

Issue one 2018

LIFEBLOOD

BEATING BLOOD CANCER TOGETHER

Bronx's smile
shines through

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Leukaemia
Foundation
VISION TO CURE
MISSION TO CARE

HELLO AGAIN...

Impact. It's a simple but powerful word that is shaping the Leukaemia Foundation this year.

We are thrilled to bring you our new-look Lifeblood, a newsletter which showcases the amazing impact our supporters are making to the lives of people living with blood cancer.

Working together we will have greater capacity and influence than ever before to drive our collective vision to increase survival, improve quality of life and ultimately beat blood cancers.

We are committed to increasing our research funding, advocating for better treatments while continuing to provide exceptional care and services to patients and their families.

We start 2018 with a refreshed direction and vision as a national organisation, refocusing on our stakeholders' needs with a clear direction to beat blood cancer. I invite you to download our Annual Report to learn more about the incredible impact already been made. Visit leukaemia.org.au.

We're looking forward to 2018 and sharing with you stories of hope, inspiration and determination.

Thank you

Bill Petch, CEO
Leukaemia Foundation



A HAPPY, HEALTHY SMILE FOR BRONX NOW IN REMISSION

When baby Bronx was just four months old his family was told he had a very rare and often deadly type of blood cancer with a survival rate of less than 30 per cent.

Bronx had the aggressive biphenotypic leukaemia, a combination of both acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). What then followed was six months of gruelling treatment – including five rounds of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

We recently found out that Bronx is officially cancer free and in remission.

Bronx spent 12 months living in a unit at the Bridgestone Australia Leukaemia Foundation Patient Accommodation Village in Adelaide with his mum and dad, twin brothers Sid and Mathias and big sister Kamani.

Like many families the Leukaemia Foundation helps, the Wilsons are from a regional town and were forced to relocate to Adelaide with less than 24 hours' notice when Bronx was diagnosed.

“Without the Leukaemia Foundation we would have been homeless,” Azza, Bronx's dad said.

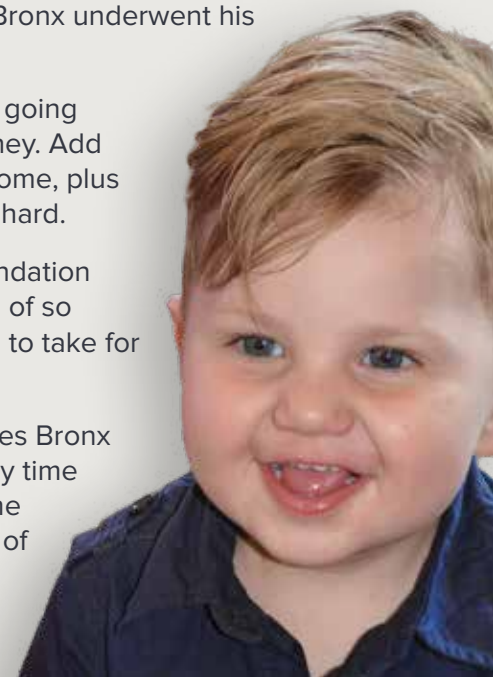


“We wouldn't have had a place to call home with our other kids while Bronx underwent his treatment.

“It's stressful enough going through Bronx's journey. Add to that no regular income, plus expenses. It's just so hard.

“The Leukaemia Foundation helps ease the stress of so many things we used to take for granted every day.”

The Foundation wishes Bronx and his family a happy time together back at home free from the burden of blood cancer.



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

As Gary was emergency airlifted to Perth from Geraldton in regional Western Australia, he knew something wasn't right, but he certainly did not expect his life, and that of his small family, to change so quickly.

Within hours of arriving in Perth, Gary was told he had a life threatening blood cancer, chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), which would require immediate and ongoing treatment in the city.

“At first we had to get a bit creative with accommodation,” Gary’s wife, Sharen explained. “We put Ella into boarding school in Geraldton hoping to maintain a sense of normality for her, and I came to Perth with Gary.”

