



WINTER 2024



The assembled crowd on the disused runway at Cairns Airport before a spectacular evening of fun, fundraising and community support. Photo: ModFilms.

# A Starlit Soiree

IN an extraordinary show of community support and generosity, a fundraising dinner hosted by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation on Saturday night raised more than \$749,250 for the "Donate for DaNi" campaign.

The funds will be directed towards acquiring a surgical robot, a groundbreaking addition to Cairns Hospital that promises to revolutionise surgical care in the region.

The invitation-only Starlit Soiree, held on the disused runway at Cairns Airport, featured an exquisite tasting menu crafted by acclaimed Nu Nu Restaurant MasterChef Nick Holloway, complemented by premium wines and a dazzling performance by The Marias.

The event brought together an array of dedicated supporters, including

prominent community leaders, philanthropists, and health care advocates, all united by a common cause.

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from our community," Foundation CEO Gina Hogan said.

"The success of this event brings us significantly closer to our \$4.3 million target for the surgical robot. This state-of-the-art technology will enhance surgical precision, improve patient recovery times, and reduce complications. Moreover, it will attract top medical talent to our region, ensuring better health care for all. With the community's continued support, we are confident we will reach our goal and bring this life-changing technology to Cairns Hospital."

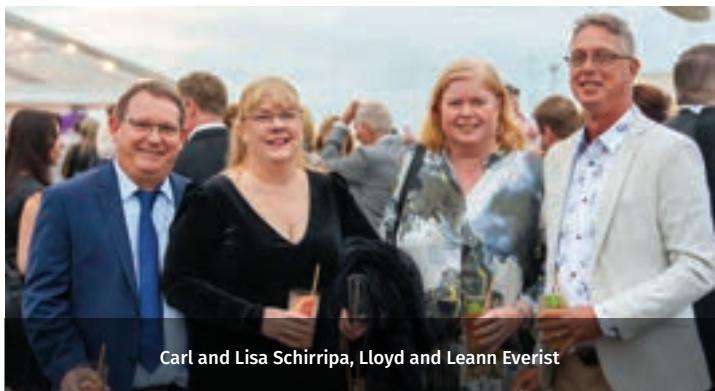
She especially acknowledged KenFrost Homes for their incredible \$450,000 donation and the Chapman Foundation for their generous \$100,000 contribution.

These remarkable donations contribute to the \$1,023,000 already raised through previous fundraising events by Trinity Advisory and Nu Nu Restaurant, along with numerous other contributions from our generous supporters. This achievement brings us to 41 percent of our \$4.3 million goal.

"Each of these contributions, large and small, has been vital in driving us towards our goal. The Foundation extends its gratitude to all attendees, donors, and event partners who made the night a resounding success. Each contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to transforming healthcare in our community."

For more information about the Donate for DaNi campaign and how you can contribute, visit [www.fnqhf.org.au](http://www.fnqhf.org.au).

Photos Page 2 & 3.



Carl and Lisa Schirripa, Lloyd and Leann Everist



Skye Shier, Brigid Lees, Michael Hooper, Glenys Duncombe, Gina Hogan, Sharni Whittaker, Robyn Rankin, Tahlia Markcrow



Mo Rowbottom, Lachlan and Kerry Farquharson



Sarah and James Mort



Ken and Erica Harris, Megan and Malcolm McKay



Inkie Bissell and Johnny Wilson, Nell and Alan Milne



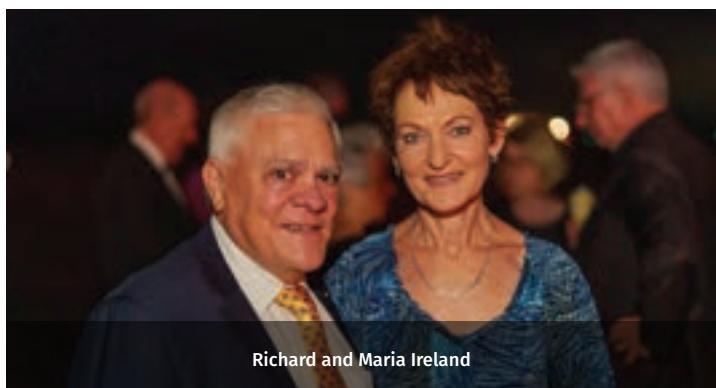
Ray Murphy, John and Regan Piccone, Jacqui Nolan, Troy Jacques



