

far north queensland hospital foundation

AUTUMN 2021



BreastScreen Cairns Chief Radiographer Deborah Halliwell, Foundation CEO Tony Williamson and MacDonnells Law partner and Arrow participant Joanne Parisi

Raise a sweat

WOMEN in the Far North will halve the time needed for special breast cancer tests, thanks to hundreds of people walking the Arrows of Mt Whitfield.

The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation will host the MacDonnells Law Arrow Experience on June 20, with funds raised going to buy a new piece of equipment for BreastScreen Queensland (BSQ) Cairns Service.

Foundation CEO Tony Williamson said he was delighted to see the event off the ground again this year, after a challenging year for the whole community.

"The device we're fundraising for is an \$80,000 piece of equipment that will help cut the time women need to visit BreastScreen Queensland for special tests," Mr Williamson said.

"We have some awesome new sponsors this year in MacDonnells Law, who have been part of our community for 130 years, and Exotica Athletica, who have provided some great fundraising incentives," he said. BSQ Cairns Chief Radiographer

Deborah Halliwell said she and the team were excited about working with the Foundation to bring a second device fitted with special technology to Cairns.

"We have been using special 3-D digital technology called tomosynthesis to create a more accurate view of breast tissue for those women who need to come back for more diagnostic tests," Ms Halliwell said.

"We already have one device fitted with the technology, but having a second one means that when we ask women to come back in for further tests, it will significantly reduce the time spent at the clinic," she said.

"It's a worrying and stressful time when you're asked back for more tests, so by helping cut the wait time on the day of testing we're helping to alleviate some of that stress." She added that the team was looking forward to supporting the event as part of their support of women in FNQ to be screened for breast cancer. MacDonnells Law partner and Foundation board member Joanne Parisi said the event was one that resonated with her and her fellow directors.

"This event provides a unique opportunity to bring people in the community together in an idyllic outdoor location and to highlight the important role exercise plays in the wellbeing of the community whilst raising funds to support those persons who are anxiously awaiting results about whether they have breast cancer."

"Our firm has been part of this Cairns community for more than 130 years. Throughout 2020 we were humbled to be part of a community that gave generously of their time and money. They continued to support those local businesses around them and provided overwhelming support to the Foundation in their Covid appeal during a time when no doubt they were having many sleepless nights worrying about their own family, friends, colleagues and businesses."

"I would urge you all to consider participating or donating. MacDonnells Law will be putting in a couple of teams and we will be actively challenging the wider business community to participate in the event and to assist in raising funds for this very worthy cause," she said.

For more information visit www.arrowexperience.org.au

Generous ICU support



Sam Catalano, Leanne Sultana, Foundation CEO Tony Williamson and Cairns Hospital ICU Clinical Director Dr Drew Wenck.

GENEROUS philanthropist Sam Catalano simply wants to give back to the country that has given his family so much.

The lifelong Innisfail resident supported the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 campaign with a \$55,000 donation, for that very reason.

He heard about the campaign through a Foundation Board member and decided it was something he wanted to support through the Catalano Family Foundation. "I founded this foundation to give back to the community," Mr Catalano said.

His donation has bought a Pentax bronchoscope for the Intensive Care Unit at Cairns Hospital.

Mr Catalano's family background in Far North Queensland dates back to 1924 when his father immigrated from Italy, starting life as a farm labourer cutting cane.

Over time Mr Catalano Senior married, had a family and started making

investments to provide for his family. Sam Catalano Jnr left school at age 13, starting work on the family farm and grazing small crops. He later found his own success through, cane, cattle, timber, property investments, quarry operations including the production and distribution of Min Plus, his pet project.

Mr Catalano has helped and offered support to many people in the community including family members, lessees, business partners and colleagues. "My father also told me that you've got to mix with all sorts of different people – country people and city people, so that's also what I've done."

Mr Catalano has suffered many family losses including his wife to early onset dementia and his daughter to cancer.

"Losing a loved one puts things into perspective, I just wanted to give back to the country that my father adopted, the country that's made me who I am. I have been successful in business and it has been no easy ride and not without its heartaches, but knowing I can help

and make a difference in someone's life is extremely humbling," Mr Catalano said.

Cairns Hospital Director of Intensive Care Dr Drew Wenck said the new Pentax bronchoscope featured the latest technology and digital imaging.

"This device is central to the work we perform in the Intensive Care Unit such as percutaneous tracheostomies and other procedures when patients are critically ill," Dr Wenck said.

