



## BLANKETS TO TREAT JAUNDICE IN BABIES

Since 2013, the Coleman Greig 'Corporate for Community' Challenge has raised money for children with special needs and newborn care. The Challenge is held early on a Spring morning at Parramatta Park, before people make their way to work.

In 2020 due to the pandemic interrupting our daily lives, the Coleman Greig Challenge went virtual with a week-long event, giving participants time out from their busy schedules to take part at their own pace, place and time to walk, run or ride for charity.

The Challenge was a huge success and raised \$55k for Westmead Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We are so grateful for the support from Coleman Greig Lawyers, corporate sponsors and individuals who participated and raised money to make a difference to the lives of the newest, most vulnerable members of our community. With the funds raised, the Foundation has purchased new mobile BiliSoft™ blankets to treat jaundice in newborn babies. Approximately 60% of term babies and 80% of preterm babies suffer jaundice which is traditionally treated using phototherapy lights attached to a hospital crib. A mobile Bilisoft™ blanket allows a baby to be treated whilst at home and can reduce treatment time by up to two days.

Thank you to Coleman Greig Lawyers



WESTMEAD HOSPITAL'S WOMENS AND NEWBORN HEALTH DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE COLEMAN GREIG CHALLENGE.

and the Coleman Greig Challenge for making this happen.

To keep up to date with future events, visit [WHF Events](#).

## A PLACE TO REST AND TO RESET

Whilst no-one could predict how the COVID-19 pandemic would play out, the Foundation quickly realised that the best way we could help was not in terms of equipment, but in providing an area away from the pressures of the frontline. One of the Foundation's biggest projects

of 2020 was the transformation of an old and overlooked area at Westmead Hospital in response to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 Rest Area for healthcare staff was established, a place where they could take a break from the hustle and bustle of the wards and take some time to rest and reset.

We are so grateful for the outpouring of love from the community, businesses and individuals alike and it has been humbling to see an array of people come together to support Westmead Hospital healthcare staff who continue to keep our community safe.



CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE COVID-19 REST AREA AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WESTMEAD

**WESTMEAD HOSPITAL  
ADMINISTERS MORE  
THAN 500 COVID-19  
VACCINATIONS EVERY DAY**

**ADULT EMERGENCY  
DEPARTMENT RELOCATED  
TO NEW 14 LEVEL CENTRAL  
ACUTE SERVICES BUILDING**

**PURCHASE 'A SENSE OF  
PLACE' PHOTOBOOK AND  
SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION  
AND THE ARTS AND  
CULTURE PROGRAM**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you.

Two little words which don't seem big enough for what I want to say to you.

In the last year, like many of you, the Foundation has faced new challenges. Across Australia fundraising events have been cancelled, and donations have fallen to their lowest ever level. Thousands of people have been furloughed, or are fearful for their jobs. Sad to say, many other Australian charities are now on the verge of closing.

Westmead Hospital Foundation receives no Government funding and relies solely on gifts from individuals, corporate and community donors to be able to carry out our work, purchasing additional medical equipment, and supporting hospital-based medical research.

I want to thank those businesses who have offered gifts in kind, and volunteered staff and resources. I want to thank the community fundraisers, who found new ways to continue fundraising, like the brilliant team at Girraween Athletics Club. I want to thank the marvellous Coleman Greig Challenge organisers who made the event even bigger and more accessible during lockdown. And above all, I want to thank you for giving what you can, when you are able.

Our experience of the last year brings to mind the words of Helen Keller, ***“alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much”***.

With your support, the Foundation will continue to contribute to the treatment and care of patients at Westmead Hospital, just like we have since 1990.

From the bottom of my heart,  
Thank you.

James Nguyen

## THE LIFE OF LYNETTE

Lynette Gillies epitomised the Australian 'can do' spirit, hers was a life full of adventure and energy. Always with a smile on her face, her enthusiasm and zest for life uplifted everyone who met her.

Back in 2013, Lynette's daughter-in-law Jess sadly lost her battle with cancer. A tireless fundraiser, Lynette and her son Steve organised the annual Run 4 Jess, in association with Girraween Athletics Club to raise funds for Westmead Hospital's C5c Oncology Ward.

Lynette was very active in the community, with her beloved church, athletics and cross training; she crafted hats for premature babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and made handmade quilts, which were raffled to benefit patients in the Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre at Westmead.

