

FOUNDATION LINE

SUMMER 2024

 lionsmedicalresearch
  facebook.com/lionsmedicalresearchfoundation

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Foundation Line, the quarterly newsletter of the Queensland and Northern New South Wales Lions Medical Research Foundation, aka LMRF.

LMRF is a well-established organisation committed to fostering the next generation of medical breakthroughs by providing essential startup funding to early-career medical researchers.



The new look Board held their first meeting following the AGM on 16th November. The following day more than 50 Lions were privileged to be allowed a tour of the Translational Research Institute (TRI) facility at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the tour also included a visit to the SPARQ-ed facility. It is amazing to see what is going on in Queensland in this field. Guests were also grateful for the detailed presentations by Research Fellows Dr Olivia Holland (gestational diabetes) and Dr Dominic Guanzon (early diagnostics for ovarian cancer).

During the year we farewelled Directors Rod Sommerville (Q4), Ruth Reinhardt (Q3) and Pat Lynch (Q2). We welcomed Andy Fitzgerald (Q3), Diane Harrison (Q4) and Tom Becker (Q2).

Board Directors are Lions. We are volunteers yet responsible for the management of a company limited by guarantee. The Foundation has substantial commitments to medical research, which I am sure will as in the past lead to better results for people suffering from illness.

The Foundation is a charity with gift deductibility status for taxation purposes. Donations over two dollars are tax-deductible to the donor. Philanthropy through tax-deductible giving is an important element of our fundraising activities.

As well as continuing our partnership with Safewill, we have also partnered with Play for Purpose and sought to adopt a professional approach to marketing and promotions. A promotional video was produced and

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**HAVE A STORY YOU
WANT TO INCLUDE IN
THE NEXT ISSUE?**

Contact us on 07 38321688 or
email info@lmrf.org.au



CHAIR'S MESSAGE *continued*

provided to all Lions Districts. The video assists in understanding the work of the Foundation and the importance of continuing regular financial support. The Foundation has several Awards that are available to purchase to give to those deserving club members and members of the community.

The Foundation has several fundraising projects, but bequests from deceased estates have proven to be a major source of funding. No matter how small a tax-deductible donation, a raffle ticket, or the purchase of an apron or hat, the Foundation is very thankful for all of the support from Lions Clubs, and the public.

The LMRF Board has made a significant commitment by establishing an annual grant of \$50,000 known as the George and Jean Higgs Memorial Fund. This fund is named in recognition of the generous testamentary bequest left by George and Jean Higgs to the Foundation. The purpose of this fund is to support early career medical researchers in developing their research identity and advancing their research leverage through philanthropic and competitive funding.

Additionally, the Board has agreed to continue supporting the SPARQ-ed program for an additional two years beyond the expiration of the current funding agreement in 2025. The cost of this extension is \$40,000 per year. SPARQ-ed (Students Performing Advanced Research Queensland) is an exceptional educational initiative that offers students from around Queensland the opportunity to engage in week-long programs with renowned biomedical research groups at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane. This program allows students to conduct experimental projects and gain valuable research experience.

I would like to emphasise the importance of the Foundation's role in providing opportunities for biomedical research in Queensland and Northern New South Wales. Our grants, scholarships, and funding are awarded based on the recommendation of a medical advisory committee, considering the quality of the research, research achievements, and the potential of the applicants.

The Foundation receives no government support and is very thankful for all donations received. Donations to LMRF can make a profound difference in the lives of aspiring researchers and, ultimately, in the lives of countless individuals who stand to benefit from their discoveries.

2024 has been an exceptional year for LMRF. Our receipts are up substantially primarily because of ongoing Lions Clubs support, and the generous bequests from deceased donors. We at the Foundation appreciate the support we receive which enables us to continue vital medical research. Our researchers are making great advancements, particularly in the field of ovarian cancer where the research is focused on developing a diagnostic test, and a test that will identify when a cancer is chemoresistant thereby enabling different therapies to be considered.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE continued

The LMRF Board will continue its goals and the legacy built up over the past 60 years funding over fifty medical researchers.

Christmas is fast approaching, the Foundation office will be closed for a short time, details are as set out in this newsletter.