Alan Wallish, Ken Chapman, Chris Boland, Stacey Morris, Karen Chapman



Leon and Paula Richardson



Richard and Maria Ireland



Richard Barker



Peter Craig, Ray Murphy, Sharyon Murphy, Debbie Craig



Alan Ren, Connie Kang, Sharyon Murphy, Kate George



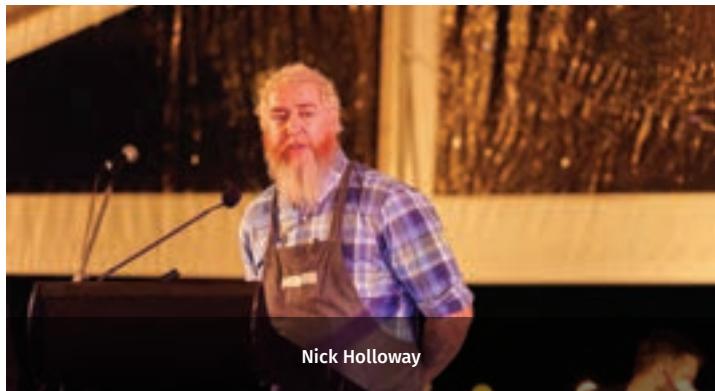
Phillip Mangano and Sharon Dawson



Kelly Wickham and Cam Balderson



Pip Woodward and Trish O'Neill



Nick Holloway



The Marias



Kimberley and Adam Bugeja



Joanne Parisi and Sue Sherrington

# Donate for DaNi

**FAR North Queenslanders have been called on to Donate for DaNi – a DaVinci surgical robot to help improve patient outcomes.**

The Donate for DaNi campaign, initiated by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, aims to bring a \$4.3 million surgical robot to the region.

CEO Gina Hogan said Cairns would be the first public hospital outside south-east Queensland to host the robot, which would be used in some urological, gynaecological and rectal procedures.

"Currently, some of these patients travel outside the region for this care, but we ultimately want as many people as possible to have as much health care as close to home," Mrs Hogan said.

"While this is an ambitious target, we already have \$869,128.91 in the bank for this cause, which was fundraised by Rod and Sue Sherrington over four years at their Trinity Advisory Christmas lunches," she said.

Mr Sherrington was diagnosed with prostate cancer at the age of 46 after being told it was highly unlikely, he did have it.

"I was lucky that my specialist, Dr Stefan Antoniou said it warranted further investigation. My dream is that no one, regardless of their financial situation, should have to travel outside Cairns for the treatment I had," Mr Sherrington said.

Cairns Hospital CEO Leena Singh said the campaign was another stunning example of the community working together with the Foundation and the Health Service, to bring increased services to the region.

"The Foundation has contributed more than \$27 million, in 27 years to improving health outcomes in the region – their impact is just immeasurable, so we're excited to work with them again on this new project," Ms Singh said.

She added that robotic surgery was being progressively adopted by hospitals around the world to improve the patient experience and recovery. It is increasingly becoming a preferred tool of trade for clinicians. "Keeping technologically up to date will attract and retain clinicians to the Far North," she said.

To find out more and donate, visit [www.fnqhf.org.au](http://www.fnqhf.org.au)

To help, contact the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation or visit [www.fnqhf.org.au](http://www.fnqhf.org.au)



**Photo: CHHHS board chair Chris Boland, Foundation CEO Gina Hogan, Rod Sherrington, Sue Sherrington, Foundation chair Dr Ken Chapman, CHHHS CE Leena Singh.**

# More than \$82,000 raised

**More than \$82,000 was raised by generous walkers, donors and raffle ticket buyers through the BDO Arrow Experience on the weekend.**

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation Fundraising and Marketing Manager Glenys Duncombe said participants – ranging in age from three to 75, braved the drizzle on Sunday to contribute to the Donate for DaNi campaign.

"The rain cleared about 7.30am so we had a spectacular day on the hills of Mt Whitfield. We had lots of corporate teams and families, and it was all for our Donate for Dani project," Ms Duncombe said.

"The funds will go toward our \$4.3 million target for robotic surgery at the Cairns Hospital," she said. "This event has brought us one step closer, bringing our total to just under \$2 million. The community understands the life-saving potential of this project, and their support has been unwavering.

"BDO and Coral Expeditions demonstrated their commitment by fielding large teams, showing they are not only sponsors but also active participants in the event. We were delighted to have several corporate teams join in, including CCW Cabinet Works and CityLife."

Fundraising from the BDO Arrow Experience adds to funds already generated from the

Foundation's acclaimed Airport dinner which raised more than \$740,000 as well as funds generated from Trinity Advisory lunches and Nu Nu Restaurant Melbourne Cups.

Ms Duncombe paid tribute to the many sponsors who supported the event, including BDO North Queensland, FGF, Audi Centre Cairns, Avis Cairns, Star 102.7 Cairns and Cairns Regional Council.

As well, she thanked Coral Expeditions for donating a spectacular cruise to Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands, and Status Plus for donating a \$15,000 voucher to be used instore, towards the raffle.



