

far north queensland hospital foundation

WINTER 2025



DaNi unites diners

A SPECTACULAR fundraising event raised more than \$896,225 - bringing Cairns Hospital within striking distance of securing Far North Queensland's first surgical robot.

With less than \$1 million left to raise, the hospital is set to become the first public facility outside south-east Queensland to house this cutting-edge technology.

The night was a resounding success bringing the total funds raised for the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Donate for DaNi campaign to an incredible \$3,549,151—less than \$1 million away from the campaign's goal of \$4.3 million, just over a year since its launch in May 2024.

Guests were treated to a unique and memorable experience, surrounded by historic military exhibits and a special highlight of the night: a display surgical robot that captivated attendees with its interactive features and ability to make a significant difference to patient outcomes.

The event featured an exquisite tasting menu crafted by acclaimed Nu Nu Restaurant, and a dazzling performance by predominantly local medicos - The Marias.

This state-of-the-art surgical robot 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.

Foundation CEO Gina Hogan particularly paid tribute to Kenfrost Homes, which donated a staggering \$500,000, the Maritime Union of Australia donated \$100,000 and the Chapman Foundation which donated \$50,000.

The stunning amount raised adds to funds already raised through previous events by Trinity Advisory and Nu Nu Restaurant, previous donor dinners, numerous other events and donations from generous supporters.

"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 health care in our community."

A special thanks went to Rod and Sue Sherrington whose early contributions helped launch the Donate for DaNi campaign and set the tone for its ongoing success through their annual fundraising Christmas lunches

"We are overwhelmed by the support and generosity shown," Mrs Hogan said.

"Every dollar raised brings us closer to our goal and closer to making a lasting difference."

The evening brought together an extraordinary group of philanthropic leaders, visionaries, and community champions - each united by a shared commitment to transforming health care for Far North Queensland.

For more information about the Donate for DaNi campaign and how you can contribute, visit www.fnqhf.org.au.



Thank you Kenfrost Homes

We are beyond grateful to Kenfrost Homes for their incredible generosity at our recent dinner held at the The Australian Armour and Artillery Museum.

Their \$500,000 donation helped us raise more than \$839,000 (and counting) for our Donate for DaNi project - a visionary surgical robot for our region that will represent a major leap forward in regional health equity.

This recent donation adds to \$450,000 donated by the business at last year's Airport Dinner.

Kenfrost Homes Marketing Coordinator Alex Loughton said they were excited to sponsor and see the progress made towards the Dani project which brings

the absolute best in robotic surgical equipment to the public hospital system in Cairns and with it the best surgeons who train on this equipment also.

"This will assist our community in a big way across all demographics who will have access to receive the best treatment and we could not be prouder to be a part of the initiative and hope other businesses can jump on board to reach the final targets," Mr Loughton said.

The Foundation is now at 83% of the \$4.3 million needed to bring this specialised service to FNQ.

Thank you, Kenfrost Homes, for building more than homes — you're helping build a healthier future.



To find out more about the incredible surgical robot campaign, visit www.fnqhf.org.au



Grants propel FNQ innovation

Far North Queensland has been positioned at the forefront of medical innovation, thanks in part to more than \$280,000 invested in research grants by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.

Grants range in value from \$5000 to \$49,000, with a rigorous peer review process involved in deciding the successful applicants.

Foundation Research and Education Committee chair Prof John McBride said research areas span from basic research in drug discovery through to clinically focussed studies for diabetes and improved management of patients undergoing procedures

“We have a very wide range of projects from a total of 25 researchers – including those new to research through to those who are highly experienced,” Prof McBride said.

“Our aim with these grants is that they are used as ‘seed funding’ that puts researchers

in a better position to apply for larger grants from national funding bodies,” he said.

Cairns Hospital paediatrician Dr Marnie Fraser’s grant of \$49,000 will be used to recruit a dedicated Indigenous health worker to support developmental assessments for First Nations children referred to the child development service.

“The health worker will undertake intake yarning sessions with parents and families of children referred in order to support a shared understanding of the role of developmental services and clarify the question families have of the service,” Dr Fraser said.

To support continuity of care, the health worker will help build a shared understanding of developmental assessment findings and assist with transitioning to community-based supports at discharge. As part of the research, the health worker will be trained in developmental screening tools. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis will guide future models of care that ensure culturally

safe, equitable, family centred care in the child development space for First Nations children and contribute to the limited literature.

Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Guangzu Zhao’s \$49,000 grant will be used to develop a novel peptide-based nanovaccine to enhance the effectiveness of Bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccination against tuberculosis (TB), particularly in drug-resistant strains. This next-generation TB booster vaccine is designed to be stable without specialised storage, free of a boosting agent, and offers strong potential to improve frontline TB prevention efforts in Far North Queensland and beyond.

Since 2007, the Foundation has committed \$2 million to increase research capacity within the Far North.

The Foundation’s grants focus on local research, by local researchers, focusing on issues of particular concern in the Far North Queensland region.



Expo empowers community

The 2025 KidsLife Expo has officially set a new benchmark for family fun in Far North Queensland, drawing more than 1700 attendees to the Fred Moule Pavilion for a vibrant celebration of community, childhood, and care.

This year's event marked several exciting firsts: a makeover of the Cairns Pregnancy & Baby Expo, a new "Thrive Through the Ages" Speakers Day, a jam-packed big family fun day featuring princess visits, wildlife shows, drumming circles, book launches, dancing, markets, and more.

Beyond the entertainment, the Expo raised almost \$15,000 for the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation Special Care Nursery, supporting local babies and their families. Organisers extended their heartfelt thanks to the community and to Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, which donated a premium corporate box prize for the Cowboys v Storm game, valued at more than \$4000.



Legacy investment backs DaNi

A visionary investment made more than 30 years ago by the Cairns branch of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) has blossomed into a generous \$100,000 donation to the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Donate for DaNi campaign.

In 1991, when the Commonwealth Bank of Australia was floated on the Australian Stock Exchange, the Cairns MUA branch bought a parcel of shares as part of a long-term investment strategy.

Over the years, those shares steadily appreciated in value, culminating in a six-figure windfall that the branch has now proudly redirected to support critical care services in the region.

"This donation is more than just a financial contribution - it's a legacy of solidarity and foresight," Cairns MUA branch spokesman Bernie Gallen said.

"We're proud that an investment made in the spirit of collective strength can now help save lives and support families through the Donate for DaNi campaign. This is three generations of FNQ union-orientated merchant seafarers have kept the legacy of 'United we bargain, divided we beg'."

Representatives from the union were thrilled today to be invited to see first-hand an example of a type of surgical robot that may be purchased.

The Donate for DaNi campaign, a commitment by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, aims to raise funds for advanced surgical technology at Cairns Hospital.

Foundation chairman Dr Ken Chapman said the gift was a testament to the power of community and long-term thinking.

"It will have a lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of so many people in our community - not just the patients," Dr Chapman said.

The donation not only honours the union's enduring commitment to the Cairns community but also highlights the profound impact of strategic financial stewardship in supporting future generations.

It adds to funds already raised through previous fundraising events by as well as numerous other donations from generous supporters.

"Every dollar raised brings us closer to our goal and closer to making a lasting difference."

For more information about the Donate for DaNi campaign and how you can contribute, visit www.fnqhf.org.au.



Teams fund wound care



The Mareeba Hospital Friends of the Foundation has celebrated a significant fundraising milestone, presenting Certificates of Appreciation to eight Great Wheelbarrow Race (GWR) teams which collectively raised almost \$20,000 for specialist hospital equipment and services.

In a special ceremony attended by Mareeba Shire Council Mayor Angela Toppin, GWR Organising Committee and hospital staff, the Foundation acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of eight community teams who not only participated in the challenging three-day race but also dedicated themselves to fundraising for local health care improvements.

This is believed to be the largest number of teams to fundraise for Mareeba Friends, and the largest amount raised for the organisation, a subsidiary of the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.

"We are in awe that these teams can train and organise for the event, race over three days, and still have the commitment to fundraise for

the hospital," Mareeba Friends president Tom Braes said.

"These funds will be used towards equipment for a new Wound Care Service at the hospital – our number one priority for 2025. Their fundraising has made this vital service a reality," Mr Braes said.

He also paid tribute to the Great Wheelbarrow Race volunteer committee and council for organising the event which delivers many community benefits, including the opportunity for teams to fundraise for their local hospital as well as other charities.

More than \$38,000 was raised for neurology by a Cairns-based team, called the Down Under Movers and Shakers.

Weipa Friends shine bright

The Weipa Fishing Classic was a standout success. Volunteers from the FOF team demonstrated exceptional commitment, often staying beyond their scheduled shifts to cover for last-minute changes, no-shows, or hospital call-ins. Their presence was so well received that even security staff praised the team's management of the ticket sales area.

The energy and community spirit on display reflected the values of the hospital staff, with new volunteers bringing fresh enthusiasm. This momentum is expected to drive even greater engagement in future events.

