

TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE

Newsletter



Founder's Day 2025



@toowoombahospice

Spring Edition
September 2025

From the Chairman's desk Graham Barron OAM



Hi, and welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

I am sure you would agree that this Winter was very cold. I have lived in Toowoomba since 1962 and it was one of the coldest I can recall. We can now look forward to warmer weather.

This September has been very full on for the Toowoomba Hospice. On the 4th September we celebrated Founder's Day remembering our Founder Sr Frances Flint csb OAM. We were blessed to have Bishop Bill Morris and Brigidine Sisters Maree Marsh, Jan O'Neill and Janette Marsh together with their Executive Assistant Rosemary Cochrane from Sydney join with us for a special service followed by lunch.



Graham Barron, Bishop Bill Morris & Mark Munro at our Founder's Day 2025.

Our Annual Raceday on the 6th September was once again enjoyed by those who attended. This event is not only a fundraising event on our calendar but it is very popular on our social calendar. I would like to acknowledge and thank our many sponsors, supporters and those who attended and I am sure everyone had a great time.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 11th September. This is where members of the Toowoomba Hospice Association Inc receive reports from the Management Committee and the Leadership Team on the activities for the past 12 months both financial and operational. I am very pleased to advise that we had a very successful year as we travelled on our journey in providing very professional end-of-life care to residents from Toowoomba and the surrounding districts and at the same time supporting the families of their loved ones.

Also the election of the Management Committee who will continue to provide good sound governance was conducted. I am very pleased to advise that the following were elected.

Chairman- Graham Barron OAM
Deputy Chairman/Treasurer- Steve Davis
Secretary- Cheryl Morrish
Committee Members
 - Graham Healy
 - Rob Craig OAM
 - Tracey Roberts
 - Courtney Vonhoff

I am looking forward to working with everyone again supporting our Leadership Team, Eugenie Corbett and Mark Munro, with the daily functioning of the Toowoomba Hospice.

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank the community for their ongoing support of our much appreciated healthcare facility; this support is greatly appreciated by all.

Regards - Graham


ACHS

 THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL
ON HEALTHCARE STANDARDS
Inspiring Excellence in Healthcare

Director of Nursing Eugenie Corbett

As we approach the latter part of the year, I am excited to inform our community newsletter readers of recent and upcoming events within our community: *Dying to Know Day* on the 8th of August and the *Toowoomba Death Expo: Demystifying Death and Dying* which will be held on the 11th of October on International Hospice and Palliative Care Day. These events are aimed at fostering open, respectful conversations about death and dying, a topic that is often difficult to approach but essential for both individuals and families.

Dying to Know Day is an annual campaign in Australia held on the 8th of August, focused on encouraging open and honest conversations about death, dying, and End-of-Life planning. It aims to normalise discussions about mortality, destigmatise End-of-Life planning, and empower individuals to make their wishes known. The theme for 2025 was, "Nobody Knows," highlighting the potential chaos and conflict that can arise when people's final wishes are not known or shared. To celebrate this day, the Hospice participated on the panel on ABC radio with Author Lisa Herbert and Dr Etleva Harijav. We highlighted the importance of having these open discussions with loved ones, and to gain a better understanding of how to prepare for the inevitable with dignity and peace.

The Hospice continues to participate in these community engagement conversations and promote the free service provided by Toowoomba Hospice. The Hospice's ongoing commitment to provide person centred care that extends beyond the physical to the emotional, social, and psychological needs of both our patients and their families. **These Conversations Matter** as death is an unavoidable part of life, yet it is often a subject that is avoided or feared. At Toowoomba Hospice, we believe that talking about death openly can alleviate some of that fear. It allows people to express their wishes, prepare for the future, and ultimately find peace in their final days.

We encourage all members of the community to join us at the Toowoomba Death Expo. Whether you are caring for someone with a terminal illness, dealing with your own mortality, or simply seeking a better understanding of palliative care, the process of dying, this event will provide invaluable information and a sense of connection in what can otherwise be an isolating experience.



Join the Conversation

Death Expo: Breaking the Silence Around End-of-Life Matters

The Death Expo is a unique opportunity for the Toowoomba community to come together and explore various aspects of death, grief, and End-of-Life care. As a hospice, we understand that the end of life is a deeply personal experience, and many people find it difficult to navigate the complexities of advanced care planning, grief support, and the emotional challenges that accompany this time. This event is designed to break the silence surrounding death, offering visitors an opportunity to engage with experts, learn about services available, and ask questions in a safe, supportive environment.

At the Death Expo, attendees will have the chance to speak with palliative care professionals about comfort and care options, learn about advance care planning and legal considerations, explore grief support resources for individuals and families, discover funeral planning and pre-arrangement services, and participate in workshops aimed at reducing anxiety surrounding the dying process.

By addressing these topics, the organisers of the Death Expo hope to normalise conversations about dying and empower individuals to make informed decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

I look forward to seeing you there and engaging in these important conversations together. For further details and registration, please visit the death expo website: <https://www.deathexpo2025.com>

Together, let's break down the barriers surrounding death and create a more compassionate, understanding, and supportive community for those facing the end of life.