# Birthsuite handover

**STUNNING artwork and a comforting, private space have been provided at Cairns Hospital for families who experience pregnancy loss, thanks to community support.**



**Cairns Hospital Midwifery department staff**  
Pregnancy Loss Coordinator Lyn Graham, ICWP  
Acting Director Mary McGuinness, Foundation  
CEO Gina Hogan and Jo Taylor acting midwifery  
unit manager for Birthsuite and MGP.

The \$200,000 project has been a collaboration between the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, businesses, artists and hospital staff.

Foundation CEO Gina Hogan said funds were raised thanks to the 2023 Alive Pharmacy Warehouse Ride for Isabel, a record \$38,000 raised from Christmas Wrap at Cairns Central, Earlvile Shopping Town and DFO Cairns, another record \$100,000 at Nu Nu Restaurant Melbourne Cup 2023, and \$40,000 from KenFrost Homes.

"Pregnancy loss is more common than we realise, and many of us know someone who has gone through this difficult time. By coming together as a community to contribute, we can make a truly special difference for those affected," Mrs Hogan said.

Funds went towards a room being completely refurbished and repainted in a gentle colour palette with a lot of clinical

equipment removed and replaced with purpose-specific equipment.

The birthing bed has been replaced with a clinically suitable double bed, to allow partners to stay and sleep in comfort with Mum.

A very special artwork has been commissioned which will enhance the entire unit but incorporate an additional and very specific art piece for this room.

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Acting Midwifery/Nursing Director Remya Nair said she was delighted to announce there was now a dedicated space for women who experience pregnancy loss.

"As we all know that these women and their families are going through a tough time and we wanted to give them as much comfort, along with safe care in this difficult time. Providing a safe and comfortable space is a huge thing," Ms Nair said.

"The mural is a statement for our unit – elements represent our community, culture, nature and strong women out there. The artists have done a wonderful job and we are so grateful to have been able to work with them," she said.

KenFrost Homes marketing coordinator Alex Loughton said the company was only too happy to help.

"Helping the Butterfly Suite come to fruition is a great benefit for the whole community. This space will provide warmth and comfort to those facing immense loss," Mr Loughton said.

Nu Nu Restaurant co-owner Mo Rowbottom said it was really important for the team

to give back to the community that has supported them for more than 20 years.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be a part of this, as we can see where all the hard work goes," Mrs Rowbottom said.

Artist Hayley Gillespie said the animals she created for the maternity unit often have patterns hidden on them, relating to their habitats or food sources.

"They have names reflecting their breeding, nesting and traits. These animal families represent the care and responsibility involved in mother, parenting and community – the human experience of being part of the circle of life," Ms Gillespie said.

Fellow artist Melanie Hava said she loved to paint the rainforest.

"As Mother Nature is representative of mothers, new and old – protective and nurturing the new generations of humankind. These places with its peoples and the plants and animals they support are hugely important to everything regarding custom, culture and the survival of our people," Ms Hava said.

And fellow artist Jedess Hudson said Harmony of Beginnings captures the profound connection between nature and new life through the lens of motherhood. "Each element honours the nurturing spirit of women, reflecting their vital role in sustaining our culture and community. This collaborative art project celebrates the beauty and strength of women, intertwined with the vibrant essence of our local environments and wildlife, showcasing the harmony that nurtures new generations," Ms Hudson said.



Rear: Pregnancy Loss Coordinator Lyn Graham, Acting Midwifery/Nursing Director Remya Nair, Foundation CEO Gina Hogan, Inspired Signs' Chloe Curtis. Front: Nu Nu Restaurant co-owner Mo Rowbottom, ICWP Acting Director Mary McGuinness, Kenfrost Homes marketing coordinator Alex Loughton and artist Hayley Gillespie.



ICWP Acting Director Mary McGuinness, acting clinical midwife consultant maternity Dana Souter, Acting Midwife Manager Maternity Martine Shanks, Artist Hayley Gillespie, Foundation CEO Gina Hogan, Inspired Signs' Chloe Curtis, Acting Midwifery/Nursing Director Remya Nair, acting midwifery unit manager for Birthsuite and MGP Jo Taylor, Pregnancy Loss Coordinator Lyn Graham, Kenfrost Homes' Alex Loughton and Nu Nu Restaurant co-owner Mo Rowbottom.

# Hyundai helps premies

**The smallest neonatal babies in Far North Queensland can now have breathing support, thanks to a generous donation by Hyundai Help 4 Kids.**

The donation enabled the purchase of a special glidescope for the tiniest babies at Cairns Hospital's Special Care Nursery, through the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.

Clinical Director of Paediatrics Dr Neil Archer said the \$21,000 equipment was already being regularly used to help support babies breathing.

"It enables us to assist respiratory function and administer a medication to their lungs for premature babies or manage their critical illness," Dr Archer said.

