

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



September 2026 Newsletter

Chairperson

Update

Welcome to the September edition of the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundations newsletter, my second last as your Chair.



Looking at the photos at the top of this page and adjacent, is a little girl come student, formerly known up to now at our "Little Star of Hope".

In July Ava turned 16, she is now known at our
"Star of Hope"

I thank her father, Tony, for the update on Ava and the photos that show she is no longer that little girl (page 4) - we belatedly wish her a



Happy 16 Birthday.

YOUR HELP NEEDED - The Foundation looks to the Clubs for the support of our wonderful projects that it has funded over the years, and no more so than the clinical Trial for Ava. Sadly last year support was down considerably on recent years, with only a third of the Clubs supporting the project. We have been looking to rebuild our bank account, and we can only do that with your help.

LEAVE A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL

Bequest QR Code

NOTE: There is now a BEQUEATHAL option on our website for Lions and non-Lions to consider.



NEW ALCCRF CHAIR 2027

From February next year, current Vice Chairperson Brian Williams will take over as your new ALCCRF Chair. Brian comes with a full term as Trustee under the belt and the experience of having been the Multiple Districts Youth of the Year Chair 2013-2019. Brian is a member of the Lions Club of Kingsley-Woodvale WA.

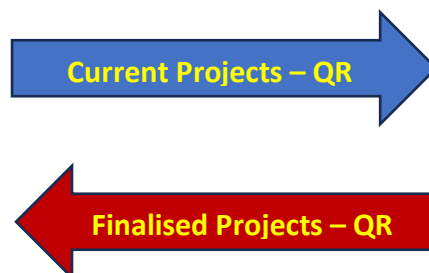


Congratulations on your appointment.

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

1. **The Kids Research Institute Australia (formally TKI)** - Paediatric Cancer Immuno-therapy funding of \$200k those components of the project are now completed. A further \$375k approved early 2024, Outstanding commitment \$125k.
2. **Cancer Australia**, Priority-Driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme
 - a) **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 \$0.5k.
 - b) **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 \$0.5k.
3. **Hudson Institute of Medical Research** - ALCCRF Fellowship, Next Generation Precision Medicine Program, developing combination therapies (\$424k over 2 years) Outstanding commitment \$50k.
4. **South Australian Immunogenomics Cancer Institute (SAiGENCI) of the University of Adelaide** - Identification of Genomic Factors Controlling Therapy Outcomes and Survivorship in Paediatric Brain Cancer Patients (600k over 3 years) Outstanding commitment \$20k.

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

Our Vision

"100% Survival for Kids with Cancer"

N2 DISTRICT CHANGEOVER

Chairperson Ron assisting the 2025-26 District Governor David McKenna (past ALCCRF Trustee) in the presentation of Foundation awards at the Changeover



Lion Ken McLeish - Canberra Kambah Lions Club, ALF and LCIF Chair. A long term member of District Cabinet, and a Lion of over 50 years received a well-deserved Barry J Palmer Fellow award

Lion Stella McLeish - Canberra Kambah Lions Club, Cabinet Secretary (numerous times), also a long term District Cabinet member also received a well-deserved Barry J Palmer Fellow award



Lion Kevin Hartley - Figtree Lions Club, for services to District as the Zone Chair Coordinator received a Dr Joe Collins AM Recognition Award

Lion Tony Kennedy - Canberra Belconnen Lions Club for service to District as Zone Chair of the Capital Region received an ALCCRF Gold Award



Ava - Update

ALCCRF "Star of Hope"

On July 9th 2026 Ava Bell turned 16.... A life that started so precariously has blossomed into one of wondrous variety. Academically Ava is naturally drawn towards the Humanities where she is excelling in English and History. Away from the written word Avas' creative streak is undeniable, throwing herself into her Art projects that leave her bedroom looking like a fully blown studio. It is these subjects that she is looking to pursue in higher education as she embarks on the journey towards HSC and ATAR qualifications that will take her on her dream to attend University abroad to study film, via the inevitable gap year travels.

But to categorise Ava by the school she goes to or the subjects she chooses would tell only a small part of the story. Whilst English and Art are undoubted passions, she throws herself into a wide variety of extra-curricular activities with a real "have a go" mentality. From wakeboarding to dragon boat racing, Ava embodies the phrase "If you don't try, how do you know?"

