

Connection

Connecting our community through healthy giving

Support us in 2026

Our priorities for this year are to raise funds for new equipment.

Robotic Assisted Surgery

Investment is needed to install a da Vinci Robotic Surgical System. This cutting-edge robotic technology delivers minimally invasive surgery leading to better outcomes for patients. With support to purchase this equipment we will be able to reduce the need for open surgery, minimise blood loss, lower complications, enhance recovery, reduce ICU admissions and decrease hospital stays.

Cath Lab Appeal

Every nine minutes, one person is hospitalised due to a heart attack. Share our vision to provide the very best of care here on the Mornington Peninsula and help us build a second Cath Lab at Peninsula University Hospital, so more people can access life-saving care sooner and closer to home.



VILLAGE GLEN
RETIREMENT LIVING

This publication is funded by Village Glen. We are especially grateful for their donation, which enables us to better communicate with you, our donors.



Image: Peninsula University Hospital

Peninsula University Hospital is now open

Peninsula University Hospital opened to the community on 20 January, marking a major milestone for public healthcare in Frankston and on the Mornington Peninsula.

“The opening of Peninsula University Hospital reinforces Bayside Health’s commitment to delivering integrated, high-quality care across its network. The new hospital is a symbol of strong local leadership and deep community connection,” says Associate Professor Helen Cooper, Chief Executive of Bayside Health’s, Peninsula Care Group.

Formerly Frankston Hospital, Peninsula University Hospital reflects a deep commitment to its growing partnership with Monash University. The new name reflects a growing and dynamic collaboration between Bayside Health Peninsula and Monash University, bringing significant benefits to patients, staff, students and the broader community.

Approximately 220 patients and consumers were safely transferred from the former Frankston Hospital into the new 12-storey Peninsula University Hospital clinical tower on move day. The move commenced at 7:30am, with both the first surgical procedure and the first birth occurring before 10am.

“The new hospital is just so beautiful,” says new mum Carmen Simpson, who had the first baby delivered at Peninsula University Hospital.



Image: New parents Carmen and Jack with baby Eddie



Welcome from the Chief Executive

We have had an exciting start to 2026 with the opening of Peninsula University Hospital and the formation of Bayside Health in January.

Bayside Health brings together Alfred Health, Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health into a single health service. By coming together, we can provide better connected care for more than one million Victorians.

All of our healthcare sites will continue to operate under their existing names, with one exception:

Frankston Hospital has now been renamed Peninsula University Hospital. This new name reflects our strong partnership with Monash University and our renewed commitment to research, innovation and education.

We remain deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, auxiliaries, community groups and local businesses. Your support has a genuine and lasting impact, and this edition of Connection highlights just some of the ways community contributions enhance the care we provide every day.

Although we are now part of a larger organisation, our fundraising remains proudly local. The opportunities to support us continue to focus on local projects – purchasing new equipment and improving our services to ensure we can provide the very best care for people across Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions about Bayside Health or how you can contribute, please reach out to me or our philanthropy team.

Associate Professor Helen Cooper, Chief Executive, Peninsula Care Group, Bayside Health



Image: Tegan McCormack

Christmas Appeal achieves goal

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised over \$55,000 during our Christmas Appeal, enabling us to provide more scalp cooling caps for patients undergoing breast cancer treatment.

Scalp cooling technology helps prevent hair loss, giving patients a better chance to keep their hair, and hold onto a sense of self during an incredibly vulnerable time.

“Chemotherapy-induced hair loss can cause significant anxiety and impact psychological health,” explains Assoc. Prof. Mahesh Iddawela, Head of Oncology at Bayside Health Peninsula.

Thanks also to local social media star and cake decorating whiz Tegan McCormack (Tigga Mac) for supporting this campaign and sharing her cancer and treatment journey with the community.

“You just go through life and take your hair for granted,” says Tegan. “I think scalp cooling caps are a great option ... I think it’s very important to have the option available to give cancer patients the choice.”



