

# Connection

Connecting our community through healthy giving



## Year in Review

### Fundraising Highlights

The past 12 months of your support for Peninsula Health has been nothing short of extraordinary. Once again our community showed up with heart, purpose and generosity, and the results speak for themselves.

We are so very grateful to all of our donors who have come together for a common cause – helping our local community. By working together to raise much-needed funds, we are able to improve the quality of healthcare for everyone living and working in Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula.

Your unwavering support contributes to a better tomorrow through funding research, training and education of our staff, innovative technologies, and the delivery of world-class healthcare close to home.

## Donations at a Glance



**Equipment:** Over \$1 million has been spent on the latest state-of-the-art equipment. This includes two ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) machines to give a lifeline to those whose heart is failing; a Prostate Ultrasound Probe to enable early detection of prostate cancer; two Baby Jaundice Meters to reduce the need for invasive blood tests in newborns; portable ultrasound machines; an Airways Clearance Vest revolutionising lung care; and an Infant Resuscitaire at Rosebud Hospital, which is a lifesaving piece of equipment.



**Research:** Your donations have contributed to our National Centre for Healthy Aging (NCHA) with the appointment of two Allied Health research roles: a Professor of Nursing research role, and a nursing and midwifery research role.



**Therapy:** Your support has contributed to a music therapist and virtual reality in our Palliative Care Unit; Weighted Pets and a patient laundry for our dementia patients; four blanket-warming cabinets for two of our sites; a hoist and bariatric exercise bike for rehabilitation; and a range of other therapy supports to improve our overall patient experience.



**Training & Education:** Professional development is imperative to building a better tomorrow. With your support, we are training our staff using the latest equipment such as the SimBaby – a simulator manikin providing realistic simulation of infant care scenarios, and a Life Support Simulator for the Intensive Care Unit – simulating high-pressure scenarios.

## Thank You

From all of the nurses, doctors, executive and staff at Peninsula Health, we thank you for working with us towards building a better tomorrow.





# Welcome from the Chief Executive

This Spring edition of Connection showcases the amazing philanthropic work happening across Peninsula Health. From Rosebud to Frankston and everywhere in between, your generous support is making a real difference to people’s lives.

We’ve recently shared some exciting news with our community, officially announcing that Frankston Hospital will change its name to Peninsula University Hospital in early 2026 to coincide with the opening of the new clinical services tower. This will mark the beginning of a new era in healthcare, education and research for the region.

The name change reflects a growing and dynamic partnership between Peninsula Health and Monash University, bringing significant benefits to patients, staff, students and the broader community.

The new identity strengthens the hospital’s position as a hub for innovation, advanced clinical care, and evidence-based practice. We are very proud to be working hand-in-hand with Monash University, and our other tertiary partners, to create a health service that not only treats but teaches, learns and leads.

We look forward to welcoming you into this beautiful new building soon. Construction is on track and the new building will open early in 2026.

In addition to this, extensive work has progressed on our voluntary merger with Alfred Health, Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service and Kooweerup Regional Health Service, to form Bayside Health on 1 January 2026. This exciting partnership will see the new entity service over 1.2 million Victorians by providing high-quality, comprehensive and seamless whole-of-life healthcare, close to home.

Be sure to stay up-to-date with this and all other news from Peninsula Health by following us on social media or via the latest news section on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to again acknowledge and thank you for the valuable contribution you make to the future of healthcare in our region.

I hope you find this edition of Connection interesting and insightful, as you read about the enormous contribution our supporters make to the provision of world-class healthcare across Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula.

Helen Cooper  
Chief Executive



Image: A render of Peninsula University Hospital



Image: Feb 50 walk at Rosebud Hospital

# Feb 50 Challenge Drives Community Support for Rosebud Hospital

February saw a strong show of community spirit as Peninsula Health hosted its annual **Feb 50 Challenge**, bringing together **117 participants** from across the local community to raise funds for vital healthcare services at Rosebud Hospital.

The initiative encouraged staff and community members to walk, run, swim or cycle a minimum of 50 kilometres throughout the month, raising awareness and funds to improve local access to treatment.

Exceeding expectations, participants collectively logged up to 7921 kilometres. Their commitment and generosity raised a total of \$35,777.

The money has gone towards funding essential equipment for Rosebud Hospital.

“The Feb 50 Challenge highlights the extraordinary commitment of our community’s unwavering support for advancing patient care,” says Rosebud Hospital Director of Nursing and Site Manager, Jacqui Allen.

“The generosity of our participants not only strengthens our services today but also helps to shape a better future for those we care for. We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved.”