"This involves using a laryngoscope (a handle containing a battery attached to a blade with a light source at the end) to open the jaw, move the tongue and visualise the vocal cords so we can put a tube into the trachea," he said.

"As you can imagine in a newborn baby, not to mention one born prematurely who is less than a kilo, there is not a lot of 'room' when we are doing this. The video laryngoscope offers an ability to see very

clearly what's going on 'down there' as the image is from the tip of the blade and can help in more anatomically challenging intubations or in diagnostic conundrums with airway problems.

"Advances in neonatal care means we must do this a lot less than when I was younger. This is a good thing, however, for those in paediatric training who must develop these skills the opportunity to do so is much less frequent.

"This equipment also allows our registrars to undertake intubations as part of their training with a senior paediatrician who can guide them exactly from the image on screen as opposed to peering over their shoulder into a very small opening and challenging target," Dr Archer said.

Hyundai and the Northern Region Dealer Network (Trinity Hyundai representing the dealer network) have jointly donated funds enabling the purchase of critical equipment at the Cairns Hospital to help with improving Children's Health in FNQ.

"This has been enabled through the CSR Initiative "Hyundai Help 4 Kids (HH4K)" which is a program where every sale of a new Hyundai contributes to a fund used to improve the lives of Aussie kids in need," Hyundai Motor Company Australia Regional General Manager Michael Torrisi said.

Foundation CEO Gina Hogan said the donation was yet another example of the local community stepping up to help others in need.

"We have a very philanthropic community and this donation from Hyundai Help 4 Kids is a great example of businesses going out of their way to help others who might be suffering with a difficult health journey," Mrs Hogan said.

To help, contact the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation or visit [www.fnqhf.org.au](http://www.fnqhf.org.au)



Trinity Hyundai Area AfterSales Manager Mandy Bunby, General Sales Manager Colin Milton, Cairns Hospital Clinical Director of Paediatrics Dr Neil Archer, Trinity Hyundai Deal Principal Richard Jaska, Foundation CEO Gina Hogan and Area Sales Manager Jeremy Richards.

# friends of the foundation

## Supporting our community



Front row L-R: Cooktown Hospital staff Fiona Gibson, David Chung, Friends president Daphne Fenton  
Back Row L-R: Paula Archer and Irvin Siddayao.

## Cooktown

**POST office box keyholders are among donors helping buy medical equipment for Cooktown Hospital.**

Two patient monitoring devices have been bought thanks to several fundraising initiatives by the hard-working volunteers. Cooktown Hospital Friends of the Foundation president Daphne Fenton said when people forget their post office key, they give a gold coin donation – which goes towards the pot of funds raised throughout the community.

"Our biggest fundraiser is our biannual fete, which is well supported by residents and surrounding communities. Our business houses are extremely generous with their support, which allows us to run a successful event," Ms Fenton said.

Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service Community Health Nurse Unit Manager Narelle Stokes thanked the community for its generous support.

The two i-stat devices, worth a combined \$20,000 allow the local renal unit and community health to undertake point-of-care testing, without having to borrow iSTATS from the acute hospital.

## Innisfail

**INNISFAIL cancer patients will be more comfortable thanks to the hard work of a dedicated group of local volunteers.**

A \$7186 blanket warmer bought for the Innisfail Hospital oncology unit is already making life a little warmer for chemotherapy patients, courtesy of the Innisfail Hospital Friends of the Foundation.

Hospital staff received the blanket warmer and videoconferencing equipment, valued

at \$25,000, with heartfelt appreciation.

Innisfail Hospital Director of Medical Services Dr Thomas Coombs said the equipment would be used by clinicians and patients around the region when making difficult decisions about patient retrieval or end of life care.

"The new system will enhance our disaster coordination capability. It will facilitate planning and sit rep meetings with a clearer line of communication between the hospital Incident Management Team, Local and District Disaster Management Groups, community emergency response teams, and the Health Emergency Operations

Centre in Cairns," he said.

Up to 17 patients a day use the Innisfail chemotherapy unit and while sitting having infusions, patients often get cold.



Emma Phillips (RN), Julie Kruckow (Team Leader Oncology), Friends representative Maria Vasicek, Johanne Stitt, Kerry Mann, Romy Clark (Nurse Unit Manager)

## Atherton

**A NEW piece of equipment bought through a generous business's support will be used daily to support patient care at Malanda.**

The donation of a vital signs monitor came about through a donation from John Cole Toyota to the Atherton Hospital Friends of the Foundation for the Malanda Primary Health Clinic.

Clinical Nurse Consultant Rachel Bernays

said the new vital signs monitor made work easier and faster for clinical staff and was more efficient than methods previously used.

"The machine is reliable and versatile as it is mobile and has battery backup," Ms Bernays said. Malanda PHC is a very busy clinic, servicing a population of 8000 residents and is a teaching practice, catering for nursing and medical students all year round.

