Research.

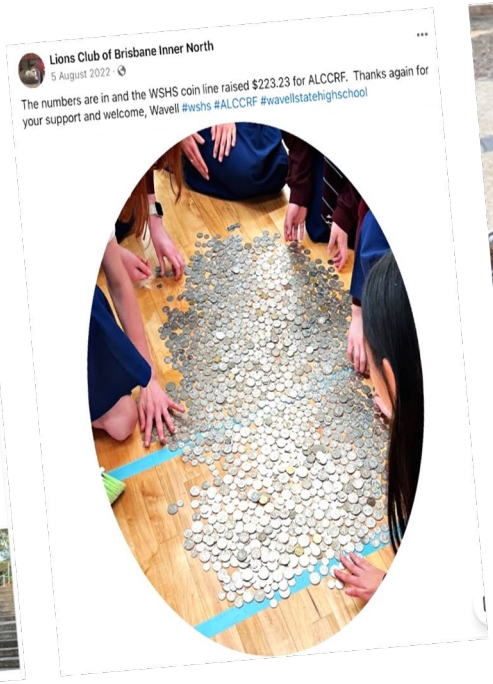
However, I am happy to announce that the Leos Clubs have taken on the challenge to keep donations rolling in. We wish them well and standby to help if they need it.

With the declining use of cash for everyday transactions, there must be an enormous amount of coins lying around homes all over the country. If only a small percentage of those "idle coins" were liberated and donated to the ALCCRF, we could fund much more groundbreaking research and save many more children's lives.

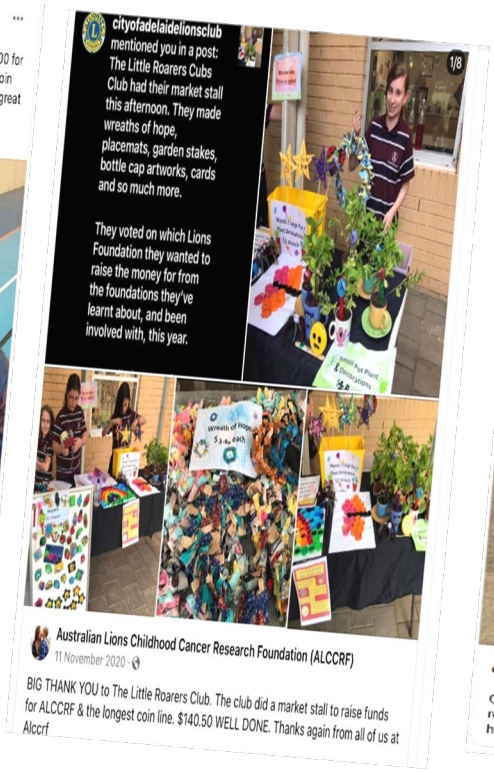
Once again, I would like to thank the Committee and the greater Lions community for supporting "our little fundraiser".

PDG Keith Stewart





Coin Line Memories



Coin Line Memories

- **Our Vision**
  100% survival for kids with cancer

- **Our Mission**
  Prevent kids with cancer dying by raising funds nationally and donating these funds to the best high impact childhood cancer research conducted right across Australia.