Sadly, she was diagnosed with cancer, and faced several operations and bouts of chemotherapy. Despite it all, she always saw the positive side, and managed to continue to travel, and meet up with her children and grandchildren, which was absolutely her favourite thing to do. After a long battle, Lynette sadly passed away in February this year.

Although she is no longer with us, we will always remember her positive outlook on life and we will be forever grateful for her generosity.



LYNETTE GILLIES

## RUNNING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On Saturday March 13, a sunny Autumn day, the annual Run 4 Jess fun run took place at Girraween. Girraween Athletics Club along with family, friends and supporters came together to raise money for Westmead Hospital's C5c Oncology Ward, in honour of Jess Clark, who passed away from cancer in 2013.

Held at C.V. Kelly Park, Girraween, participants came together to not only honour Jess Clark, but to also remember her mother-in-law, Lynette Gillies who sadly passed away from cancer earlier this year.

Over 80 people participated, and many wore Jess's favourite colour, green. Due to COVID-19 restrictions last year, the fun run became a virtual event and this year, participants had the option of doing the event in person or taking part remotely and were encouraged to run, walk, skip, dance in their own way to remember Jess.

Entry fee to the event included a \$5 donation to the Foundation and raised an incredible \$1,500. Money raised by Run 4 Jess will help support patient care in the Oncology Ward at Westmead Hospital.



PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2021 RUN 4 JESS

## BOSTON'S BIG BIRTHDAY BASH

Boston Jones was born 10 weeks prior to his estimated due date. Following an emergency caesarean section, Boston was rushed to the amazing team in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Westmead Hospital.

From the moment Boston arrived in NICU, Boston's mum, Bekk said, "We as a family were all treated with the utmost respect".

It was 26 hours before Bekk was well enough to visit Boston. As with all NICU journeys, Boston's progress was difficult, however after 48 days of care in NICU, Boston was discharged. "Our little Ninja came home!" said Bekk.

For Boston's first birthday, Bekk hosted a NICU and Ninja party and asked in lieu of gifts that people donate to raise money for a new breastfeeding chair for NICU at Westmead Hospital.

"During our stay in NICU there were times when I was able to hold Boston, but due to no chair being available I couldn't hold him because of all the equipment attached to him. This was heartbreaking and if we can gift another mum just that one cuddle that would be amazing", she said.

Bekk added, "Fortunately I'm in a position to provide Boston with everything he needs for his birthday, but back then he needed his Mumma and he needed that cuddle".

To help Bekk reach her goal, you can [donate here](#). To create your own fundraiser, contact us at [info@westmeadhf.org.au](mailto:info@westmeadhf.org.au).



BOSTON CELEBRATES HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY

## YOUNG HEARTS, BIG DIFFERENCE

Many of our supporters who raise money for Westmead Hospital have done so because they have seen the special care a loved one has received.

This is true for Omar Hawchar, who, along with his wife spent more than three months watching healthcare staff treat their beautiful daughter, Aiesha in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Westmead Hospital.

To show their appreciation, they decided to raise awareness and funds through their football academy, Western Sydney Youth Soccer Academy (WSYSA).

Together, Omar and the Club's members and families who supported his fundraiser, donated just over \$700 to the NICU at Westmead Hospital. We were lucky to meet Omar and thank him for his generosity and he explained that the "money raised is for all of the parents who will experience a similar situation they did as a family" and wanted to "give back in some way".

Thank you, Omar and the WSYSA team, for the support.

If you would like to raise money for a specific department or ward at Westmead Hospital, get in touch with us at [info@westmeadhf.org.au](mailto:info@westmeadhf.org.au) or call 1800 639 037 to find out how you can help.



COIN BOX AT WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH SOCCER ACADEMY



## HOW DO YOU THANK SOMEONE WHO JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE?

When you, or someone you love, has been ill, it is natural to want to say thank you for the treatment and care received.

Westmead patients, and their families have told us, over and over, that they would love to be able to give back for the care they receive at Westmead Hospital. That they don't know how to sufficiently thank the healthcare teams who brought a precious new life into the world, who helped with a broken arm, gave continuing care to a renal patient, or performed life-saving surgery after an accident.

What we also hear is that illness, no matter how brief, has an impact on people's income. Many people who want to make a gift do not have the means to do so, at the time they are receiving treatment.

One of the very best ways of giving back is to consider planning a future gift. You can do this by naming Westmead Hospital Foundation in your Will. After looking after your loved ones, funeral arrangements and any financial commitments, you can choose to leave a percentage of your Estate to the Westmead Hospital Foundation. Your gift can benefit a specific department or unit, purchase additional equipment, or to endow a scholarship.