John Cole Toyota has now donated a combined total of more than \$15,000

to Atherton and Innisfail Friends of the Hospital Foundation.

"This donation reflects our commitment to the communities we have been part of for nearly four decades," John Cole said.



Foundation volunteer program coordinator Skye Shier, John Cole, Adam Cole, Atherton Friends president Mary Fitzsimons and Malanda Primary Health Clinic Clinical Nurse Consultant Rachel Bernays, with the vital signs monitor.



# The Great Wheelbarrow Race 2024

**The Great Wheelbarrow Race 2024 has resulted in purchases for the Mareeba Hospital.**

Funds raised by these dedicated teams have resulted in buying two rooming-in cots for the Mareeba Hospital maternity unit through the Mareeba Hospital Friends of the Foundation, a subsidiary of the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.

Mareeba Hospital Nursing and Midwifery Unit Manager Danielle Cahill said the rooming-in cots had made a huge difference to the Mareeba maternity unit.

"Now our mothers, especially those who have Caesarean sections, can have their babies in a safe sleeping space beside them," Ms Cahill said.

"These cots are becoming increasingly popular and are being used weekly. We are very grateful to the Mareeba Friends of the Foundation and Dad's Army for this wonderful donation."

The total cost of the cots was \$5126, and their acquisition has significantly improved the comfort and convenience for new mothers at the hospital.

Mareeba Hospital Friends of the Foundation president Tom Braes said they were extremely proud of Wheelbarrow Race teams who fundraised for the local hospital.

"From the very young to the not-so-young, they have done themselves proud by competing in and completing this grueling event. The funds received from these teams will be put to good use at the hospital with the purchase of equipment that supplements the delivery of medical services and enhances the patient experience," Mr Braes said.

Not only did the Tune Squad complete this year's Great Wheelbarrow Race by setting a new men's category record of 6 hours, 22 minutes, and 28 seconds, they raised \$3000.



St Stephen's Catholic College Saints also made a significant impact, not only by securing first place in the schools' category with a time of 7 hours, 27 minutes, and 10 seconds but also by raising more than \$8000 through various fundraisers. Their efforts, which included sausage sizzles, raffles, and a trivia night, surpassed their previous year's total by \$5000. The team, composed mainly of Grade 11 students, found great fulfilment in seeing their fundraising efforts directly benefit the local health facilities.



In the Over 55's category, Dad's Army continued their winning streak with a time of 15 hours, 8 minutes, and 1 second. Since their inception in 2013, they have remained undefeated in their category.

Despite the challenges of keeping a full team of fit participants, their camaraderie and banter have made the event enjoyable year after year. This year, they raised \$4000, contributing to the purchase of the new rooming-in cots.



Dad's Army spokesman Graham Morrows said there was a great sense of camaraderie during the three days of the event.

"We run in the "Over 55's" category and have won that category every year we entered. Probably because no one else is silly enough to put a team together to run against us."

"Our oldest runner was 86 this year and he is one of the originals still in the team. The youngest was 57 this year. We are a mix of all three military services, so there is always banter between them."

"The Mareeba Hospital is a very important institution for the town with its treatment of the sick and injured and assistance with all the hatches and dispatches. There is always some sort of equipment they need to help with their very vital work, so we are happy to help provide some of the funding for that equipment."

# Recycle for health

**SAVING lives while helping save the environment is the goal of a groundbreaking partnership between the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, Containers for Change and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.**

Through this collaboration, Containers for Change bins have been strategically placed throughout both the back and front of house at Cairns Hospital, enabling patients, visitors, and staff to conveniently donate their empty drink containers.

Funds generated through the 10-cent refund for each container will be donated to the Foundation, furthering their impactful initiatives to support the health and well-being of the Far North community.

Foundation CEO Gina Hogan said she and the team were thrilled to be involved.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility within our community," Mrs Hogan said.

"Every container recycled not only helps reduce waste but also generates funds that support vital health care services in Far North Queensland. And seeing as

Cairns Hospital is situated right on the beautiful Cairns Esplanade, we're all very environmentally conscious as it is," she said.

"We're not sure where it will end up in terms of how much it raises, but there are bins at 34 wards around the hospital as well as dCafe and SeaBreeze Café at Cairns Hospital, so we're hopeful of some great outcomes."

Natalie Roach, chief executive officer of Container Exchange, which runs Containers for Change in Queensland, emphasised the significant benefits of charity partnerships.

"We believe in the power of collaboration with charities and community groups to harness the benefits of Containers for Change as part of their fundraising endeavours," Ms Roach said.

"More than \$13 million in 10-cent refunds has been returned to charities and community groups since Containers for Change began and we are delighted to see the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation now also ready to reap the rewards.