Image: The Hon. Martin Foley, Board Chair, Bayside Health; Paul Edbrooke MP, Member for Frankston; Assoc. Prof. Helen Cooper, Chief Executive, Peninsula Care Group, Bayside Health; Hon. Jacinta Allan, Premier of Victoria; Karen Corry, Deputy Board Chair, Bayside Health; Adj. Prof Adam Horsburgh, Chief Executive, Bayside Health and Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Health, at the opening of Peninsula University Hospital.

Retirement Living on the Peninsula

Village Glen was created 40 years ago by Chas Jacobsen, a visionary and builder who wanted to create a retirement community on the Mornington Peninsula.

Village Glen has been the Peninsula's premium retirement community for over 40 years. With a range of one, two and three bedroom villas and apartments to suit all tastes, 24-7 emergency nurse assistance and every possible amenity to keep you busy and engaged, there is something for everyone at Village Glen.

Today, Village Glen isn't only Retirement Living but also Flexicare Home Support, servicing clients all over the Mornington Peninsula – not just inside the Village. If you are looking for a premium retirement lifestyle on the Mornington Peninsula, Village Glen could be the answer.

The Village Glen offers comfortable facilities with great amenities like a croquet green, bowling club, gymnasium, nine-hole golf course, spa and swimming pool. It is also conveniently located in the centre of Mornington Peninsula with nearby freeway access, and public transport running through the Village.

One of the key benefits of retirement village living is having medical and home-care staff close by, should it be needed. This kind of peace of mind can be incredibly reassuring, helping residents feel safer and more confident in maintaining an independent lifestyle.

Retirement villages are designed with mobility in mind, with the aim of making it easier for everyone to move around safely and comfortably.



At a retirement village like Village Glen, this includes having no stairs and ensuring spaces are easily accessible for people who use wheelchairs or walkers.

If you are thinking about downsizing, your gardens and house maintenance is getting beyond you or you would like to be more social or connected, call **Village Glen** on **5986 4455** to book in a tour.

Quote this article to get a complimentary Devonshire Tea for two.



Image: Village Glen, Mornington Peninsula

Celebrating the next generation of healthcare professionals

Last December, our health service celebrated more than 330 early-career team members at the annual Multidisciplinary Learner Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony was sponsored by Quest Frankston on the Bay, whose generous support helped bring the event to life and made the day possible for all our graduates. The event recognised learners who completed programs across nursing, midwifery, allied health, pharmacy, medical imaging,



Image: Quest Frankston on the Bay representatives with Bayside Health Peninsula staff members at the Awards Ceremony

and medicine, celebrating their dedication and professional growth throughout 2025.

A total of 27 Awards of Excellence were presented, recognising outstanding learners and supervisors who exemplify our values through their commitment to patient-centred care.

This year, Quest Frankston on the Bay also introduced two new awards:

- **Novice Learner Award** – recognising a learner's commitment to growth and exceptional patient care, awarded to Amy Ong.

- **Supervisor Award** – acknowledging leadership and lasting impact on our teams, awarded to Carmel Parish.

This valued partnership reflects Quest Frankston on the Bay's commitment to supporting the development of local healthcare professionals and strengthening the delivery of high-quality care across our community.

Thank you, *Quest Frankston on the Bay* for your valuable support.

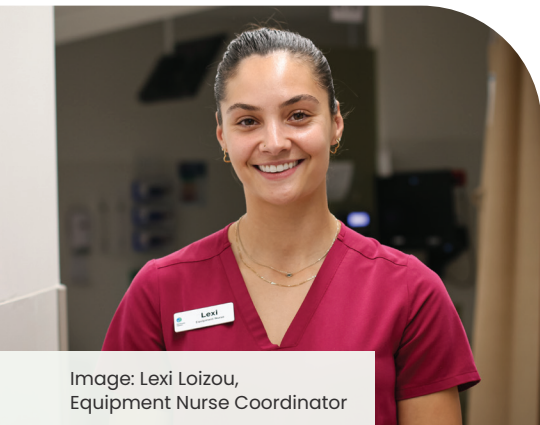


Image: Lexi Loizou, Equipment Nurse Coordinator

Supporting Emergency Department staff wellbeing

The Emergency Department at Peninsula University Hospital now has a dedicated space focused on staff wellbeing.