"We are always extremely grateful to the Hospital Foundation for equipment they provide with their donors that enhances patient care," Dr Wenck said.

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation CEO Tony Williamson said it was wonderful to see local families give back to helping make local hospitals better.

"The Catalano family should be thanked by everyone in Far North Queensland because patient outcomes will be better as a direct result of their donation," Mr Williamson said.

SUNDAY
JUNE 20, 2021

MacDonnellsLaw



ARROW EXPERIENCE

NOT JUST A WALK IN THE PARK

HIKE THE ARROW TRAILS & HELP
RAISE MONEY FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS
OF BREAST CANCER IN FNQ



WIN A MG3*

Valued at \$16,990



\$2
TICKETS

INCLUDING 12 MONTHS' REGISTRATION.

This will be drawn at the conclusion of the event and if the winner is present when we draw the car, they also will receive a \$200 fuel voucher thanks to Mobil Trinity Petroleum.

*The MG3 is valued at \$16,990.



The first 40 participants who raise a minimum of \$250 will receive a \$50 voucher from Exotica Athletica. The highest fundraiser will receive a \$1000 voucher from Exotica Athletica.

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For more info or to REGISTER head to www.arrowexperience.org.au



Special Care Nurse Kathy Wheeler who cared for baby Alex 21 years ago, Leanne, Alex and Joe Marziano, Foundation CEO Tony Williamson.



Alex's birthday gift

21 YEARS ago a big blow was coming and Leanne Marziano was heavily pregnant.

With a birth weight of 1380g and being 42cm long, baby Alex spent a couple of days in a humidicrib before growing to a weight the clinicians were happy with and was released from medical care a few weeks later.

The precious bub spent five weeks in the hospital's then Special Care Baby Nursery, just because he arrived so early and a few months later the family moved closer to their support networks in Canberra.

This week is the first time Alex, now a strapping 21-year-old at 172cm tall, has visited the Far North since his birth.

He and his family also donated \$2100 to the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation in honour of his 21 years and

to help other families in need.

"The staff at the Special Care Nursery were so amazing to us all – they probably saved all three of us in some way, at that time," Mrs Marziano said.

With a birth weight of 1380g and being 42cm long, baby Alex spent a couple of days in a humidicrib and then growing to a weight the clinicians were happy with him being released from medical care.

"It was just an amazing time for us all really and as this is Alex's 21st birthday, we thought this would be a perfect time to come back and show him where he was born," she said.

Foundation CEO Tony Williamson thanked the family for the gift, which would be put aside for equipment for the Special Care Nursery.

"Gifts like this are really special – often hospital staff and even our Foundation staff and volunteers don't realise the

impact they have on people, but it can be far-reaching and that's why the work we do is so important," Mr Williamson said.

"We're grateful for every donation like this and of course because all our costs are covered by our commercial activities, every cent of every donation goes where it's intended," he said.

Cairns Hospital Special Care Nursery Nurse Unit Manager Donna Martin was grateful for the opportunity for staff to meet the family again. Kathy Wheeler was one of the nurses at the time that cared for Alex and his family.

"It is quite special for Kathy, Alex, Leanne and Joe to meet again 21 years down the track and it's truly wonderful for this family to come back for a visit. And of course, their gift means with the Foundation's help, we'll be able to buy something that will help other families in similar circumstances," Ms Martin said.

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Annual Report

More than \$2.89 million has been provided to improve health outcomes in FNQ in 2019-2020, thanks to the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.

The Foundation's annual report has just been tabled in parliament and shows a strong year, despite last quarter results being impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

Foundation CEO Tony Williamson said the \$2.89 million in grants of equipment and research, was the Foundation's third best in its 23 years.

"And it means we've now ticked over \$23 million in 23 years, which we're incredibly proud of," Mr Williamson said.

Total revenue, including the Foundation's cafes and other commercial activities, was up to \$5.48 million from the previous year's \$4.68 million and fundraising efforts of \$2.55 million was well above the previous year's \$1.6 million.

Funds from the Foundation's commercial activities cover all expenses, which means every cent donated, goes where it's intended.

"This outcome is a tribute to Foundation staff and volunteers who were willing to adapt as needed," he said.

"Instead of slowing down, we approached the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service with a plan to fund any needed hospital equipment to better prepare regional and Cairns health services. The 'Join the fight against COVID-19' was a massive success at a very testing time."

