Message from the Chairman

Fellow Lions, Lioness and LEOs

Thanks to Lions Clubs right across Australia, ALCCRF continues to have a great impact on research into childhood cancer. The backing from you the Lions of Australia has made a significant difference to the amount of money raised and to the communication about the work we do. Support received has been beyond expectations and Trustees thank you for the confidence you place in them. All Trustees are looking forward to the opportunity to consider funding further major impact research in addition to those currently being supported.

The Foundation supports a number of research projects and recently I had the great honour to make a donation to Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation during their Gold Telethon Appeal on Channel Nine in NSW. This year the donation on behalf of Lions was $375,000 representing our annual contribution to the currently approved research projects. Lions, we can indeed be proud; our contribution over the last four years has now reached over $1million. The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation will be admitted to the Hospital’s Hall of Champions later this year - a rare and prestigious honour.

Continued Page 2
One of the ways you can assist the Foundation is through the purchase of the various Awards and Fellowships available. Each year significant funding has been received through this assistance and each year the number of Awards presented continues to increase. The Barry Palmer Fellow has been extremely well received and we encourage Clubs to consider rewarding an honoured Lion or community member through a donation of $2000. The number of clubs participating in the biggest barbecue this year increased and we hope other clubs will take it up in the years to follow, as it is not only a great fundraiser but also one of the best ways to spread the news about our work.

We are now heading towards the season for District Conventions and we are planning for the Foundation to be represented at all nineteen locations by Trustees and/or District Chairpersons. If you are attending please come up and learn more about ALCCRF and how your Club can be involved in achieving our goal of 100% survival of kids diagnosed with cancer.

Thank you Lions, we are very grateful for your continuing support. We are continuing to make progress but there is still a long way to go to reach our goal.

We can do it but we need your Support.

PCC Bob Buckley
Chairman ALCCRF

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**Funding Our Commitments**

Thanks to the generosity of Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs across Australia, the Foundation has been able to fund research through our research partners at the Sydney Children’s Hospital to a cost of over $1 million.

The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation will be admitted to the Hospital’s Hall of Champions later this year - a rare and prestigious honour.

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**Hall of Champions**

The Hall of Champions exists to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of our greatest supporters, those who have generously donated over $1 million to Sydney Children’s Hospital.

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**Ava Continues to Assist**

Ava and her family once again give support to Childhood Cancer Research.

See below YouTube clip

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi8p_9J5ZQ4

Eva Dellow (Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation) is quoted as saying “I am sure you will all agree that this was a great way to promote and thank the Lions Clubs of Australia for their support of the ALCCRF. Chairman Bob did a stellar job, and of course the standout and stealer of the show was Ava Bell, who’s life may not have been saved if it was not for the passionate and tireless work of the ALCCRF.”

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**Winner of Biggest BBQ donation Prize draw**

$1000

Lioness Club of Wollongong Heights

Congratulations to the Lionesses
Bella was 18 months old when her mum Jo-Ann noticed she was starting to become clingy. Jo-Ann thought it was due to the fact that Bella’s sister, Grace, had just been born and they were in a new place – visiting grandparents in Ballarat. Then Jo-Ann noticed Bella didn’t like walking and was starting to get bruises on her legs and spine. After several trips to a GP and a paediatrician, the family were rapidly on a plane back to Sydney where Bella was admitted to Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick and diagnosed with a rare cancer; Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

What began was a two year journey to rid Bella’s little body of the cancer. Her treatment included chemotherapy, total body irradiation and a Bone Marrow Transplant – she underwent more than 30 general anaesthetics during her time in the Hospital. She was the first child to be treated at SCH with a new drug, Imatinib, which directly targeted the Philadelphia chromosome protein. At the time this was an experimental strategy but is now proven best practice.

“Over the two years, we were in Hospital on and off constantly and due to the drugs Bella was taking she was more prone to infections, we were always in isolation,” Jo-Ann said. Eventually Bella was announced to be in remission and became the first patient at Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick to be successfully treated for Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Now a bubbly seven-year-old, Bella will be five years in remission 13 June 2013, a milestone for anyone treated for cancer and the point at which the cancer is unlikely to return.

“We feel great, we feel fantastic. Once she was one year post transplant, that was really good, but five years is the magic mark,” Jo-Ann said.

“Bella loves going to the Hospital, she feels like a bit of a rockstar when she goes and it doesn’t seem to hold any bad memories for her at all.”

“She’s at school in year one and full of bravado and a bit cheeky, she’s just happy; you wouldn’t know a thing was ever wrong with her, she’s just a normal child.”
Briagalong Lions (V3) support the Foundation with 2 big events

Coins for Kids at Boisdale Primary School raised $255 dollars. At left is District Chair Jessie Walker helping the kids with their coins and below Lion Col is supervising the line up. Being wheelchair bound didn’t mean missing out on the fun for one of the students.

Briagalong Lion George does a “quality check”

The BBQ was supplied by the local CFA

Briagalong & District Lions Biggest BBQ is held as a BBQ in the local park. They have locals as in this photo, entertain with great music. They enjoy the day listening to Children from the local school playing and singing for us, 2 of the ladies in the photo have children with Cancer, and they later spoke to us about their journey so far. A vintage Car and Tractor show was also held — the total amount raised was over $900—well done Briagalong!!
The below touching letter came with a personal donation to the Foundation

Please find enclosed our cheque for $200 being a donation to the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. We make this donation in memory of a good and long standing mate who recently died from cancer. Rather than spending the money to attend his funeral, we decided to donate the money we would have spent in a far more beneficial manner, hence the donation. Both my wife and I are members of a Lions Club and can’t help not to be impressed by the research work contributed to by ALCCRF to the ultimate benefit of our kids and grandkids. We know this donation will be put to good use, as are all others made to any Lions Foundation and please accept our best regards for the work you and your fellow Lions carry out on behalf of the rest of us

“Anon”

Nagambie Lions support Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

L-R: Nagambie Lion President Marlene Brew, Glenn Walsh, Lion Lois Keall, Dale Walsh, Lions Lyn Tanner, Cheryl Mensfield, Coral Paterson, Seymour Lion Liz Johnson, Nagambie Lion Margaret Gieschen, Lion David Keall, Nina Xuereb, Frank Staples, and Iris Staples seated (one of the Club’s original) members in 2003 - they donated $338 to ALCCRF

New Leos Club supports kids with Cancer with Easter Egg Raffle

Newly formed Margaret River Leos Club (W2) ran an Easter Egg Hunt for small children just before Easter and also raffled a basketful of Easter eggs on the same day. Funds raised were $384.00 and they have decided to donate this to the Childhood Cancer Research Foundation, as there are some children in Margaret River with cancer.
Response to the Barry Palmer J Fellow since its launch late last year has been described as excellent by Trustee PCC Tony Roney with 45 being sold into 14 Districts. The Barry J Palmer fellow will continue to be at the forefront of ALCCRF’s recognition program.

At left
Lions Club of Kingborough President Hester van Niekerk presenting Grant Hildyard with an International President, Barry J Palmer Fellow in memory of his mother, Gayle Hildyard, recognising her contribution to the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation through the Lions Club of Kingborough (T1).

Trustee Aussie Lanphier pictured at right with the recipients of 5 Barry J Palmer Fellows, 2 Neil Williams Esteemed Member Awards and 4 Neil Williams Member Awards purchased by the Lions Club of Rollingstone (Q2) for a donation of $12,000.
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