I thank you all for your past support of the Foundation and look forward to your continued involvement and support of the Foundation in the New Year. Please stay safe, have a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year, and as we used to say in the old days: "If you are going to drink and drive, drink Malanda mild and stay alive"

At the end of the day, research is tomorrow's hope, and remember, the life you save may be your own.

Lion Tom Braes OAM
Chair
LMRF

Thank you

for your support in 2024



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

By Deanne Meldon



Sunny greetings to all!

As 2024 draws to a close, we're reflecting on a great year of collaboration, innovation, and generosity. Here's a snapshot of recent highlights and upcoming initiatives that are shaping the future of medical research through your support.

Spotlight on Research Fellows

Our past and present Research Fellows continue to make a remarkable impact.

Our most recent past Research Fellow, Professor Carlos Salomon was a distinguished guest speaker at the recent Q2 District Convention on Magnetic Island, sharing the significant progress of his early diagnostic ovarian cancer research while one of our current Research Fellows, Dr Dominic Guanzon, presented at the Q1 Convention in Casino, showcasing his research project in the diagnostics of recurring and chemoresistant ovarian cancer.

In November, our senior LMRF Research Fellow Dr. Olivia Holland (gestational diabetes) and Dr. Dominic Guanzon joined members of our Q Districts' Lions Clubs and LMRF Directors at the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in Brisbane. Attendees enjoyed inspiring presentations from Dr Dominic Guanzon, Dr Olivia Holland and SPARQ-ed Head of Department, Charmaine Keal on their current project focus and the impact of LMRF support. All attendees then participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the TRI facilities, including the state-of-the-art SPARQ-ed classroom and laboratory.

George & Jean Higgs Memorial Grant Update

Applications for our inaugural George & Jean Higgs Memorial Grant closed earlier this year. Our Medical Advisory Board is now reviewing submissions, and the successful applicant will be announced in January 2025. Stay tuned for this exciting milestone!

Spring for Research – Thank You!

Our annual Spring for Research campaign has wrapped up for another year, and we are overwhelmed by the incredible support from Lions & Leo Clubs across the country. A heartfelt thank you to the following clubs for your contributions:

Rosewood, Palm Beach Currumbin, Ashgrove The Gap, Fernvale, Yeppoon, Brisbane MacGregor, Capalaba, Longreach Thomson River, Burleigh Heads, Millmerran, Maryborough, Brisbane Ekibin, Dalrymple Regional, Maroochy North Shore, Boondall, Cairns, Redcliffe Central, Ipswich, Beaudesert, Killarney, Pittsworth, Nambour and District, Cairns Barrier Reef, Chinchilla, Townsville Barrier Reef, Townsville Ross Valley, Murgon, Rollingstone & District, Marlborough & District, Blackall Range, Blackbutt-Benarkin, Atherton, The Cathedral School, Griffith University, LCI District 201 Q1, and LCI District 201 Q3.

We deeply appreciate your generosity and commitment to advancing medical research.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE *continued*

Celebrate the Festive Season with Purpose

Still searching for the perfect gift? Consider these meaningful options:

Donate to the Foundation in someone's name to honour their generosity.

<https://lionsmedicalresearchfoundation.org.au/support-us#donate>

Purchase tickets as a gift in our latest Play for Purpose raffle, supporting vital research.

<https://www.playforpurpose.com.au/lmrf-qld-nnsw>

And after the celebrations, tackle the all-important task of writing your will or prompting those you love to write theirs. Through our partnership with Safewill, we're offering a 50% discount on will writing for everyone (normally \$160) on Australia's top-rated platform.

<https://safewill.com/lmrf>

Season's Greetings

As we look ahead to 2025, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful festive season and a year filled with health and happiness. Thank you for your unwavering support, which continues to drive life-changing medical discoveries.

Thank You

to all the Lions Clubs for their generosity during our recent Spring for Research campaign



Special shout-out to Rosewood, Palm Beach Currumbin and Ashgrove the Gap for leading the campaign. We appreciate your support!



AGM - DGE WEEKEND

Welcome New Directors



Tom Becker
Q2 Director



Andy Fitzgerald
Q3 Director



Diane Harrison
Q4 Director

Thank you to former Directors



Patrick Lynch
Q2 Director



Ruth Reinhard
Q3 Director



Rod Sommerville
Q4 Director

DGE Dinner, Presentations and Tour of Research Lab



Thank you letter from Stuart Perrett



lions district 201Q1
stuart perrett

1st vice district governor

Thank You!

