



Northern Health Foundation **NEWSLETTER**



Paving the way to the future of healthcare
through your support

Johanna Griggs AM and Humpty Dumpty Foundation Visit Northern Health

On Thursday, 19 February, 2026, the Foundation team were honoured to welcome Channel 7 *Better Homes and Gardens* presenter and Humpty Dumpty Foundation Patron, Johanna Griggs AM, to Northern Hospital Epping.

Johanna spent time across the Special Care Nursery, Children's Ward, Maternity and our Emergency Department. It was a meaningful opportunity to show firsthand how donor funded equipment strengthens care for babies, children and families across Melbourne's rapidly growing northern corridor.

Throughout the visit, our clinical teams demonstrated the skill, compassion and calm that define their work every day, from supporting vulnerable newborns in their earliest moments of life to responding to high volume paediatric presentations in Emergency. The kindness shown to families, the seamless teamwork and the commitment to safe, high quality care were evident in every interaction.

"Walking through The Northern Hospital, you can truly feel how culture and care are thoughtfully woven together," shared Kerry Squires, Head of Medical Programs at the Humpty Dumpty Foundation. "From the beautiful possum skin cloaks used by the Koori Maternity Service to connect newborns and families with culture and Country, to the staff and pet photo walls that bring warmth into clinical spaces, these touches

speak volumes about Northern Health's genuine commitment to culturally safe, person centred care."

The impact of Humpty's donations is deeply felt across our hospital. To date, 48 pieces of vital equipment valued at \$216,475 have been generously funded for The Northern Hospital. In 2025 alone, more than \$37,000 in essential equipment has been provided to the Special Care Nursery, directly enhancing care for our most vulnerable newborns.

"Visits like this remind us why partnerships matter," said Pina Di Donato, Executive Director, Public Affairs and Foundation. "Through the generosity of Humpty Dumpty Foundation donors, we can continue to secure the equipment our youngest patients rely on. Their support truly changes lives."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Johanna for her warm engagement with our teams, and to the Humpty Dumpty Foundation and its incredible community of donors, whose generosity continues to make such a profound difference for children and families in the north.



Northern Health Foundation Hosts Innovation-Focused Sponsor Breakfast



On 31 October, 2025, Northern Health Foundation welcomed the major sponsors of the 2025 Gala Ball to a Sponsor Boardroom Breakfast, an immersive experience designed to give our partners a closer look at the impact of their support.

The morning began with a behind-the-scenes tour of Northern Health's surgical suite, where guests met Adjunct Professor Dennis Gyomber, Divisional Director of Surgery.

Dr. Gyomber described how the da Vinci Surgical Robot is transforming patient outcomes across our health service.

"The precision, safety, and efficiency we're now able to deliver is changing the way we operate, and our patients are recovering faster as a result. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our community and partners," he said.

Guests also had the opportunity to try the da Vinci robot themselves, an interactive highlight that sparked plenty of excitement and gave sponsors a genuine appreciation for the complexity and capability of robotic-assisted surgery.

Following the tour, guests moved to the Board Room for a briefing with Northern Health Chief

Executive, Debra Bourne, who shared insights into the organisation's vision, future priorities, and the substantial progress made across all campuses.

Executive Director, Foundation and Public Affairs, Pina Di Donato, thanked sponsors for their leadership and ongoing advocacy.

"Our corporate partners play a vital role in helping us deliver exceptional care to one of the fastest-growing communities in Australia," Pina said. "Their commitment goes far beyond financial support, they are genuine collaborators in helping us improve patient outcomes and strengthen our health service for the future."

We extend our sincere thanks to our corporate partners for their continued dedication, generosity, and belief in the work of Northern Health. Their support ensures we can continue delivering innovative, high-quality care for the people of Melbourne's north.

3 Point Motors Hosts a Golf Day

On Monday, 9 February 2026, 3 Point Motors (Epping and Fairfield branches) proudly hosted a Golf Day at Huntingdale Golf Club, selecting Northern Health Foundation as its charity partner for the event.

Golfers arrived bright and early, ready to put their best swings to the test in what proved to be a fantastic day on the course. A highlight was the exciting hole-in-one challenge at the second hole, where players had the chance to win \$50,000 towards a Mercedes-Benz. While the grand prize remained unclaimed, the enthusiasm and generosity shown throughout the day made it a tremendous success.

We were delighted to have representatives from Northern Health Foundation in attendance, meeting guests and gratefully accepting donations. Special guest, Dr Dennis Gyomber, addressed attendees, speaking about the transformative impact of the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System, a vital piece of equipment that the day's fundraising efforts will support.

The da Vinci system represents a \$2.5 million investment in advanced surgical care, with

Northern Health Foundation proudly committing \$500,000 towards its purchase. Each procedure performed using the system costs approximately \$8,000, and its robotic arms require replacement every six to eight surgeries to ensure optimal performance. With the generous support of our donors and partners, Northern Health Foundation remains committed to helping fund the ongoing costs associated with this life-changing technology.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dealer Principal, Michael Di Muzio, and 3 Point Motors Fairfield and Epping, for their continued support of the Foundation and for choosing Northern Health as the charity partner for this special event. Thank you also to all 3 Point Motors clients and supporters who contributed to making the day such a memorable and meaningful occasion.

Thank You Donors: You Funded a New Scalp Cooling Machine at Day Oncology!

Thanks to our incredible donors, patients undergoing chemotherapy at Northern Health now have access to a new scalp cooling machine, offering not just physical comfort, but the chance to hold on to a deeply personal part of their identity.

The new addition to the Day Oncology Department at Northern Health was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of supporters at the 2025 Fundraising Gala and the ongoing commitment of donors of Northern Health Foundation. Your support has directly funded equipment that is already making a meaningful difference in the lives of local families.