Whilst new things come and go, the one constant out of school is her love for playing Football (soccer) where she is developing into a pretty good midfield player.



Ava - Year 10 formal

Whilst slight in stature, she makes up for it in grit, determination and pointy elbows mixed with a good bit of skill. Maybe it was inevitable, but she currently plays in NPL 2 with Inter Lions where she was Vice Captain of the Under 16s this year and has been retained to play in 2027 for their Under 18s team.



Ava has developed into a genuinely great teenager, a good friend who is often the glue between the groups that she is involved with, whether that is in School or on the football pitch. She has a sharp, at times cutting wit which her brother is often on the wrong end of. She has great taste in music and movies, loving nothing more than Movie night with her close friends when there is downtime.

Ava was only 6 months old when diagnosed with Neuroblastoma and has no memory of the treatment, she is aware of what happened and perhaps it's that awareness that gives her that inner determination. As a family we will always be eternally grateful to the Lions clubs for their part in helping Ava and Children like her live the lives they deserve to lead, Ava's story is only partially written, judging by that first part, I cannot wait to see what the next chapters have in store.

Tony Bell

Our Mission

"Prevent Kids with Cancer dying by raising funds nationally and donating those funds to the best high impact childhood cancer research conducted right across Australia"

ALCCRF Awards

The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) Awards were established to recognise support for the Foundation's vision of 100% survival for kids with cancer.

Recipients of these awards will be recognised for being one of our ambassadors helping kids fulfil their right to a healthy life. The awards can be presented to Lions and other community members who have dedicated time and effort on behalf of childhood cancer research.



Gold \$1,000

Gold Plate on Walnut Base
 225 x 300mm



Silver \$500

Silver Plate on Walnut Base
 200 x 250mm



Bronze \$250

Bronze Plate on Walnut Base
 175 x 225mm

All awards come with an ALCCRF lapel pin in Gold, Silver or Bronze.

Ordering and Payment Options

Pay via Direct Debit or PayID and email application to ALCCRF Treasurer
ALCCRF Bank Details

NAB

BSB: 085-397

Account: 942947951

PayID alccrf.treasurer@lions.org.au

Forward cheque made payable to
 "Australian Lions Childhood Cancer
 Research Foundation"
 with the order form

OR

Mail to:
ALCCRF
PO BOX 56
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

Note: Credit for prior donations can be used for awards for up to 2 years from when they are made.



Australian Lions

Childhood Cancer Research Foundation



"We believe every child deserves a chance at a healthy life"

**Recognise a
Dedicated Lion
In your Club or
a member of
your local
Community**



**ALCCRF
Dr Joe Collins AM
Recognition Award**

\$1,500

Note:
Credit for prior
donations can be
used for awards
for up to 2 years
from when they
are made.



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**

New hope for childhood cancer as laboratory researchers aim to unlock secrets of children's immune systems

Researchers supported by the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) are making significant advances towards the next generation of immunotherapies designed specifically for children with cancer.

Immunotherapy has revolutionised treatment for many adult cancers, helping the immune system recognise and destroy cancer cells. However, these treatments have delivered far less success for children.

Researchers at The Kids Research Institute Australia, proudly part of the WA Comprehensive Kids Cancer Centre, believe they have uncovered a key reason why.

"Most immunotherapies were developed using adult models, yet children's immune systems are still developing and respond to cancer very differently," said Dr Omar Elaskalani, one of the lead researchers.

To address this gap, the team created a world-first suite of paediatric cancer mouse models spanning some of the hardest to treat childhood cancers, including certain brain tumours, sarcomas, leukaemias and neuroblastomas. These models allow researchers to study how cancer interacts with a child's immune system and to identify treatments specifically suited to young patients.

The work has already delivered important discoveries.

Researchers identified a distinct immune signature in very young children that helps explain why immunotherapies often fail. They found that immune cells within childhood tumours can become inactive, preventing them from effectively attacking against cancer. Most importantly, the team also showed that this immune response can potentially be reactivated using targeted treatments.

In laboratory studies of paediatric sarcoma, combinations of immune-activating therapies and immunotherapy led to complete tumour regression in a large proportion of mice tested.

The team has also achieved breakthroughs in the laboratory across several childhood cancer streams:

- In sarcoma, researchers identified an immune-priming strategy capable of overcoming resistance to immunotherapy, with the approach now progressing towards a Phase 1 clinical trial.
- In leukaemia, researchers discovered why some immune cells become too tired to keep fighting cancer and identified new ways to help them stay active for longer.