Exceptional efforts were noted among both individual and team participants. Rosebud Hospital radiographer Damien Barbour completed an extraordinary

1110.18 kilometres, while the Frankston Hospital Crisis Assessment and Treatment Team achieved a combined distance of 1775.74 kilometres.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Feb 50 Challenge, and to all our regular givers. With your invaluable support, Rosebud Hospital is equipped to offer advanced treatment to patients when they need it most. Feb 50 was proudly sponsored by Village Glen.



# New Probe for Early Cancer Detection

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. Every year around 25,000 men are diagnosed with the disease. One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer by the time they are 85. Following the success of the 2024 Take a Break for Cancer campaign, Peninsula Health secured over \$30,000 in community-raised funds.

This achievement was then enhanced by the generous support of Flinders Lions Club and Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Rotary Group, which contributed \$40,000 and \$28,000 respectively.

These combined funds will go towards purchasing a cutting-edge prostate ultrasound probe, a critical tool for detecting prostate cancer at an early stage.

“Prostate Cancer itself has very few symptoms especially when it’s early and localised within the prostate,” explains Peninsula Health’s Head of Urology, Dr Paul Gilmore. “It only causes symptoms when it’s detected late; by then, it has usually spread to the bones or lymph nodes. At that point, it may cause symptoms, but the cancer is no longer curable.”

“With the purchase of more modern probes, we’ll be able to provide earlier diagnosis for men living on the Mornington Peninsula.”

This investment represents a significant step forward in Peninsula Health’s commitment to improving cancer outcomes through early intervention. Equipping clinicians with more advanced diagnostic technology, will enable faster, more accurate assessments and ultimately help reduce the burden of late-stage prostate cancer across the region.

Peninsula Health extends its sincere thanks to our donor community whose generosity has made this vital upgrade possible.

Your support is helping shape a future where more local men benefit from timely diagnoses and access to life-saving care.



Image: Dr Paul Gilmore, Head of Urology



Image: The unveiling of the 2024 Birth Tree plaque at Montague Park, Frankston

## Support for New Babies

Frankston Hospital’s Maternity Unit has welcomed two new Baby Jaundice Meters, thanks to the generosity of Rotary Peninsula 2.0 and the Humpty Dumpty Foundation.

Over \$6000 was raised through Rotary Peninsula 2.0’s annual Birth Tree Program, highlighting the organisation’s ongoing dedication to community health. This incredible support, combined with funding from the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, made the acquisition of these vital Baby Jaundice Meters possible.

Rotary’s Birth Tree Program offers a special way for parents to celebrate the birth of their child, with their name commemorated

on a plaque in Montague Park. All donations go directly towards supporting maternity services at Peninsula Health. The new equipment offers a non-invasive method to detect and monitor jaundice in newborns, significantly reducing the need for blood tests.

“The meters ensure we can undertake painless jaundice screening for newborns, which eases the stress for families during what can be a vulnerable time,” says Colleen White, Peninsula Health’s Operations Director of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent Health.

“By providing faster results and reducing the need for invasive blood tests, our staff can make quicker clinical decisions, enabling earlier treatment and better health outcomes for babies.”

“We are incredibly grateful to receive such vital equipment, helping us provide the very best start to life for our youngest patients.”

The support of these generous organisations will have a lasting impact at Frankston Hospital, enhancing newborn care and supporting local families for years to come.

To find out more about the Birth Tree Program, please visit [rotarypeninsula.org/birth-tree](https://rotarypeninsula.org/birth-tree)





Image: Dr Robert Lew, Head of Cardiology and cardiology team members in the Cath Lab

## Tax Appeal 2025: New Cardiology Equipment at the Heart of the Matter

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and community, we're thrilled to announce a total of \$100,500 has been raised for our annual **Tax Appeal**, which will provide new cardiology equipment for Frankston Hospital.

This year's Appeal focused on the story of 47-year-old Peter and the life-saving care he received at Frankston Hospital after having a medical episode.

"I had no symptoms – I had never felt anything before, but the doctors told me I could have died at any time if this wasn't picked up and I didn't have the operation," says Peter.

Peter's heart condition was discovered after he'd rescued his teenage daughter from the surf at Sorrento. Unable to catch his breath, Peter asked his wife to call an ambulance.

When our cardiology team members met Peter that day, they initially thought he had an arrhythmia caused from the exertion of swimming so fast to save his daughter. Peter spent time in the Intensive Care Unit while the team stabilised him and brought his breathing back under control.

In the Cath Lab they discovered why Peter had been so unwell on the beach: he needed coronary artery bypass graft surgery to relieve multiple blockages in his heart.

At 47-years-old, Peter never expected to be told he was critically unwell with a serious heart condition. "Saving my daughter saved my life," he says.

Funds from the Appeal will provide two new pieces of vital equipment for Frankston Hospital's heart service. The Rotational atherectomy will enable the cardiology team to drill out calcified blockages, put in a stent and treat more patients locally at Frankston Hospital rather than sending them elsewhere.