For many people undergoing chemotherapy, hair loss is one of the most visible and distressing side effects of treatment. While often considered secondary to the clinical aspects of cancer care, the emotional impact can be profound, affecting confidence, privacy and a person's sense of self. Thanks to you, patients can now continue receiving this treatment for many years to come.

The scalp cooling system works by gently lowering the temperature of the scalp before, during and after chemotherapy infusions. By reducing blood flow to hair follicles, it can limit the amount of chemotherapy drugs that reach them, significantly reducing hair loss for some patients.

"The scalp cooling machine has had a significant impact on our patient's receiving chemotherapy. For many, hair loss is one of the most distressing aspects of treatment. Being able to offer scalp cooling gives patients a sense of control and helps maintain their privacy and identity during a very vulnerable time. We have seen firsthand how much this support means, not just physically, but emotionally. We are sincerely grateful to our donors for making this possible," said Nisha Poly, Associate Nurse Unit Manager, Oncology/Medical Day Unit.

This is the tangible impact of donor support, funding equipment that goes beyond standard clinical essentials to support dignity and wellbeing alongside treatment. As demand for oncology services continues to grow, community-funded initiatives like this ensure care remains truly patient-centred.



"This is what community generosity looks like in action. Our donors understand that cancer care isn't just about medicine, it's about dignity, wellbeing and supporting the whole person." Says Pina Di Donato, Executive Director Public Affairs and Foundation.

To every Foundation supporter, thank you. Your generosity is helping patients feel more like themselves during one of the most challenging periods of their lives. Most importantly, because of you, families at Northern Health are receiving not only exceptional clinical care, but compassionate support that recognises the whole person.

Painting Away to a Brighter Stay: New Mural in Children's Ward



A new mural has been unveiled in the children's ward at Northern Hospital Epping, bringing a burst of colour and warmth to a space that can often feel daunting for young patients and their families.

The large-scale artwork, filled with vivid colours and playful imagery, has been designed to lift spirits and create a more welcoming environment for children receiving care. Spanning a prominent wall in the ward, the mural transforms the clinical setting into one that feels more hopeful, imaginative and comforting.

The mural is already making a noticeable difference, helping to reduce anxiety and bring a smile to the children's face, helping to change the mood of the space the moment they walk in.

The project was made possible through the generous support of Northern Health Foundation, along with dedicated community groups, Amici Clothing, St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Lions Club Reservoir, as well as our Workplace Givers whose ongoing contributions help fund initiatives that improve patient wellbeing beyond clinical care.

The Foundation said the mural reflects a broader commitment to creating healing environments for patients of all ages, particularly children, who may spend extended periods in hospital.

"Art has a powerful role in health care, and the artist has done a fantastic job in bringing this to life," Kim Berger, Community Engagement Coordinator, Northern Health Foundation, said. "It helps to comfort, distract, and uplift. This mural is a way of saying to the young patients that they are supported, cared for and surrounded by positivity."

For families navigating what can be a stressful and emotional time, the mural also offers a welcome distraction and a moment of brightness. Parents have described the artwork as calming

and engaging, helping to spark conversations and imagination during hospital stays.

Community supporters and Workplace Givers were also acknowledged for their role in bringing the project to life, with hospital leaders emphasising that employee generosity directly supports meaningful improvements to patient spaces.

"This mural is a visible reminder of what community support can achieve," Kim Berger said. "It's not just paint on a wall, it's an investment in comfort, joy and healing."

"Workplace Giving also has an incredible impact on our health service. It allows staff to give back, and see these projects come to life. It benefits not only our patients, but our staff and visitors too. It has such a tremendous role to play at Northern Health, and I strongly encourage more staff to join the program."

As the mural continues to brighten the children's ward, Northern Health Foundation hopes it will leave a lasting impression on the young patients who pass through its doors, reminding them they are not alone on their journey to recovery.

The Foundation thanks its dedicated community groups, supporters, and Workplace Givers for their contributions in making this possible.

If you would like to make a donation to the Foundation, and see more projects like this come to life, please get in touch with the team at Northern Health Foundation at foundation@nh.org.au.

Kilmore Garden Party

The Kilmore Garden Party, proudly hosted by Northern Health Foundation Patron Bev Carman on Sunday, 22 February 2026, was a wonderful celebration of community spirit in support of Northern Health.

From the moment guests arrived, there was a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Local businesses donated generously, and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure every detail ran smoothly. The event drew strong attendance and, thanks to the generosity of the Kilmore community, raised funds to support the funding of a Transport Incubator Cot at Kilmore District Hospital.

A highlight of the day was the much-loved Teddy Bear Hospital. Children lined up excitedly with their treasured teddies in tow, ready for a check-up. Volunteer healthcare professionals carefully "treated" each furry patient with bandages, check-ups and plenty of reassurance. Thank you to everyone who attended on the day in support of Northern Health, and a special thank you to all our sponsors on the day for making this possible.



WAYS TO SUPPORT US

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will?



SCAN ME

Northern Health Foundation

Margie Hill's Lawn Bowls Fundraiser

Sunday, 12th April 2026 | Whittlesea Bowling Club, 101 Church St, Whittlesea

9:00am-4:00pm

\$70 pp includes 2 games of 10 ends and 2 course lunch

Early-bird breakfast BBQ from 8am for gold coin donation

Guest speaker
Dennis Gyomber, Northern Health Divisional Director of Surgery



SCAN ME



HOW TO FOLLOW US AND DONATE:



Northern Health Foundation



@northernhealthfoundation



Northern Health Foundation

Northern Health Foundation

185 Cooper Street, Epping, Victoria, 3076

p: (03) 8405 2897 | e: foundation@nh.org.au | www.nhfoundation.org.au



It's never too late to donate.



SCAN ME