BRINGING TOGETHER



Connecting childhood cancer research and care for better outcomes

ckccwa.org.au



- In brain cancer, researchers tested a new combination of radiation treatment and immunotherapy and saw encouraging results, with some tumours disappearing completely in laboratory studies.

Beyond individual discoveries, the project is helping build Western Australia's capacity for childhood cancer research. The program has trained 20 research staff and students and established collaborations with leading organisations across Australia.

Importantly, the findings are helping inform the design of future clinical trials for children with relapsed or treatment-resistant cancers.

While the work remains at the preclinical stage, it is laying the foundations for safer, more effective immunotherapies tailored specifically to children.

For families facing a childhood cancer diagnosis, these advances offer hope that the next generation of treatments will be designed with children in mind from the very beginning.

BRINGING TOGETHER



Connecting childhood cancer research and care for better outcomes

ckccwa.org.au



Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation - Alccrf's post



Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation - Alccrf

AI content · Published by Kerry Kilpatrick · 25 August at 14:14 · 🌐

📢 ****ENJOY GREAT ENTERTAINMENT & SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH!**** 🧑🏻💡💙

Looking for great savings on entertainment while supporting an important cause?

Purchase an ****Entertainment Membership** for just **\$75**** and help support the ****Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation****.

💙 ****\$15** from every membership sold goes directly to our fundraising efforts to support childhood cancer research.**

🏆 ****BONUS OFFER!****

Purchase your membership by ****31 July 2026**** and you'll also go into the draw to ****WIN 1 of 5 \$1,000 Woolworths Supermarket Gift Cards!****

👉 ****Get your Entertainment Membership today:****

🔗 <https://www.entbook.com.au/9b71285>

Every membership helps us raise funds for childhood cancer research.

****Great entertainment. Great savings. A great cause.**** ❤️

Thank you for supporting the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation! 🧑🏻💡

#Lions #LionsClubs #WeServe #ChildhoodCancerResearch #AustralianLions

#EntertainmentMembership #Fundraising #SupportChildhoodCancer #ALCCRF



SUPPORT THE
**AUSTRALIAN LIONS
CHILDHOOD CANCER
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

Fundraise with an
ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP!



Purchase an Entertainment Membership for just **\$75** and help support the **Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation**.



For every membership sold, **\$15** goes directly to our fundraising efforts to support childhood cancer research.

BONUS OFFER!

**WIN 1 OF 5
\$1,000
WOOLWORTHS
SUPERMARKET
GIFT CARDS!**



Purchase your membership by **31 JULY 2026** to go into the draw.

GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY:



SCAN THE
QR CODE
ON THIS FLYER



OR VISIT:

<https://www.entbook.com.au/9b71285>



Your support helps make a real difference.

Thank you for supporting childhood cancer research.



Lions Club of Mareeba

30 July at 11:08 · 🌐



The Express Newspaper

29 July at 14:40 · 🌐

AFTER 13 years of challenging locals to explore Mareeba in a fun and adventurous way, the Mareeba Lions Club is taking its popular Metrogaine Adventure Challenge to the next level with the introduction of the inaugural Village Fete. [See less](#)



THEEXPRESSNEWSPAPER.COM.AU

Village fete adds to Metrogaine | The Express Newspaper | Local News covering Sport, Agricultural,...



Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation - Alccrf

Published by Lion Kate · 27 June · 🌐



The Entrance Lions Club Inc is with Lions Club District 201N3.

19 June · 🌐

Thankyou to The Entrance Public School!



Lions Club of Berowra presents \$2,150 raised from the Heart of Craft & Art Show to support ALCCRF childhood cancer research.



Lions Club of Berowra presents \$2,150 raised from the Heart of Craft & Art Show to support ALCCRF childhood cancer research

The Lions Club of Berowra successfully hosted its Heart of Craft & Art Show at Berowra District Hall on 26 April 2026. Led by President Bruce Andrews, Event Chair Rosalind Fuller (Incoming President), and a dedicated team of volunteers, the event featured more than 20 stalls showcasing handmade crafts, artworks, and creative products while raising funds for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF).

(from left to right): President Bruce Andrews, Event Chair Rosalind Fuller (Incoming President), ALCCRF 201N5 Chair Janey Tham, and Jiamei Liu, Founder of CherryTree Art Studio.