With care - Eugenie





Business Manager
Mark Munro

As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, the Toowoomba Hospice continues to thrive thanks to the incredible generosity of our local community. It's hard to believe 22 years have passed, and yet we are still so blessed to receive such wonderful contributions – especially for our recent Race Day.

A heartfelt thank you to the many community groups, clubs, businesses, individuals, and families whose ongoing support is vital to our mission of providing safe, quality, and specialised end-of-life care for adults in our region.

Don't forget our Sunday Sunset at the Blue Mountain Hotel on Sunday, October 12th. I also look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Melbourne Cup Lunch at the Toowoomba City Bowls Club (Victoria Street) on the first Tuesday in November. For more information, please contact Claire, our Fundraising and Events Coordinator.

To all our supporters – you are a cherished part of the Toowoomba Hospice family.

Yours in partnership with the community - Mark



Great to catch up with Lawrence and Melissa from Dream Big Support Services, our returning Charity Race Day Silver Sponsors, along with Lacey for a pre-event drink.



**Fundraising
& Events
Coordinator**
Claire Roselio

It's interesting reflecting back every few months and sharing my story, my experience, and my journey at the Toowoomba Hospice with our loyal readers and supporters.

I couldn't resist jumping on the 95FT boom lift, after our 11 bosses had braved the heights; it was thrilling to have the experience of seeing Toowoomba from the Harvey Norman Centre. I thank everyone who joined us on that bright morning in June. It was wonderful to see the youngest of our supporters bravely jump on the scissor lift - imagine comparing that experience to being in the classroom for the rest of Friday. Spotted throughout the crowd were also a few four-legged shadows of devotion, maybe not completely understanding the event, but supporting just as enthusiastically.

Raising over **\$76,400** is a tall order to fill and I want to thank every business that was brave enough to jump on board with us this year. Congratulations to Kellie Banditt from Wellcamp Airport who raised an amazing **\$17,585** and taking home the bragging rights and trophy for this year. The success of HYBOTD 2025 had definitely put a lot of pressure on me to have a successful Race Day event to follow it up as a must-attend event in the social calendar.

It feels incredible to announce that after all the days and weeks with my nose on the grindstone, both at work and in my own time, the Toowoomba Hospice Charity Race Day has raised approximately **\$18,756** this year. Many, many thanks to the supporters of our Charity who came along, braved the winds and witnessed 7 wonderful races that kicked off the Spring racing carnival and didn't hesitate to get involved in our raffles, Fashions on the Field and auctions throughout the night. If that's not putting the fun in fundraising - then I don't know what is!

With Christmas just around the corner now, there is no shortage of opportunities to get involved and events to attend. Keep an eye on our socials for updates and check out our website to see who you can spot. Reach out if you have any ideas, donations, or would like to get involved in any of our upcoming events.

Now let's put the fun back in fundraising - Claire





MY CHILDREN TWEET, CLUCK & PURR

**Volunteer
Coordinator**
Judy Maker-Field

"Be yourself, everyone else is taken"

Spring has arrived and even through the cold and wet weather events of winter this year the enthusiasm of our volunteers has not been dampened. A big thankyou goes out to the Rotary boys for their continued support and, the lovely new camelia pathway leading to the administration entrance.

Thankyou also goes to our gardening/maintenance volunteers Doug, Steve, Brett and Gerry for their continued efforts in painstakingly keeping the Hospice gardens looking pristine. A huge thankyou to DOW Landscaping for the donation of 4 cubic square meters of mulch.

Carnival of Flowers is just around the corner and I would like to thank the volunteers who have made the time to sit at Val Peachy's garden during the Exhibition Gardens portion as the Toowoomba Hospice is proud to be a beneficiary again this year.

On a sad note, we lost one of our valued kitchen volunteers, Anne Priest, at the age of 93. It just goes to show you are never too old to volunteer. We will miss her greatly. Finally, a Happy Birthday to all our wonderful volunteers in June, July and August. Until next time cheers for now.

Thank you for everything that you do!- Judy



**Pastoral Care
Coordinator**
Louise Buttsworth

As Winter turns into Spring, we see the signs of new growth around us and feel a change in the atmosphere as the days get longer. This can bring us happiness as we emerge from the cold and the darker days of Winter.

In June, I was able to attend the "Organ Donation Service" at the Toowoomba Base Hospital. This is always a moving event as we honour the families of those who donated organs, and celebrate the life of those who have received organs. We hear personal stories and there are feelings of sadness, hope, and gratitude.

In September, we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the opening of the Toowoomba Hospice. Founder's Day is a time to honour those who brought about incredibly valuable service to our community through their vision, hope, and faith.

The pastoral care team is currently running the Grief and Loss Support Group for the second half of this year. This very worthy program is provided by Blue Care, and all the Hospice Pastoral Care Team members are trained facilitators. Our next group at the Hospice will be starting in early February 2026. Please contact me if you would like more information on this activity.