The Lavender Room was established to support staff following high-stress and emotionally demanding clinical situations.

Thanks to the generous support of our donor community, \$2000 worth of items were purchased to thoughtfully fit out the space, creating a calm and welcoming retreat from the fast-paced Emergency Department.

The room features beanbags, soft blankets, greenery, and even a kettle, offering staff the chance to pause and enjoy a warm drink.

Staff members Lexi Loizou, Equipment Coordinator, and Sharon Govindarajah, Clinical Nurse Specialist, led the concept, development, and sourcing of décor for the space.

"The room provides a restorative environment for staff, allowing them to pause, regulate and reset during or after challenging shifts," explains Sharon.

"It's perfect for those needing a moment to 'tap out'. It's made such a difference to staff wellbeing," adds Lexi.

"Thanks to our donors, the tangible impact of this space is being felt across the entire department and is fostering a healthier, more supportive workforce," says Sharon.



Image: The Lavender Room

A lifetime of giving back

Grace Benson's life story is one of dedication to both her country and her community.

Born in Springvale, Victoria in 1922, Grace served with distinction in the Australian Women's Land Army during World War II, earning a Civilian Service Medal in recognition of her contribution to the war effort. After the war, Grace pursued a career in nursing, embodying a commitment to caring for others.

In 1957, Grace married Fred Benson. The couple shared a deep belief in the vital role of local hospitals like Rosebud Hospital in providing essential healthcare services to the people of the area. Grace and Fred were determined to leave a lasting legacy by directing the majority of their estate to support the hospital they held dear.

Their generous bequest exemplifies a lifetime commitment to community service and

demonstrates a profound understanding of the significance of supporting local healthcare facilities to ensure the wellbeing of future generations.

We look forward to sharing more information about the lasting impact of their contribution in future editions of Connection.



Image: Grace and Fred Benson

Our partnership with Safewill

Recent surveys show that around 12 million Australian adults do not have a will in place, and that 52% of Australians die without ever making a will.*

This means that around one in two Australians are at risk of dying intestate (without a valid will).

A will is important for every Australian over the age of 18, regardless of what you own.

Writing a will ensures that your assets and possessions are distributed according to your wishes and minimises the potential conflict that could take place after your death.

58–60%

of Australian adults do not have a will.*

Once you've ensured your loved ones are provided for, we invite you to consider leaving a gift to support your local health service.

Even a small contribution – such as 1% of your estate – can make a lasting difference to the lives of people in our community.

Bayside Health – Peninsula has partnered with Safewill, Australia's leading online will-writing platform, to help make planning for the future simple and accessible. Together, we share a vision of healthy lives for everyone through sustainable, innovative and compassionate care.

Visit safewill.com/baysidehealthpeninsula to learn more, and for the opportunity to write a will for half price.

For more information, contact Cara-Jo Kirk, Legacy and Giving Manager, Bayside Health Peninsula on 03 9788 1232 or CKirk@phcn.vic.gov.au.

Point Nepean Men's Shed Charity Golf Day swings into success

Point Nepean Men's Shed recently hosted a fantastic Charity Golf Day, raising \$4000 for a much needed Tilt 'n' Space Wheelchair for Rosebud Hospital. Held at the beautiful Portsea Golf Club on 1 December, the day was a resounding success from start to finish.

With plenty of prizes up for grabs, great company on the course, and no shortage of laughs, participants enjoyed a memorable day while supporting an important cause.

A Tilt 'n' Space Wheelchair provides superior postural support and pressure relief, significantly improving comfort for patients with complex mobility needs. These wheelchairs are commonly used by people with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy and other conditions that affect mobility.

A huge congratulations and thank you to Point Nepean Men's Shed and everyone involved for making such a meaningful difference – proof that a great day on the green can have a lasting impact in the community.