The CorPulse machine performs mechanical CPR. This life-saving piece of equipment provides chest compressions if a patient needs CPR in an emergency.

**Both pieces of equipment will assist the cardiology team to continue to provide the very best care for patients in Frankston and on the Mornington Peninsula.**



## Pinkies Take Home Appreciation Award

Our very own Pink Ladies Auxiliary group was recently awarded one of Frankston City Council's Councillor Appreciation Awards, in recognition of being a longstanding (since 1968) and highly dedicated volunteer group at Frankston Hospital.

The awards are an opportunity for Councillors to recognise individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution or provide a service to Frankston City. The Pinkies were nominated by Cr Nathan Butler, who presented the award at a June Council meeting.

The nomination noted that "through their dedicated operation of the hospital kiosk and various fundraising initiatives, the Pinkies have raised over \$10 million to purchase vital equipment and enhance patient services. Their unwavering commitment and compassionate presence have significantly contributed to improving the hospital environment and patient care. Thank you to all members for your generous contributions and the monumental impact on the community."

Congratulations to the Pink Ladies on this wonderful acknowledgement and for your ongoing fundraising efforts for Frankston Hospital.

The loyal, ongoing support of our Regular Givers enables us to plan ahead to deliver the best care for our community. If you're interested in giving on a monthly basis, please phone 03 9788 1284.

## New Patient Laundry Cleans Up

Washing machines have been purchased for a Patient Laundry at The Mornington Centre, thanks to our Regular Givers. The laundry is designed to enhance patient care, particularly for those without family support. Clean clothing helps to maintain dignity, prevent infections and enhance comfort.

The washing machines also provide therapeutic benefits by engaging patients in laundry tasks as part of their rehabilitation, promoting independence and self-determination.



Image: The new pergola

## Palliative Care Landscaping

In February, members of the Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise generously dedicated a weekend to support Peninsula Health's Palliative Care Unit.

Their efforts transformed our patient garden with a beautifully rebuilt pergola and refurbished outdoor BBQ area, creating a welcoming, peaceful space where patients and their families can relax and enjoy meaningful moments together.

## Telehealth Monitor Enhances Care

Rosebud Hospital Emergency Department is now trialling the use of a Telehealth Monitor thanks to funding from our generous donors.

The telehealth program links Rosebud Hospital with Frankston Hospital and allows senior Emergency Department consultants to review in real-time any patient who the on-duty doctor is concerned about, or may require a higher level of care.

The hardware is a dedicated Computer on Wheels with dual screens and removable camera with 30X optical zoom. The remote doctor has full control over the camera from anywhere enabling them to zoom in on areas of interest, look at real-time monitoring data, as well as review any printed results such as electrocardiograms and pathology results.

**This will further help us to provide safe, personalised and effective care for patients with the assistance of senior medical staff. It can also prevent unnecessary transfers to other sites.**

## Weighted Pets for Dementia Patients

The addition of 10 Weighted Pets to our Diversional Therapy Program at The Mornington Centre will assist dementia patients to improve social engagement, promote positive mood and enhance quality of care. The Weighted Pets provide deep-pressure therapy to reduce negative emotion and behavioural symptoms, and have been purchased thanks to ongoing, monthly donations from our Regular Givers.

## 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











Expiry date









Cardholder's name:

Cardholder's signature:

☐ I am considering leaving a gift in my will

☐ I would like more information

## Together towards Tomorrow

"Every day is a bonus" – no one is more grateful for tomorrow than Alistair Blake, or 'Lazarus' as our doctors named him.

Back in January 2019, Alistair was medically dead for 90 minutes before his heart began to beat. Alistair and his wife Melinda were staying at their beach house in Blairgowrie when Melinda woke to what she thought was her husband snoring. She soon realised he was having a cardiac arrest.

"With 90 minutes downtime you'd expect to see some permanent disability," explains Cardiologist Professor Jamie Layland.

Alistair spent four days in Intensive Care, and miraculously woke with no signs of physical or brain injury. Doctors at Frankston Hospital were able to unclog his blocked artery, a pacemaker was inserted as a precaution, and Alistair was discharged after 12 days.

Alistair now has a new lease on life, always looking towards tomorrow.

Our fundraising focus for the next 12 months is to raise \$2,000,000 for a new Cath Lab at Frankston Hospital to give everyone visiting, living and working in Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula the very best of care close to home.

[Join us today. Help us to reach our goal of \\$2,000,000.](#)

We are asking all donors to come together to help us reach this goal by either making a one-off or monthly donation, or by coming together as a community group and raising funds with us. Let's work together to build a better future.

## Would you like to support Peninsula Health?

### 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.