Lions Medical Research Foundation
Executive Manager
GPO Box 1030
Brisbane QLD 4001

24 November 2024

To the board of LMRF,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every board member of the **Lions Medical Research Foundation Board, LMRF Researchers & Staff** for hosting the **Q1 District Governor's Visit** last weekend. I want to extend my appreciation for the incredible efforts and dedication that made this event a **resounding success** and very enjoyable for both Kaylene & I.

I must **express my gratitude** for the **fantastic Dinner** held on Saturday night, it was great to get together to learn and hear more about the amazing work that is truly having great impacts within the field of science, Kaylene and I especially enjoyed talking with **Dr Olivia** about her research and understanding the full process of what really goes on behind the scenes - it made the evening truly memorable.

It was wonderful to see so many people take up the offer to attend the Sunday tour of the TRI centre, it is something I have wanted to attend for many years.

All your **dedication to service** and to the **LMRF** truly does create a **positive impact** on people's lives and on the wider community, and I am 100% sure lives have and are being saved, plus I'm sure many more will be in the future, and one day, maybe as Chair Tom said: **"maybe one day even our own!"**.

Once again, thank you for your hospitality, warmth, and the exceptional effort you all put into organising the **Q1 District Governor's Visit to the LMRF**. It was an honour and a privilege to be a part of this event, and I look forward to **attending future LMRF events**, and will continue my personal advocacy of the **LMRF**.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,



Lion Stuart Perrett (Stanthorpe)
1st Vice District Governor, District 201Q1

PS. I have a little thank you coming in the post, so keep an eye out for that soon!

CLUB NEWS



Lions Club Capalaba and Q1 DSG LMRF Sophia Argyrou



LMRF Q1 Director Narelle Parkins with Bev Fraser



LMRF Director Paul Ryan at Q3 Convention



Prof Carlos Salomon shared his research program on ovarian cancer at Q2 Convention





PLAY FOR PURPOSE

Win a luxurious \$250K First Prize Pack!

Raffle 26 opens 13 December 2024 and closes 20 March 2025

Featuring the perfect combination of sleek style and design with space for the whole family, the Range Rover Velar is ready to be won as part of the \$250K First Prize Pack.

With a classic Range Rover look, this car is agile and nimble for all of life's adventures, fitted out with cutting-edge technology and the flexibility of hybrid driving.

Plus, this incredible first prize pack comes with over \$86,000 worth of cashable gold bullion, giving you the option to spend, save or invest as you please.

Raffle 26 closes 8pm AEST on Thursday, 20 March 2025 and Winners will be drawn and announced on Friday, 21 March 2025 at <https://www.playforpurpose.com.au/lmrf-qld-nnsw/winners> and on our socials.

THERE'S HUNDREDS OF FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!

Prize Number	Prize Type	Value	Qty	Total Value
1st	First Prize Pack to the value of \$250,000 including: Range Rover Velar Gold Bullion	\$163,908 \$86,092	1	\$250,000
2nd	VISA gift voucher* <small>*If a Victorian resident is drawn as the winner, prize will be a Woolworths gift voucher</small>	\$15,000	1	\$15,000
3rd	Flight Centre gift voucher	\$7,500	1	\$7,500
4th	JB Hi-Fi gift voucher	\$5,000	1	\$5,000
5th	Amazon gift voucher	\$2,500	1	\$2,500
6th to 25th	JB Hi-Fi gift voucher	\$500	20	\$10,000
26th to 45th	The Good Guys gift voucher	\$150	20	\$3,000
46th to 395th	Woolworths gift voucher	\$20	350	\$7,000
Total			395	\$300,000



LIONS
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

QLD & Northern NSW



Wishing You a Wonderful Christmas!

From all of us at the Queensland and Northern New South Wales Lions Medical Research Foundation, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holidays be filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of good cheer. Whether you're spending time with loved ones, indulging in delicious food, or simply relaxing with a cold drink, we hope you enjoy this special time of year. Thank you for your continued support. Happy New Year!

We're Closed for the Holidays See You in The New Year!

Closed - Monday 23rd of December

Reopening - Monday 20th of January 2025