Image: Director of Nursing at Rosebud Hospital, Jacqui Allen with Lions Club of McCrae members

Lions Club of McCrae strengthens local rehabilitation at Rosebud Hospital

The Lions Club of McCrae has long been a dedicated supporter of community health and wellbeing, and once again Lions members have demonstrated their commitment with a generous donation to Rosebud Hospital.

The Lions Club funding has enabled the purchase of a vital piece of rehabilitation equipment – a tilt table – which will make a meaningful and lasting difference for patients across the Mornington Peninsula.

A tilt table is a specialised medical device that safely and gradually assists patients to move from a lying position to upright standing. It is particularly beneficial for people recovering from stroke, surgery, prolonged illness or trauma who are unable to stand or bear weight independently. The donation is expected to benefit up to 1000 patients, improving recovery outcomes and enhancing quality of life.

The Lions Club of McCrae's generous support is a powerful example of community partnership in action – helping ensure better health outcomes today, while strengthening local services for the future.

Community collaboration raises over \$20,000 for life-saving chemo equipment

Two dedicated community groups – the Mornington Lions Club and Carrington Park Eagle Ridge Golf Club – joined forces in an outstanding display of generosity, raising more than \$20,000 to purchase a specialised ultrasound machine for the chemotherapy unit at Rosebud Hospital.

Mornington Lions hosted the club's annual Charity Book Fair at The Studio, celebrating eight years of giving through the sale of pre-loved books. Carrington Park Eagle Ridge Golf Club rallied golfers and supporters through a successful charity golf day, adding significant momentum to the fundraising goal.

Thanks to this combined effort, Rosebud Hospital was able to purchase a BD Bard Ultrasound Machine, specifically for use in chemotherapy care.

This advanced, portable ultrasound system provides real-time imaging and is particularly valuable for vascular access, helping clinicians accurately and safely insert lines for treatment.

This remarkable collaboration highlights the power of community fundraising and the lasting impact it can have on local health services.



Image: Lions Club members with Rosebud Hospital Nurse Unit Manager Andrea Sutton

A nostalgic festival with a heart for community health

The Rosebud Rock 'n' Rods Festival once again delivered a vibrant celebration of nostalgia, bringing together classic car enthusiasts, rock 'n' roll fans, families and locals for a day filled with colour, music and good vibes.

The event's iconic Show 'n' Shine was a standout, featuring an impressive display of hot rods, classic cars, vans and bikes that drew crowds throughout the day.

Beyond the fun and flair, the festival carried a powerful purpose: every dollar raised went towards supporting Rosebud Hospital to purchase an Airvo 3 Optiflow machine, which is a vital piece of respiratory equipment.

This non-invasive ventilation device delivers high flow, warmed and humidified oxygen to patients who are breathing spontaneously but require additional respiratory support. The Airvo 3 plays an important role in improving patient comfort and breathing efficiency, supporting better clinical outcomes when it matters most.



Image: Cars at Rosebud Rock 'n' Rods Festival

The festival perfectly captured the spirit of community – celebrating shared passions while making a real difference to local healthcare.

Would you like to make a donation?

Donate monthly One-off donation

\$25 \$35 \$50

Your details:

Donor ID

Name

Address

Email

Signature

Pay by Visa MasterCard Amex

Card number

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I am considering leaving a gift in my will

I would like more information



Celebrating a successful move

Thank you to Bayside Shopping Centre for its donation of retailer gift bags for staff, to celebrate and congratulate our people on the opening of Peninsula University Hospital.

The gift bags were well-received by staff from our Redevelopment Team, who coordinate and operationalise major projects such as the new tower, and our Central Sterilising Supply Department (CSSD), who are responsible for the decontamination, sterilisation, assembly and distribution of medical devices and surgical instruments.



Would you like to support Bayside Health Peninsula?



Mail

Simply complete the form and return it in the enclosed reply paid envelope.



Online

Scan the QR code to fill out your payment details using our secure online donation form.



Become a regular giver



Phone

Call us on **03 9788 1284** if you would like to give monthly by direct debit or bank transfer into our account.