Blessings- Louise



Eugenie Corbett, Deb Tokar & Louise Buttsworth at our Founder's Day celebration.



Ways you can contribute...

We're always grateful for your generous donations—whether they're handmade crafts, home-baked goods, or thoughtful items. But did you know that other types of donations, like gift vouchers, new products, or themed hampers, can also be used in raffle prizes and fundraising events? Every contribution helps us continue providing compassionate care at Toowoomba Hospice. If you're unsure what to donate, feel free to reach out—we'd love to chat!



September	AFL Grand Final - Pick the Score Tickets
October	NRL Grand Final - Doubles Tickets
October	Death Expo
October	Sunset Sunday
October	Toowoomba Hospice & AWQ Trivia
November	Melbourne Cup
November	Toowoomba Hospice Carols
December	Gift Wrapping
December	Toowoomba Christmas Wonderland



*Together with the community,
Toowoomba Hospice provides
boundless love and dedicated
care when it is needed most.*



This wonderful hand made quilt was brought to the Toowoomba Hospice by Decima Miller passing it into our hands from the Goolburri Elders who had selected the patterns from those available and chosen the backing colour to tie in tribes with country. We are so honoured to have such a special item available to include in making our clients feel more at home and we thank Decima for choosing our facility to receive this donation.



Our Community

By joining our Partnership Program you will experience satisfaction knowing your contribution will be making a real impact on our local community members at a time when they are most vulnerable.

Your Business Here - Become a newsletter sponsor. Contact Claire at events@toowoombahospice.org.au to learn more.



DATE CLAIMERS

2025



Sunday 2:00pm

Sunset Sunday

Watch the sun set with us at The Blue Mountain Hotel and enjoy some afternoon tunes, nibbles, and a cold one or two.

Oct
12
2025



Tuesday 11:00am

Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Join us at the Toowoomba City Bowls Club for the race that stops the nation. Sweeps, raffle prizes, and a great time - we'll have it all - you've got to be in it to win it!

Nov
4
2025



Sunday 5:00pm

Hospice Carols

Bring the family and kick off the festive season at the Toowoomba Hospice with food, drinks, and raffle tickets. Bring a picnic blanket, family, and friends!

Nov
30
2025

To purchase tickets for these or other upcoming events please go to our website
www.toowoombahospice.org.au/events
 For more information please email or phone
events@toowoombahospice.org.au OR 07 4659 8500

Putting the fun back into
Fundraising



Thank You

For your support in 2025



@toowoombahospice

What's Happening?



TOOWOOMBA'S Christmas Wonderland



Volunteer shifts are now available from the 6th to 24th December 2025. The Toowoomba Hospice is one of three major beneficiaries from Toowoomba's Christmas Wonderland (TCW). Please help by contacting the TCW Volunteer Coordinator on 0477269143 or scan the QR code to fill out the on-line form.



DEATH EXPO 2025 | DEMYSTIFYING DEATH AND DYING



Saturday, 11 October 2025 | 10am - 3pm
Hume Ridge Church, Toowoomba

FREE ENTRY



GRAND FINAL FUNDRAISER TICKETS

CONTACT: Claire
4659 8500
events@toowoombahospice.org.au



TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE



HALLOWEEN Trivia Night

CONTACT: Claire
4659 8500
events@toowoombahospice.org.au



**6PM THURSDAY 30TH
OCTOBER 2025**



2025 CHARITY RACE DAY

10

Thank You for your support!





TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE



Toowoomba Hospice
Charity Race Day 2025



A huge thank-you to **Kim at Pinky's Coffee Dreams** & **Jacob from Bloomi's Mowing & Maintenance** for getting involved in our State of Origin Doubles Fundraiser and donating some liquid consolation prizes for our Lucky Losers.

Thanks to : Andy, John, Geoff, Paul, Phil, Ron, Ian, and Peter from the Toowoomba City Rotary Group who help us every Monday morning maintaining the grounds outside our facility.

Our core value—to engage and foster the services of staff and volunteers—comes to life through the unwavering support of volunteers like Chrissy Siebuhr. Year on year, she's stood beside us, helping collect donations that directly support the care we provide.

Appreciation from the Brigidine Sisters

Dear Graham & Everyone who made last Thursday so special,

Thank you all for your hospitality & welcome; The Prayer & Music were gentle & reassuring; Time to talk to with you all was great & from it came many different aspects of the growth of the Hospice were revealed.

Somehow, between you all - & Frances too - you managed to arrange a balmy, sunny day that was also so welcoming! [Right now I'm sitting inside as the rain pours down relentlessly].

All you have done for the people of Toowoomba, Within the Hospice setting is a great tribute to you all. Your care, generosity, sense of purpose & dedication indicate that you are the best folk to undertake such a caring & purposeful environment.

My apologies that this letter is not quite usual, but I wanted to simply identify & be appreciative of all you do. God's richest blessings on you all,

[Sr] Jan O'Neill, csb

On behalf of the Toowoomba Hospice Family we appreciate your continued support!