Key contributions include \$1.89 million for the COVID-19 campaign, \$333,000 for cardiology, \$200,000 for research, \$413,000 for Mareeba Hospital, \$224,740 for Innisfail, \$102,106 for Babinda, \$122,465 for Atherton, \$140,298 for Mossman Hospital and \$186,466 for Tully Hospital.

As well, during the 2019-2020 financial year, volunteer hours were down due to COVID-19 but the Foundation is hopeful this will improve in 2021.

The Friends of the Foundation network grew to include Weipa, with other branches in Atherton, Cow Bay, Croydon, Gordonvale, Herberton, Innisfail, Mareeba, Mossman and Tully being increasingly active.



Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation CEO - Tony Williamson



Tina Guite was excited to volunteer to wrap presents.

We're wrapped

A few hours or a few dollars – whether you gave your time or your money, your contribution to the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Christmas Wrap, will make a difference.

CEO Tony Williamson said for the first time in 2020, the Foundation had volunteers wrapping at three shopping centres – Cairns Central, DFO and Stockland Earville.

"We also had EFTPOS machines this time around, which many people were keen to use if they didn't have cash," Mr Williamson said.

"We were absolutely blown away when we tallied up the funds to realise we'd raised \$36,000, which was an incredible outcome," he said.

Funds raised will go towards improving patient outcomes in Far North Queensland.

Previously, money from Christmas Wrap has gone towards supporting a women's ultrasound, the cardiac catheter laboratory, surgical microscope, orthopaedic surgery equipment and the paediatric playground.

The Foundation has now raised more than \$230,000 from Christmas Wrap since 2001 – it's a Christmas institution for wrappers and donors.

"We're increasingly finding many businesses are using it as a team-building exercise with their workplace, or it's just the 'thing' they do every year to give back to the community," he said.

Aside from the funds raised, the vital stats this year were impressive. One hundred and twenty-four volunteers worked 462 hours over 154 shifts at the three centres.

In addition, more than 7000m (enough to travel from Cairns Hospital to the Barron River) was used to wrap thousands of gifts, bringing joy to hundreds of people in Cairns on Christmas Morning.

Mr Williamson also paid tribute to CCW Cabinet Works for their support of our gift hut at Cairns Central, as well as Cairns Central, Stockland Cairns and DFO Cairns.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2021

Cycle from Cairns to Cooktown and help raise funds for cardiac services in Far North Queensland



REGISTRATIONS CLOSING



Help us reach our 2021 target

REGISTER TODAY or for more information
www.cardiacchallenge.com.au

www.fnqhf.org.au

Super

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Businesses dig deep

Special thanks to everyone who supported the Advance Cairns Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal in March. With everyone's help, we raised just over \$13,000. Thank you also to Warren Entsch MP, Alan Joyce from Qantas and Romy Photography for their support.



Dinner boosts charity

150 CAIRNS business leaders converged on Port Douglas and raised more than \$43,000 at the inaugural CityLife VIP Charity Dinner recently.

The funds were raised to directly benefit improving health outcomes in Far North Queensland.

The dinner featured some of the country's biggest names, with headline act, global fashion designer to the stars Camilla Franks as she shared her cancer survival story. She was joined by special guests football heavy weight David Gallop and the country's richest self-made CEO, VitaGroup's Maxine Horne.

The gala affair marked the first event to be hosted at The Glade Pavilion at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort Port Douglas since COVID restrictions began in early 2020. The venue came to life with dancers, a live DJ and a high end fashion show.

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation CEO Tony Williamson presided over the signature charity auction which generated an amazing \$40,000 on its own. An exclusive dinner at Camilla Franks' private home in Sydney for six guests was a key drawcard



for one local group who bid a whopping \$16,000 for the experience.

Mr Williamson was delighted with the event outcome, saying it was an incredible night that produced an incredible outcome and he is hopeful the event becomes an annual event.

"It's absolutely amazing to attend functions such as this, and to see so much community support for this local charity that supports the healthcare for all of us. It was even better to have the medical fraternity mixing it with the business community and celebrating a great night together," Mr Williamson said.

CityLife Magazine directors say they hosted the two day Annual Business Retreat as well as the VIP Charity Dinner to kick off the year on a positive note for the FNQ business community.

"Two full days of events full of learning, inspiration and fun was exactly what the doctor ordered for our local business community to get their year off to a flying start. It's been a tough 12 months for them, so it was very great to have everyone together celebrating how fortunate we are in the Tropical North and strategising ways to pivot and maximise growth opportunities in what are very different times. The Annual Business Retreat was hosted with the guidance of local and national business experts which was very well received by the 35 businesses in attendance. We topped the weekend off with an evening raising money for a cause very close to our hearts in the FNQHF. We couldn't be happier with the outcome," said CityLife Media director Danae Jones.