It soon became clear the severity of Gary’s treatment meant they would need to relocate for much longer than first anticipated.

“I rang a lot of places but they just weren’t suitable for us with a teenage daughter. When I found the Leukaemia Foundation it was like a weight was lifted. They understood Gary’s needs, they even helped me find a place for Ella in a great school,” Sharen said.

Gary, Sharen and Ella stayed in accommodation in Perth for four months at no cost, thanks to the generosity of our supporters. They could be together and have close access to Gary’s ongoing treatment.



Gary, Sharen and Ella found a 'home away from home' at our Perth accommodation, while Gary underwent treatment.

“It all happened so fast. Not only did Gary have to stop working, but I also had to give up work. Suddenly you find yourself with no income, but the bills keep coming,” Sharen said. “The home we were provided by the Leukaemia Foundation relieved a great weight from our shoulders, both financially and emotionally.”

Throughout their ordeal, Gary’s family remain stoic in their resolve to stay together. They recently moved to Tasmania to be near their extended family, and continue to focus on beating his cancer one day at a time.

GIFTS IN WILLS LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT

Many of our supporters like Pam, leave a gift in their Will to help achieve a blood cancer free future.

“Once I've remembered my family and friends I chose to leave a gift in my Will to the Leukaemia Foundation in the hope of beating blood cancer one day.” Pam said.

Gifts in Wills are an incredibly important income source to the Leukaemia Foundation and every gift no matter the size, enables us to plan for the future care and support of patients and their families.

► If you would like to discuss leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Emma Quigley on 0407 176 487 or email equigley@leukaemia.org.au



Pam's gift allows us to continue our vital service & research.



NEW ACCOMMODATION FOR AUSTRALIANS LIVING WITH BLOOD CANCER

It's estimated more than 60,000 people in Australia are living with a blood cancer, with around one in five from regional and remote areas of Australia.

When blood cancer strikes, you have to act fast. Often treatment needs to start within 24 hours of diagnosis, and for people living in regional areas, this means immediately relocating to a capital city. But where do you stay? Can your family stay with you? What happens when you're not at hospital?

This is where you can help. One of our most important services provided across Australia is accommodation for regional people living with blood cancer.

It has been a stalwart of the Leukaemia Foundation's services since our inception more than 40 years ago, and it remains one of the most vital services provided to families.

In Western Australia, 2018 marks a significant milestone for this essential service as our accommodation and blood cancer support and administration services move into one new location, Stirling Cross Apartments at Innaloo.

The Stirling Cross Apartment complex offers a safe, secure, and central location close to essential amenities and services and, importantly, is less than 25 minutes from all major metropolitan treating hospitals. Our new accommodation is a mix of brand new, fully furnished one and two bedroom apartments.

It's important people undergoing treatment for blood cancer are supported by their family and can maintain those familial bonds whilst undergoing treatment. Each of the fully furnished apartments

includes a sofa bed, allowing even the one bedroom apartments to accommodate three people, keeping a family together.

Blood cancer support staff will be located on site and will be available for patient and carer support during the week. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, a free transport service is available for families to get to and from their treating hospital easily.



Our well-loved, original purpose-built accommodation facility, Herston Village in Queensland, has undergone an incredible renovation thanks to our supporters and a grant from the Australian Government's National Stronger Regions Fund.

Since 1989 more than 1700 families have stayed at the 13-unit complex. Upgrades include the installation of an elevator, improved recreation facilities and unit layouts, plus new modern appliances. Upgraded internet cabling means residents can now more easily keep in touch with family back home.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE AUSTRALIA'S BEST

We are very lucky to have an incredible community of supporters across Australia who go above and beyond in their quest to raise funds to support people living with blood cancer.

This year, community fundraising champions from Tasmania, Western Australia and New South Wales have been recognised by the Fundraising Institute of Australia as 'State Volunteer of the Year'.