At the Club's dinner meeting on 17 June 2026, President Bruce Andrews and Incoming President Rosalind Fuller officially presented a cheque for \$2,150, representing proceeds raised from the successful fundraiser, to ALCCRF Chair Janey Tham. Following the presentation, Janey Tham provided an overview of how the funds will be utilised, ensuring members and fellow Lions had a clear understanding of the impact and allocation of the donation.

Jiamei Liu, Founder of CherryTree Art Studio, also presented a cheque from the sale of artworks created by her students in support of childhood cancer research.

The \$2,150, together with contributions from CherryTree Art Studio, will support ALCCRF's vital childhood cancer research. The event highlighted the power of community collaboration, creativity, and volunteer service in making a meaningful difference for children and families affected by childhood cancer.



Lions Biggest BBQ & High Tea 2026

Catering apron order form.

Help fight kids' cancer and look good while doing it.

Will your club support one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, the annual Lions Biggest BBQ and BHT? We are aiming to raise a staggering \$250,000 for cancer research by the 31st December, 2026.

Order your team an apron each and further help raise even more money for this cause. They look great, are commemorative and (obviously) very practical.

NB: Your apron order will only be fulfilled when confirmation of your payment has been received.

Yes! I'd like to order aprons at just \$20.00 each, inclusive of postage.

Please send my order to

Payment with your order is required:

Please include copy of bank receipt with email order or cheque with order.

Bank account details are BSB 085397 Acc 942 947 951.

Cheques should be made payable to:

Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

Please email your order request to:

PDG John Houghton, ALCCRF Trustee:

john.houghton@eiua.com.au

Or, post this form as soon as possible to:

PDG John Houghton, ALCCRF Trustee:

PO Box 1081 Wangaratta Vic 3676



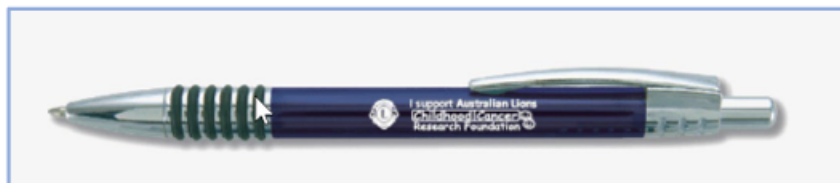
Every child deserves a chance at a healthy life
Our Vision: 100% survival for kids with cancer

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



Australian Lions

Childhood Cancer
Research Foundation



ALCCRF Pen - high quality, great value for users Gifts to Club Guest Speakers etc
\$5 each (minimum order applies). Visit the ALCCRF website for an order form.

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

Good luck for your club's Biggest BBQ 2026 and being in the running to win one of two fabulous Matador Spark four burner barbecues.

**DRAWN
JANUARY 2027**

For donations received during the 2026 calendar year.

WIN! ONE OF TWO
FABULOUS BBQS !!

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

Don't forget to order this year's Biggest BBQ
aprons for your team to wear at your big event!



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.



Australian Lions

Childhood Cancer
Research Foundation





BIGGEST HIGH TEA

**FUNDS IN AID OF CHILDHOOD
CANCER RESEARCH**





Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation - Alccrf

Published by Lion Kate · 9 July ·

...

For the past 14 years, the Lions Club of Ballarat has been firing up the barbecue each Easter to raise vital funds for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

A much-loved tradition in the community, the annual event is made even more special thanks to the Easter Bunny – played by dedicated Lion Leone Stevenson, who has proudly worn the ears for the past ten years.

In just the last three years, the club has raised an impressive \$7,000 through their Easter fundraiser.

As part of the festivities, the Easter Bunny and Lion Bill Sleep made their way around supermarkets across Central Ballarat, collecting generous Easter egg donations that brought big smiles to local children.

A fantastic example of Lions making a difference – one sausage sizzle and chocolate egg at a time! [See less](#)

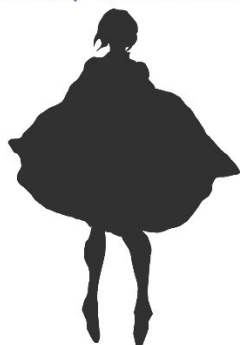


Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation...

Published by Lion Kate · 23 August at 23:25 ·

...