Camilla agreed to help the tourism industry while she was here and promote the region as part of her trip to TNQ. "The tourism industry really turned it on for her and showed her such a great time. She brought her family with her and spent 5 days in the north immersing herself in all that we had to offer. Stunning captured moments of her travels are now starting to appear all over her social media platforms where she is followed by her loyal customers Oprah Winfrey, Beyonce, Gwen Stefani and Jennifer Lopez to name but a few of her celebrity clients. Full credit to Danae Jones and Jacqui Nolan for pulling off such a coup for Cairns," Mr Williamson said.

Atherton friends of the foundation

Supporting our community



Dorothy Bew, Tony Birch, Suzanne Gane,
Bev Prescott, Hazel Christensen.



Bev Prescott, Hazel Christensen, Dorothy Bew, Suzanne Gane, Tony Birch.

Fundraising boosts Atherton

MORE than \$56,000 worth of diagnostic and treating equipment has been bought by the Atherton community, for the Atherton Hospital.

Atherton Hospital Acting Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Facility Manager Leonie Jennings was delighted with the purchases, many of which came about through the hard work of the former Atherton Auxiliary, which became the Atherton Friends of the Hospital Foundation.

The new equipment includes:

- an Olympus camera head for laparoscopic procedures in theatre
- Sara Plus – a powered standing and raising aid for mobilising and rehabilitation
- Electrocardiogram to measure cardiac abnormalities in the Emergency Department
- blood warmers to warm blood during or prior to delivery to patients

- vital signs monitors to help clinicians measure patients blood oxygen, blood pressure and cardiac rhythms
- blood pressure machines and Seca measuring devices for community health.

In addition, the parent body, the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, purchased a spot check monitor for \$6085 and diathermy unit of \$12,500.

Ms Jennings said the equipment would make a significant difference to patient outcomes.

“We at Atherton Hospital and in the Atherton community generally, are extremely fortunate to have the hard-working volunteers of the Friends of the Foundation working towards helping improve our equipment,” Ms Jennings said.

Atherton Friends of the Foundation president Di Williams said many people who live in the Atherton area were born at the Atherton Hospital and their grandchildren also were born there.

“When coming into hospital as patients, they are on a first name with their treating doctors and nurses. Many actually prefer to be treated in Atherton rather than being transferred elsewhere so it’s great to have more equipment to help facilitate that,” Mrs Williams said. “Atherton Hospital is part of the community - to be a local here is to support and be proud of the hospital.

“It’s the big and little things about being a volunteer at Atherton Hospital that make a big difference – the daily shopping trolley, providing a daily service for a chat and selling items that patients in hospital might like to buy.”

Foundation CEO Tony Williamson was thrilled to see the Atherton community supporting its local hospital. “It really makes us all incredibly proud to see achievements like this that are making our regional hospitals better,” Mr Williamson said.

Gordonvale, Innisfail & Mareeba friends of the foundation Supporting our community



Gordonvale Hospital Friends of the Foundation were lucky to be invited to cater at the Great Northern Brewing Company Gordonvale Races when the Innisfail race meet had to be moved to Gordonvale in March. The group of dedicated volunteers got busy making their famous corned beef sandwiches and marshmallow slice to feed the hungry racegoers. Racegoers supported them heavily, with more than \$1000 raised on the day.

Brenda Irvin, Cheryl Campbell, Valda Hoolihan, Donald Irvin, Elaine Help and Pat Hickling. Photo: Heather York

This year's Innisfail Hospital Friends of the Foundation cent sale was a welcome event, with so many people not being able to gather for so long. Two hundred people filled the Multi-Purpose Hall at the Innisfail State College in March. There was a lucky door prize, raffle and more than 80 cent sale prizes. Entry fee included an afternoon tea plate. A huge thanks to the teachers and students of the Innisfail State College for their assistance setting up on the Friday and Saturday, helping all day Saturday from the drinks stall in the kitchen and serving food. Then delivering prizes to the winners, staying around packup and cleanup. The volunteers of the Innisfail Hospital Friends of the Foundation appreciated all the help. A whopping \$6000 was raised on the day.

Heather Seppanen, Maria Vasicek, Candy Warwick and Arena Banderia.