"The partnership between Containers for Change, Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service signifies our

organisations' collective commitment to the environment and community wellbeing.

"By integrating Containers for Change donation bins throughout the Cairns Hospital campus, we're pleased to help promote sustainability, while supporting vital healthcare services in Far North Queensland."

Ms Roach said Containers for Change had kept more than 8.3 billion drink containers from ending up as litter or landfill since its inception in 2018.

For further info on Containers for Change in Queensland, visit [www.containersforchange.com.au/qld](http://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld).



Container for Change CEO Natalie Roach, Foundation volunteers Rod Wallace and Mark Ang and Foundation CEO Gina Hogan "cheers" to Containers for Change.

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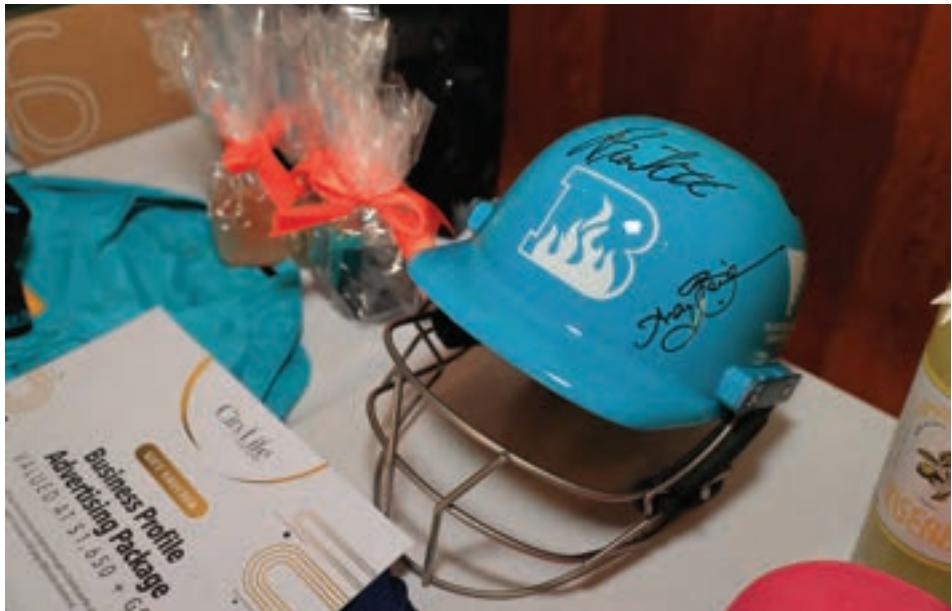
or pop into our Regional Hub 2/130 Abbott Street, Cairns  
[info@pinnaclesupport.com.au](mailto:info@pinnaclesupport.com.au)

# Annie's Army

In 2017, following the passing of their beloved mum, brothers Nick and Peter Lyngcoln formed Annie's Army—a dedicated team of local community members with a purpose to raise essential funds for the Cairns Cardiac Unit.

Through various events and challenges, they strive to support the vital work of this unit, ensuring it can continue to save lives and provide top-notch cardiac care.

This year's Annie's Army Long Lunch at Piccolo Cucina on July 27 raised more than \$13,000 for the team's fundraising in this year's QSuper Cardiac Challenge.



# David's hearty gift

PATIENTS recovering from heart issues now have access to a new exercise treadmill, thanks to a fellow patient.

David Ireland said he underwent a cardiac rehabilitation program after suffering his own heart attack and saw the need for a new treadmill.

"The team of volunteers and staff at the cardiac rehabilitation program do a great job and I was pleased to be able to help out with this donation," Mr Ireland said.

He donated funds for the treadmill to the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, which arranged the purchase of the machine.

Cairns Hospital Heart Health Team Senior Physiotherapist Kelli Layton said the treadmill was used at every cardiac rehab and pulmonary rehab session by all participants who attend either of those programs at Cairns North Community Health Centre.

"It allows them to work on building their cardiovascular fitness in a safe and monitored environment with health care professionals on hand to offer guidance and support as they recover and improve," Mrs Layton said.



Kelli Layton, David Ireland and Megan Warncke.

"Cardiac rehab provides care to people who have had heart attacks, stents, SCAD and any type of open-heart surgery. Its main aim is to help restore people's physical, psychological and social wellbeing after a cardiac event and address any risk factors so they can get back to life. Pulmonary rehab provides a similar support program for people living with respiratory conditions such as COPD and ILD. The programs provide physical reconditioning in the form of exercise alongside education to help people learn about their health conditions and how to optimally manage them going forward," Mrs Layton said.

The treadmill also may be used by community health physiotherapists when providing care to patients attending the centre after a hospital stay –this might be following a stroke or orthopedic surgery.

"This new piece of equipment has been an essential and much welcomed addition to our service allowing us to optimise all participants care."