Special mention goes to Jolene Bray for maintaining FOF's visibility during quieter periods, and to Mitre 10 for donating an esky that became a favourite among volunteers for snack storage.

More than \$5000 was raised for the Weipa Hospital Friends of the Foundation through this event.



Peter Bray of Mitre 10 and Weipa Friends of the Foundation representative Debbie Bartle.

BLACK & GOLD GALA BALL

A THANK YOU TO THE ATHERTON TABLELAND HEALTH WORKERS

SCAN ME →



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Raising money for the
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friends of the foundation

Supporting our community

Innisfail

Cancer patients, those at risk of falls, needing rehabilitation after cardiac issues, pregnant women, children and bariatric patients will all benefit from the tireless fundraising work of the Innisfail Hospital Friends of the Foundation.

Almost \$26,000 worth of equipment ranging in price from \$1320 to \$9309 has been handed over to Innisfail Hospital, because of the volunteer group's generosity.

Emergency Department Nurse Unit Manager Meg Ridley said a vital signs monitor would be used by chemotherapy unit nurses before, during and after treatment and medication administration. It allows for monitoring of blood pressure, oxygen saturation levels, heart rate and temperature.

This piece of equipment was donated by Mission Beach Aqua Cardio Fit, after being inspired by local patient Lisa Laird who sadly passed away.

Innisfail Hospital physiotherapist Elliot Keenan said a rehab step was an invaluable assessment tool to assist with those being discharged to make sure they would be safe on steps with mobility devices.

A weights machine also has been bought to

help rehabilitate local outpatients recovering from cardiac, pulmonary or other chronic health conditions.

Senior physiotherapist Kyle Rowsell said the purchase reflected international evidence that those recovering from those health issues gained significant benefit from weight-based training and rehabilitation.

An internal transducer bought for the obstetrics department gives clinicians a much clearer picture when identifying issues in women in early stages of pregnancy.

"This transducer provides clinicians with a more comprehensive view, enabling them to assess whether the mother and baby are at risk and require intervention," Clinical Midwife Kaye Clarke said.

Cassowary Area Community Health Clinical Nurse Kerri Tyler said a haemocue tests blood levels for conditions such as anaemia and infections at the point of care, which is beneficial for the Jumbun Clinic so clients don't have to travel to Tully for testing to be undertaken.

Ward 2 Nurse Unit Manager Kim Humphry said regular wheelchairs were not appropriate for their bariatric patients, due to weight restrictions. The bariatric wheelchair can hold up to 345kg, allowing nursing staff to respectfully and efficiently mobilise larger patients. "Bariatric wheelchairs are required

for patients who weigh more than 125kg and with a seat width greater than 50cm. This wheelchair has given our bariatric patients independence and autonomy while ensuring their safety."

Innisfail Hospital Friends of the Foundation president Estelle Kopp paid tribute to the incredible community that continues to support their local hospital.

"We really couldn't do what we do without the cent sales, golf days, sponsor support and donations that we receive. We work closely with the hospital staff who tells us what they need and it's our honour to help uplift local services for our local community," Mrs Kopp said.

As a subsidiary of the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, Innisfail Hospital Friends of the Foundation has earned praise from Foundation CEO Gina Hogan, who commended the group's unwavering commitment to supporting local health care through their fundraising efforts.



Vollie Q&A

Name: Karen Capri

Age: 65

Have you always lived in FNQ? If not, where did you come from and how long have you been here: I came from Brisbane and have been in Cairns about 30 years

What is Your Volunteer role: craft lady

When did you start volunteering with us? eight-and-a-half years

How did you come to start volunteering with us: Through my Mum. She asked if I could crochet fridge towel tops and the rest is history.

Star sign: Sagittarius

Interest, hobbies, past-times: crochet/reading

Tell us about your family – kids, grandkids, great grandkids? 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, three beautiful great-grandchildren

What do you do with yourself when you are not helping us? Crochet, some reading and visiting friends

What do you enjoy about volunteering with us? Helping and meeting new people

What's the most rewarding part of volunteering: meeting new friends and camaraderie amongst other volunteers

If you could describe your volunteering experience in three words, what would they be: amazing, enjoyable, friendly

How has volunteering impacted your life: It gives me something to look forward to each week.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about volunteering: Just do it. You will have a great time and your presence would be greatly appreciated and is very rewarding.



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 or call 42268993

VOLUNTEER

far north queensland
hospital
foundation

Cafe Chat

Name: Terrance Davis

Which café do you work at? Sea Breeze Cafe

Have you always lived in FNQ? If not, where did you come from and how long have you been here? Yes, I have lived in Cairns all my life born and bred, and I still complain about the humidity.