Mareeba Hospital Friends of the Foundation was one of the beneficiaries from the Mareeba Business Women's Club. They received \$1600 after the MBWC made the announcement the club would disband and the remainder of the money in their account would be donated to local, like-minded community groups. Mareeba Friends, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce and Mareeba Meals on Wheels all received \$1600 from the Club. The money that was raised locally by the Club will stay local as the groups receiving the donation will put the money to good use for the community. Mareeba Hospital Friends of the Foundation volunteer Robyn Boundy said the money would be used to buy equipment for the Mareeba Hospital from their wish list. "It benefits the whole of the Mareeba community and will continue to grow our hospital," Mrs Boundy said.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce President Joe Moro, Mareeba Friends of the Foundation volunteer Robyn Boundy and Mareeba Meals on Wheels president Patricia Goldfinch with one of the \$1600 cheques presented by past Mareeba Business Women's Club President Stacey Shaw. Photo Courtesy The Express Newspaper.



Slow Cooked Beef

Ingredients:

1.5kg beef bolar blade or beef silverside roast
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 100g pancetta slices, finely chopped
 2 brown onions, halved, cut into thin wedges
 1 long fresh red chilli, finely chopped (Optional)
 2 garlic cloves, crushed
 500ml (2 cups) Beef Stock
 250ml (1 cup) passata
 4 fresh thyme sprigs
 2 fresh or dried bay leaves
 2 teaspoons brown sugar
 1 bunch baby carrots, peeled, trimmed
 6 small potatoes quartered
 Steamed broccolini, to serve
 Mashed potato, to serve

Method:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 160C/180C fan forced. Place the beef on a clean chopping board. Season – this helps caramelize the meat during browning.

Step 2: Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole dish over medium-high heat. Cook the beef, turning, for 6-8 minutes or until well browned. Transfer to a plate.

Step 3: Cook the pancetta in the pan over medium heat for 1-2 minutes or until golden. Add onion, chilli and garlic and stir for 3 minutes or until soft. Return beef to pan.

Step 4: Add the stock, passata, 125ml (1/2 cup) water, thyme, bay leaves and brown sugar to the pan. Bring to the boil.

Step 5: Cover and bake, turning the beef twice during cooking, for 2 1/2 hours or until the beef is almost tender.

Step 6: Add carrots and potatoes. Cover. Bake for 40 minutes or until beef is tender. Rest for 15 minutes. Serve with broccolini and mashed potato.



Café Chat

Name : Laura Morris

Role : Café team leader

Home : I am a Far North Queenslander through-and-through. I'm originally from the Palmer River – I was actually born on the RFDS plane flying over Laura hence my name. My family had a gold mining lease up there for 36 years. My grandparents have actually been up here since 1943, they used to own the café that was where The Jack is now. That was the first little milk bar in Cairns so you could say hospitality has been in my family for a long time. My father built our house in the goldfields from scratch. I was taught via School of the Air.

Foundation : I started with the Foundation about five months ago, I've been in many roles in hospitality in Cairns but I really love this role. I came here because I knew Gavin (O'Sullivan) from a previous role and my sister used to work here as well.

Stars : Scorpio

Interests : I love being in my garden, dancing with my five-year-old daughter and being very silly with her. I'm also a playwright and I love the Bertolt Brecht style of writing.

Home : When I get home most days it is getting the food ready for dinner, completing my exercise routine, quick swim in the pool (75m if I'm having a good day), walk the dog, accidentally pop into my mates house have a couple of whiskies then toddle off home and cook a late dinner with the family.

Work : I love this job. It's a feel-good job for me. Every day I'm reminded of what we're working to achieve. And I remind the other staff of what we're working to achieve. I show them the annual reports and what's been done in the past. And I thank people when they buy a coffee from us because they're contributing to our local cause. I've been very lucky with my daughter, touchwood. We've had no medical or health issues but it can happen to anyone and we're so lucky to have the Foundation and what the Foundation does for us all.



Researcher feature

Name : Simon Smith

Age : 36

Where and in what position are you working?

Staff Specialist Infectious diseases and General Medicine, Cairns Hospital

Tell us which grant you received? \$50,000

How did you hear about the Foundation's research grants? Cairns Hospital email and posters around Cairns Hospital

What is your project about?

My project is about determining what causes pneumonia in FNQ. When people present to hospital with infections, we often initially use 'best guess' antibiotics based on the type of bugs that we know cause different types of infections. With pneumonia, we use antibiotics to cover certain bugs that are seen in both the tropics and the southern parts of Australia. However, at present, we just don't know how often we see the bugs from the south up here in the tropics. Therefore, my aim is to identify – using new, modern techniques – the causes of pneumonia in Far North Queensland.