Foundation Fundraising and Marketing Manager Glenys Duncombe said the Irelands had always been a very community-spirited family.

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[www.cardiacchallenge.com.au](http://www.cardiacchallenge.com.au)



# Winners celebrate prize

**MORE than \$60,000 in raffle prizes have been handed out to lucky Far North Queenslanders who supported improving health services in the region.**

Tickets in the prizes in the BDO Arrow Experience raffle and walk of the arrows of Mt Whitfield went towards the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Donate for DaNi campaign – a visionary campaign to raise \$4.3 million for a surgical robot (aka DaNi).

Coral Expeditions Spice Islands cruise winner Marg Endres said she had never won anything anywhere near a \$42,000 cruise.

"I've won a few jackpots on the pokies, but nothing like this," Mrs Endres said.

"I'm a sucker for raffle tickets. We visit the hospital a few times a week and I think I bought three tickets, but I never expected to win," she said.

Francis O'Shea won a \$15,000 package from Status Plus – again, never expecting to win.

"I buy tickets from my friend (volunteer) Pauline Bent all the time – we play bowls together and I always ask her what tickets

she has for sale this time. I never thought I'd win anything, so this is a complete surprise," Ms O'Shea said.

Foundation Fundraising and Marketing Manager Glenys Duncombe said all tickets in the raffle went towards the BDO Arrow Experience total of more than \$82,000.

"We always have a great response to our raffles – this was our largest prize pool to date and we had huge support with many people buying \$500 bundles of tickets," Mrs Duncombe said.

Coral Expeditions Commercial Director Jeff Gillies said the Foundation was an organisation the business admired and felt motivated to support.

"Each year, they put in an incredible amount of work to raise money for initiatives that benefit our community's health and well-being," Mr Gillies said.

"2024 marks our third year as the major prize sponsor, and we're thrilled to offer an enriching voyage to Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands. Knowing it brings joy to the winners and supports fundraising for a worthy cause makes it even more special. We are proud of the fundraising

contributions made and have again enjoyed our partnership this year. The Coral Expeditions team is already looking forward to next year's activities and how we can provide greater support and value," he said.

Status Plus director Ash Balderson said he was grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of something special. "The dynamic team at the Foundation is truly dedicated and extremely passionate - we are blessed to have them in our community. Status Plus is a local business and here for our whole community," Mr Balderson said.

The third prize of \$5000 worth of fuel was won by FB with ticket number W1983.

To find out more about the event visit [www.arrowexperience.org.au](http://www.arrowexperience.org.au)



John and Marg Endres with Coral Expeditions Commercial Director Jeff Gillies.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE BACK TO OTHERS IN NEED?

**Become a volunteer at the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation! Make an impact in health care and be part of a compassionate community.**



**Email: [volunteer@fnqhf.org.au](mailto:volunteer@fnqhf.org.au) or call 42268993**

**VOLUNTEER**

far north queensland  
**hospital**  
foundation

# Vollie Q&A

**Name:** Lee Oastler

**Age:** 78

**Have you always lived in FNQ?** If not, where did you come from and how long have you been here: I moved here from the Northern Territory in 1978.

**Volunteer role:** A bit of everything.

**When did you start volunteering with us?** 2012

**How did you come to start volunteering with us?** I was a patient and looked after so well, that I wanted to give back.

**Star Sign** Virgo

**Interest, hobbies, past-times:** family, gardening, crocheting, train travelling

**Tell us about your family – kids, grandkids, great grandkids?** Three kids, 18 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**What do you do with yourself when you are not helping us?** Socialise with friends and family, travel.

**What do you enjoy about volunteering with us?** Helping others and meeting people, such as in fundraising.

**Do you have any funny tales about volunteering with us?** Too many to tell!

**Favourite volunteering memory:** I love attending golf days

**What's the most rewarding part of volunteering?** fundraising

**If you could describe your volunteering experience in three words, what would they be?** Helping people.

**How has volunteering impacted your life?** It stops me roaming the streets and getting into mischief.

**What advice would you give to someone thinking about volunteering?** It's a great thing to do – giving back. It's very rewarding.