What date did you start with the Foundation: Can't remember the dates, 2yrs within the Foundation and work at Sea Breeze Cafe.

Star sign: Taurus the bull

Interest, hobbies, past times: Going to country markets, entertaining, and gardening.

Tell us about your family? I'm the second eldest out of six {and yes, we are all a year apart} I'm guessing not much to watch on tv back in the days.

What do you do with yourself when you are not working with us? If I'm not working, fishing, gardening, walking my two boys Boston and Skipa (Dogs)

What do you enjoy most about working with us? The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organisation. Their goal is to improve the quality and accessibility of health care in our region for everyone. In other words, we want all Far North Queenslanders – from mums and bubs to veterans and everybody in between – to enjoy a full range of quality health care.



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Our Support Workers are chosen by you! and are ready to assist you with your individual needs.

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- Basic Computer Skills
- Domestic Assistance
- Assisting to attend appointments
- Provide companionship and conversation
- Personal Care



We love to learn new things too, do you have a favourite activity? just let our team know

Your Choice matters

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We are passionate about
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At Pinnacle we support our clients in achieving their goals to maintain their continued independence. We are passionate about the needs of our clients and focused on connecting them with the correct supports in their community

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Contact us for a chat

1800 228 228

or pop into our Regional Hub 2/130 Abbott Street, Cairns
info@pinnaclesupport.com.au

Edmonton Lions donate

Where on earth would our community be without our beautiful services clubs!

We caught up with Peter Taifalos and Barry Donnelly from the Lions Club of Edmonton recently, who were excited to learn more about our Donate for DaNi campaign.

For the second year running, the club has donated to this special project - this time we received \$5000.

These funds are generated through their regular fundraising activities - meat tray raffles, volunteering at events and of course manning their well-known food van.

Did you know we're now more than 83% of the way to our \$4.3 million target for this campaign?

Find out more at www.fnqhf.org.au



Lions Club of Edmonton representatives Peter Taifalos and Barry Donnelly with Foundation CEO Gina Hogan.

Cooktown

Cairns

SEPTMBER 20-22, 2025

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www.cardiacchallenge.com.au

Super Cardiac Challenge
CYCLING CAIRNS TO COOKTOWN

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far north queensland
hospital foundation

BDO Arrow Experience

In May, we proudly hosted the BDO Arrow Experience, bringing together an incredible community of philanthropists, supporters, sponsors, volunteers, and donors to take on two or four of the Arrows of Mt Whitfield.

For the first time, we partnered with the Great Barrier Reef Masters Games, and the result was nothing short of spectacular – more than 110 walkers and runners joined the challenge!



A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible: our tireless volunteers, BDO North Queensland, Cairns Regional Council, Coral Expeditions, Jaecoo Cairns, FGF, Star 102.7 Cairns, Nikki The Clown – Children's Entertainer & Facepainter, Coffee Your Way, Mr Dairy Whipp and Rotary Club of Cairns Sunrise.

Most importantly, thanks to our participants and their generous donors - you're helping deliver better health outcomes across our region.

The event supports the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Donate for DaNi campaign, with almost \$30,000 raised so far.

Fundraising continues - tickets are still available for the Coral Expeditions Tasmanian Cruise raffle, open until August 28.

Learn more, buy raffle tickets, or make a donation at www.arrowexperience.org.au.

Dan's inspiring legacy

DAN Mosbauer was renowned for many things, but two were particular highlights to his nephew Tommy - playing Uno and Secret Santa.

When Dan was diagnosed with cancer, one of his tight-knit family's hobbies was playing Uno while he underwent chemotherapy at the Liz Plummer Cancer Care Centre – wife Andi would fetch him a coffee from Dcafé.

But Dan's cancer could not be cured and a few months after he passed in August 2024, Tommy asked his mum Carly – a Cairns Hospital paediatric nurse – what are we going to do about a Secret Santa present for Uncle Dan?

The two put their heads together and came up with a great idea which bore fruit this week.

They sold "silly socks" to Carly's colleagues in the Paediatric Ward staff room, raising enough money to buy 50 packs of Uno cards and coffee vouchers.

The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation pitched in with more coffee vouchers, and this week young Tommy, aged 7, presented the packs to some patients currently undergoing treatment.

The Trinity Beach State School Year 2 student was greeted with "Thanks mate" and hand-shakes all round.



Tommy pictured with Foundation CEO Gina Hogan.

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HOW TO CONTACT OR SUPPORT US

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