Be a **HERO** to
a child with cancer
Donate today at alccrf.lions.org.au



Boorowa Lions Club

22 August at 16:00 ·

Club members and partners happy to attend **Lions Club of Young NSW Inc** High Tea to benefit Lions Childhood Cancer Research



Like Us



www.alccrf.lions.org.au

Lions Club of Young Supports Childhood Cancer Research

The Lions Club of Young once again demonstrated its commitment to supporting childhood cancer research, hosting a wonderful afternoon tea at the Anglican Hall in Young.

The men of the club proudly donned their **pink aprons** and took to serving a delicious afternoon tea, adding plenty of fun and colour to the occasion. An amazing selection of baked goods was generously donated, providing a wonderful feast for the **80 guests** who attended.

Guests heard from **Neil Sheedy, District Chairperson for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF)**, who spoke about the vital work being undertaken to support childhood cancer research.



Lion Lyn Freudenstein with the District Chairperson of the childhood cancer research foundation, Lion Neil Sheedy



President Lyn Freudenstein with Annette St Clair

Annette St Clair also shared her deeply personal story, speaking about the loss of her daughter **Amie to melanoma in 2009** and the importance of continuing to support cancer research and the work undertaken by the **Melanoma Institute Australia**.

It was a wonderful afternoon of friendship, community spirit and generosity, with everyone coming together to help make a difference in the fight against cancer. An amazing \$3,500 was raised.

Members of the
Lions Club of Young





👤 This Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Lions are backing the search for better answers.

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, families need hope. Researchers need funding. And every breakthrough matters. ❤️

Through the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF), Lions Clubs across Australia are helping fund vital research into childhood cancers.

Over the past two years, the Foundation has committed more than \$2 million to five major research projects across Australia.

One of those projects, led by researchers at the [The University of Newcastle, Australia](#), has now been completed, while four others are progressing towards completion.

But there is still so much more to do.

The [Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation - Alccrf](#) has received numerous requests from researchers seeking support for the next generation of childhood cancer research.

💚 Our vision: 100% survival for kids with cancer.

Continued fundraising by Lions Clubs is vital to help the Foundation take on new projects and keep this important work moving.

This September, let's stand behind the researchers working towards a future where childhood cancer is no longer a life-threatening diagnosis.

Every dollar raised can help give researchers the opportunity to find better treatments, better outcomes and, ultimately, a cure.

👉 Find out more about the ALCCRF and the research Lions are supporting: ✅

<https://alccrf.lions.org.au/about/newsletters/>

#ChildhoodCancerAwarenessMonth #ChildhoodCancer #ALCCRF #LionsAustralia #LionsClubs
#CancerResearch #EveryChildDeservesAChance See less





GLOBAL CAUSE ... **CHILDHOOD CANCER**

Supporting the Australian Childhood Cancer research foundation is very important if we are to continue our march towards the goal of eliminating childhood cancer. Here are some links to information and support material on three options that Clubs can consider to help your Club raise funds.

- **The Biggest BBQ** – a fun and easy community fundraising event. If you are doing regular Bunnings BBQ's you could decide to identify one of these BBQs as an entry in the Biggest BBQ challenge. So, download and complete your intention to participate and join in the cause.

<https://alccrf.lions.org.au/events/lions-biggest-bbq/>

- **The Biggest High Tea** – an opportunity for Clubs to bring members and guests together while raising vital funds. There have certainly been some interesting variations on this theme with afternoon teas with many different ideas used to help promote this idea. So put your thinking caps on and join in this activity.

You might even find that some of your members have a collection of very nice cups and saucers that could be used for this event in a similar way in which ALCCRF provided a nice cup of tea at the Adelaide Convention for a gold coin donation. I might even investigate that option for the Bribie Convention. Watch this space.

<https://alccrf.lions.org.au/events/biggest-high-tea/>

- **Coin Line at the District Convention** – encouraging every Club and Convention attendee to contribute to what we hope will be our biggest Coin Line yet. It is certainly my plan to have a coin line at the Convention in October so bring along your coins and see if we can beat the number, we achieved last year.

You might also like to talk to your local schools to see if they would be interested in raising money via this cause. Some schools have mufti days when the students bring along a donation to pass on to a cause of their choice.

<https://alccrf.lions.org.au/events/australian-lions-coin-line/>

PDG Norm JENSEN
Ph: 0404984455





Help open the door to a healthy life for a child with cancer

Donate today at alccrf.lions.org.au/



- **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.