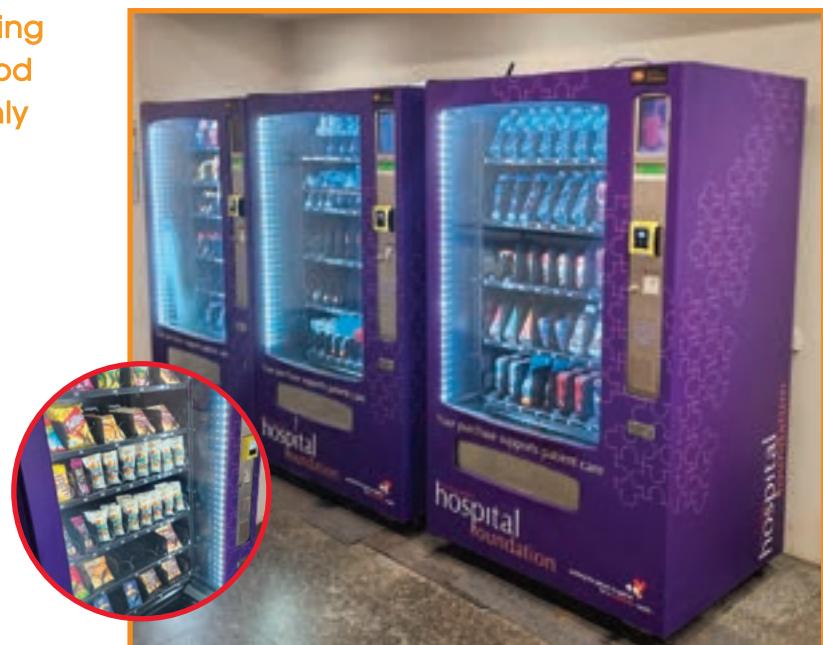


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# Cafe Chat



**Name:** Stuart Arber

**Position:** Sous Chef

**Background:** Grew up on the Central Coast NSW. Classical French training specialising in seafood cooking. Moving to Cairns after travelling around Australia for 18 months

**When and why did you join the Foundation's café team:** June 2023. My wife saw the position on Facebook and it ticked all the boxes.

**Star sign:** Capricorn

**Interests:** Cooking (obviously), surfing but not much of that around here and fishing

**What do you enjoy about your role with the Foundation:** Being a part of something that has evolved so much and being involved with future developments is really giving me a sense of purpose.

**Favourite item on the menu:** The Paninis are pretty awesome especially the Cuban. House made Porchetta, ham, Swiss cheese and gherkins. Yum

**A memorable moment working at the café:** Doing the Christmas catering with Chef

Michael. It blew me away what we were able to create with our limited facilities

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why:** To be able to fly. As a child I always dreamed I could and would jump out of trees and off rooftops and am mesmerised when I see birds soaring high above

**How do you unwind after a busy day at work:** Love taking my dog Murphy for a walk

Favourite place in Far North Queensland: Love to wander around local produce markets. FNQ has some of the best and unique produce in the country.

**What's a fun fact about the café that most people don't know:** Pretty convinced that the cafe has a resident ghost who likes to turn the water off and play with the utensils

**Favourite quote or motto:** Work smarter not harder

**How does working at the café align with your personal values:** Again working with a sense of purpose is a wonderful thing.

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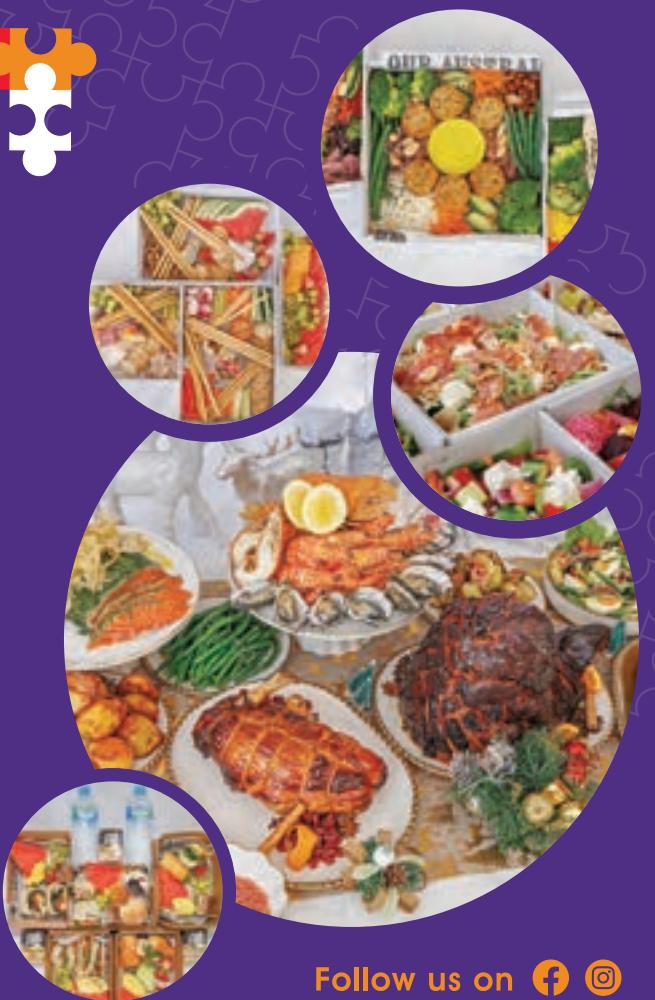


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