Our guide to leaving a legacy gift is available from our [website](#) or you can call us on 1800 639 037 for a confidential discussion.

## PALLIATIVE PATIENT GIFTED PRECIOUS TIME AWAY

Following the easing of COVID travel restrictions in NSW, Westmead Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce that we can provide patients with access to the Hawks Nest programme again. The Hawks Nest Retreat provides cancer patients, who have a palliative diagnosis, with an opportunity to take a break away from their regular medical routines and treatments. Some spend quality time with their families, making memories, and in some cases, say their goodbyes.

Working with Hawks Nest First National Real Estate, and supported by grants and donations from our community, the Foundation is grateful to the property owners who donate time in their holiday homes free-of-charge to Westmead cancer patients.

Upon easing of restrictions, in November 2020 the Foundation was thrilled to offer a Hawks Nest Retreat to Westmead patient, Christine, who was diagnosed with gynaecological and bowel cancer.

After a number of operations and eight months of chemotherapy, Christine was sadly given the news that she had a palliative diagnosis. Christine's husband Nigel said that the news "really knocked them", however it gave Christine a real purpose and she started planning things that she wanted to do with the time she had left.

So, when an opportunity came for Christine and Nigel to spend a complimentary week away at Hawks Nest, they grabbed it with both hands and enjoyed exploring their surrounds.

Of her time away, Christine was most appreciative of the time she spent with her extended family who came up from Newcastle. She particularly loved time at the beach. "It was just gorgeous seeing my nieces and nephews playing in the sand and in the sun, enjoying themselves."

Sadly, Christine lost her battle with cancer in the Autumn of 2021. Nigel told us, "We were so grateful and appreciative of the retreat, and that it happened at a time when we could really appreciate it. Thank you to everyone involved in making the retreat available to us, and for allowing us to create precious memories".

Westmead Hospital Foundation receives no Government funding to assist with the costs incurred by this very special programme. If you would like to make a donation to support people like Christine and Nigel, as they prepare to say their goodbyes, please contact the Foundation on free call 1800 639 037. [Click here to read more about Christine and Nigel's full story.](#)

CHRISTINE AND NIGEL WITH THEIR PONIES, ENJOYING JIMMY'S BEACH, HAWKS NEST





AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS. REBECCA TYSON, ANGELA HAMILTON, TAMARA CLAXTON AND DR BRANDON VERDONK

## COVID-19 TEAM TAKE HOME CITY'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Westmead Hospital Foundation has a long association of partnering with the City of Parramatta Council on a variety of community projects, and were honoured to be asked to make a recommendation for the City of Parramatta 2021 Australia Day Awards. On reading the criteria, our Board felt the team in the COVID Clinic were the obvious choice to recommend in the community group award category as “a local group or organisation that has provided the most outstanding contribution to the City of Parramatta Community.

In an event held in the Grand Pavilion at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, 300 finalists from across Parramatta gathered together to recognise those whose outstanding achievements have merited the distinction of nomination.

Whilst the team were unsuccessful in the community group award category, they were thrilled to be the first to receive a new award – The Citizen of the Year Leadership Award. This award recognises “excellence in active service whilst demonstrating leadership, compassion and kindness to enrich lives and inspire the community”.

Dr Brandon Verdonk said of receiving the award, “We are honoured to have been nominated by Westmead Hospital Foundation, and thankful for their support at the

*height of the pandemic and beyond. We are humbled and very grateful to have received this award on behalf of the COVID Clinic team. Everyone has worked really hard. The pandemic has been a crazy time for all of us and there wasn't really a playbook for what we were experiencing.*

*The success of the clinic is the combined effort of many people working together. From the Executive team providing us with the resources and staff, nurses volunteering to work with an unknown virus, Infection Control team, ED consultants, General Service staff who took on additional roles, there is a long list of people who need our thanks, this award is for them.”*

Westmead Hospital Foundation works with many individuals, corporate entities, and community organisations, bringing together people and organisations who care about Westmead Hospital. Through the generosity of our donors and supporters, we make a difference to the staff and patients of Westmead Hospital through the purchase of additional equipment, and the provision of grants and scholarships for research and training.



**WESTMEAD  
HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION**

### Get In Touch

[westmeadhf.org.au](https://westmeadhf.org.au) | [info@westmead.org.au](mailto:info@westmead.org.au)

PO BOX 74, Westmead NSW 2145

FREE CALL 1800 639 037

Stay Connected