Western Australia's Brittany Lovell, Tasmania's Tach Malkin, and New South Wales' Tony Hart and De'hanne Keir, were each recognised for their efforts in developing community fundraising events to raise funds to support people living with blood cancer.

Leukaemia Foundation CEO, Bill Petch says each of the volunteers shows incredible grit and determination in putting on their events each year.

"It is no easy task to put on a public event. These incredible individuals go above and beyond to raise money and awareness in their States, and in doing so, have developed some of the most popular and successful community fundraising events the Leukaemia Foundation has ever seen," Bill said.

"Each volunteer's motivation is inspiring. Brittany was moved to develop 'Cancer No Bueno' event after two of her close friends were diagnosed with blood cancer in their early twenties; Tach created



Brittany Lovell, with her team of directors (pictured) host Cancer No Bueno, supporting people living with blood cancer.

'Phil's Dive for a Cure' in memory of her husband Phil who passed away from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia; and Tony and De'hanne chose to dedicate their event 'Ride with Pride' to people living with blood cancer.

"Working hand-in-hand with the Leukaemia Foundation, these four volunteers have raised more than \$425,000 over the last four years, generated priceless awareness for blood cancer, and created a network of supporters who now continue to support people across Australia living with blood cancer.

"Our volunteers come in all shapes and sizes. From our volunteer drivers, to our Light the Night community hosts, to our Friends of the Foundation, and our community fundraisers, each person who volunteers their time to help families with blood cancer, is making an immense impact."

Brittany Lovell, Tach Malkin, Tony Hart and De'hanne Keir will now vie for the national title, FIA Volunteer of the Year, which will be awarded in March. We wish them all the best of luck!

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas cheer came to Leukaemia Foundation accommodation centres across the country in the form of delicious goodies thanks to our principal partner, Bridgestone Australia, along with our Queensland Branches and Groups and the IGA Community Chest.

Families at our 106 apartments received Christmas food hampers and vouchers – a welcomed gift for families who can't be at home for the holidays.

CEO, Bill Petch said, "Going through treatment at this time of the year is hard, plus the added stress of being away from family and friends. The gift of a Christmas hamper is just a small gesture and a reminder of what Christmas is all about."



Lawrence and Larkeesha loved their Christmas hamper

You can shave to help beat blood cancer

CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE WITH US!

Shaving their hair as a show of support for someone facing blood cancer is a beautiful and unforgettable gesture made by thousands of Australians every year. This extraordinary act helps around 20,000 amazing people across the country raise millions of dollars to help beat blood cancer.

The Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave began in 1998 and is now one of Australia's longest standing fundraising events. This year we're celebrating 20 years of shaving and we're inviting you to get involved!

Take up the challenge and do something extraordinary to make a difference to the lives of the 35 Australians diagnosed today with leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma.

You may have a personal connection to blood cancer, or simply want take part to have fun and raise money for a great cause. Either way, you'll have a blast and feel incredible.

Leukaemia Foundation

**WORLD'S
GREATEST
SHAVE™**

20 YEARS



Sign up today

[Q World's Greatest Shave](#)



Light the Night Adelaide

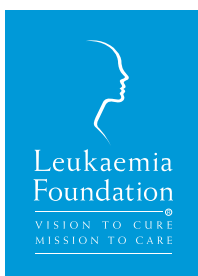
AUSTRALIA LIGHTS THE NIGHT

The Leukaemia Foundation's Light the Night brought together Australia's blood cancer community to remember and reflect during a moving ceremony and twilight lantern walk.

Light the Night shone at more than 130 locations, thanks to hosts and volunteers across Australia who generously gave their time and talents.

More than 30,500 people carried coloured lanterns, and raised funds to give families facing blood cancer emotional and practical support.

Thanks to so many generous supporters, over \$1.75 million was raised, lighting the way for families in their darkest hour.



**BEATING
BLOOD
CANCERS
WITH LOVE,
SWEAT &
TEARS.**

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To receive this newsletter or invitations to our seminars via email contact us at supportercare@leukaemia.org.au or ph 1800 620 420.