As we are inviting patients admitted in hospital to be involved in the study, we want to make sure they have enough information and are happy to take part in this research. Their treatment doesn't change, we are just taking a couple more blood and swab samples than people would normally get. Identifying people in hospital with pneumonia and providing them with this information takes time. A research nurse will be vital to help identify people in hospital with pneumonia and provide them with the information prior to being involved in the study.

How did you come to be studying this particular field?

I work as a full time clinician at the hospital and my research is all done in my spare time. All of my research focuses on infections that affect the people living in Far North Queensland that I see and treat on a daily basis. There are some unique infections that affect people living in Far North Queensland much more so than other parts of Australia. My research aims to help improve the knowledge and treatment of these infections so that we provide the best care to the people of FNQ.

Where are you based? Cairns Hospital

Vollie Q&A

Name: Marg Moller

Age: 74

Have you always lived in FNQ? If not, where did you come from and how long have you been here?

I was born in Babinda. We left to become sapphire miners in 1976 and returned to Babinda in 1988.

Volunteer role Revive visiting program

How long have you been volunteering with us? 6 years

How did you come to start volunteering with us? I have always been passionate about the welfare of our local hospitals and served on the executive committee of the Babinda Hospital Welfare Committee for many years.

Star sign: Aries

Interest, hobbies, past-times? Gardening, reading, studying nature.

Tell us about your family – kids, grandkids, great grandkids?

1 son, 1 daughter and one grandson aged 19.

Are you retired? If so, what did you do before leaving the workforce?

I co-ordinated a day respite centre for the elderly and younger disabled in Babinda. I managed the op shop in Babinda for the Cootharinga Society of NQ, of which I am a life member.

What do you enjoy about volunteering with us?

I get enormous pleasure from listening to the life stories of other people and am most grateful to have the privilege of doing so.

Do you have any funny tales about volunteering with us?

Not for publication!



To volunteer, email: volunteer@fnqhf.org.au or Ph: 4226 8993



Sam Ssamusew, Michael Moore of Trinity Auto, Tony Williamson, Jane Jordan and Natasha Ssamusew

MG headed to the Cape

A CUTE little MG3 will soon be making its way to cattle country in Normanton on the western side of the Cape.

Sam Ssamusew won the \$16,000 car in the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Arrow Experience art union.

"I've won things before, but it's not every day you find out you've won a car," Mr Ssamusew said.

He bought the tickets in his 13-year-old daughter Natasha's name, never dreaming she would win.

"We were coming to the hospital to see the doctors about my knee replacement and every time we went past the car, we bought some tickets. So that last time Natasha wanted to buy some tickets and I only had a \$10 note left in my wallet so I said just use it," he said.

"We'll either keep the car for when she's old enough, or we'll sell it and put the money in her bank account."

The car was part of the Foundation's MG Arrow Experience – a fundraising walk of the arrows of Mt Whitfield.

While the event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, tickets were still available in the car, with \$36,686 raised to help the Older Persons Unit at Cairns Hospital.

The 2020 MG Arrow Experience was raising funds for cognitively impaired patients in hospital. Staff at the Cairns Hospital OPERA Unit plan to make the hospital environment less confusing for these patients.

OPERA Nurse Unit Manager Jane Jordan said she and her staff were very grateful and excited to receive the funds.

"Often it's distressing and confusing to be away from your loved ones and in an unfamiliar and chaotic environment. This money will be well used to ensure our beautiful patients are cared for on a comfortable and supportive ward with a design that is dementia-friendly," Ms Jordan said.

Foundation CEO Tony Williamson said

the amount raised was a great result in a difficult year.

"We know many people in the community have been having a difficult time but to achieve this result is actually a great outcome for patients in hospital," Mr Williamson said.

Some of the Foundation's Friends groups in Innisfail, Mareeba, Atherton and Tully also sold tickets in the car, with funds from tickets sold in those communities, staying local.

"We did that because those small communities were hurting too and we wanted to give those Friends groups a hand," Mr Williamson said.

Michael Moore, sales manager of Trinity Auto, was delighted to support the Foundation by supplying a car, for the second time.

"The Foundation does great things in our community and we're pleased to support them to help make our hospitals better," Mr Moore said.



HOW TO CONTACT OR SUPPORT US

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