

# 2022 Annual Review

with 2021-22 Financial Highlights



snowdome™  
FOUNDATION  
*making hope real*

Connecting Australia's best blood cancer researchers and visionary philanthropic partners enables the Snowdome Foundation to continue to accelerate advances in the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancer.



Funded  
**89+**  
research  
positions

Over  
**\$52m**  
committed  
to blood cancer  
research since 2010.

**506**  
patients  
have participated  
in clinical trials.

Funded  
**65**  
research  
projects



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## Our thanks go to:

Davidson Branding who worked tirelessly to bring this review to life once again.

Our generous photographers Chris Budgeon, Greg Elms Photography, Jim Lee Photography and Damo Photography who have captured our people and events.

Without your support we could not have produced this review.

Snowdome honours the Country and Songlines of the traditional custodians of the land on which our office sits, the Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nation. We recognise their spiritual relationship and continuing connection to the land, waters and seas, and celebrate their unique wisdom and commitment to Country. We acknowledge and pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

# Message from our Chairman and Chief Executive

**A great learning from the pandemic was the value of connection. We thrive best when we belong to, and contribute to, something bigger than our own experience.**

In 2022, the Snowdome Foundation continued to enjoy the privilege of connecting our donors to Australia's brightest research minds and the provision of world-leading blood cancer research and clinical trials.

We enhanced and forged new local and international connections with prestigious blood cancer institutions, clinicians and researchers, and after a more than two year hiatus, took the chance to connect and celebrate at the 2022 Bloody Good Dinner. We provided funding to new, potentially life-saving blood cancer diagnostics and treatment projects and welcomed new researchers to the Snowdome family. However, as we have come to learn, the pandemic will continue to affect how we live for some time, particularly for those living with blood cancer.

In 2022, with over 19,400 Australians expected to be diagnosed with blood cancer and incidence increasing by 47 per cent over the past decade, more Australians look to blood cancer research to realise their hope for a longer, better life. These numbers confirm that Snowdome must remain persistent and relentless in our pursuit of cures.

Spurred on by the growing health challenge of COVID-19 and with the unwavering support of our passionate family of donors, supporters, collaborators, Board and Executive, Snowdome continued to honour all granting commitments, extend our partnerships and collaborations alongside helping our Centres of Excellence achieve significant milestones. This included the Wilson Centre for Blood Cancer Genomics conducting more than 5,000 genomic tests and the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories gaining NATA accreditation.

Since 2010, Snowdome has committed more than \$52 million to blood cancer research, with \$2.3 million granted in 2022.

Fundraising was a major focus this year and we were thrilled to return to face-to-face events, reconnecting with our incredibly generous donors, partners and supporters at the 2022 Bloody Good Dinner in November. The event raised \$710,000, an astounding result. In June, Snowdome was the charitable recipient of the Melbourne Media Hall of Fame Luncheon which raised close to \$100,000.

Snowdome was delighted to be recognised at the 2022 Third Sector Awards, receiving the Australian Small Charity of the Year and our prodigious volunteer Geoff Nyssen winning Volunteer of the Year. The recognition of the achievements of the team and Geoff Nyssen amongst a field of amazing Australian not-for-profit organisations and volunteers is very special.

The delivery of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan remains a focus, ensuring the organisation is poised to broaden its impact. A newly structured team, including increased resource and capabilities in grant management, fundraising and marketing, was introduced as well as strengthening operations whilst striving for increased reach. Thanks to the generosity of Tony and Helen Gandel, the Snowdome office moved to a wonderful new space.

Sadly, cherished members of the Snowdome family passed away this year. Mr Andrew Cody, Mr John Date, Associate Professor Bruce Davis, Mr Greig Gailey, Mr Steve Novak and father of Snowdome co-founder, Dr John Tandy. John and his son Rob were part of the catalyst for the founding of Snowdome. It is with great sadness, yet deep appreciation that we remember them all.

Snowdome is very fortunate to have wonderfully generous donors, partners, supporters, volunteers, Board, Executive and stakeholders. Our continued commitment to blood cancer research would not be possible without them and we thank everyone who gives selflessly in pursuit of better treatments. We are honoured to be part of a family who together, strive to make hope real for all Australians impacted by blood cancer.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Salvaris".

**John Salvaris**  
Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirstee Macbeth".

**Kirstee Macbeth**  
Chief Executive

# Mission

Snowdome's mission is to accelerate next-generation treatments for Australian blood cancer patients to help them live longer, better lives.

# Vision

Our vision is to give every Australian blood cancer patient the best opportunity for a cure.

# Making Hope Real Since 2010

More than  
**\$52m**  
committed

**\$18m**  
secured  
in 'matched' funding  
from partners.

Funded  
**65**  
research  
projects

Funded  
**89+**  
research  
positions

Facilitated  
**205**  
research  
publications

**\$2.2m**  
raised  
through Blood Cancer  
Research WA, enabling  
695 patients to access  
clinical trials.

**506**  
patients  
have participated in  
clinical trials supported  
by Snowdome.

**5,000+**  
genomic tests  
conducted at Wilson  
Centre for Blood  
Cancer Genomics.

**\$7.7m**  
invested

with world-class Australian researchers  
in partnership with the Leukemia  
and Lymphoma Society (US) and  
Leukaemia Foundation as part  
of the Translational  
Research Program.

# A Year in Review 2022

**\$2.3m**  
granted  
to research  
projects.

**1,000+**  
genomic tests  
at Wilson Centre for  
Blood Cancer  
Genomics.

**\$710k**  
raised  
at the Bloody  
Good Dinner.

**\$5m**  
commitment  
to the Epworth Centre for  
Immunotherapies and Snowdome  
Laboratories and a further  
commitment of Snowdome support  
of \$5M across the next 5 years  
was matched by the Epworth  
Medical Foundation.

**+15%**  
growth  
in the membership of the  
Australasian Lymphoma  
Alliance. Now 115 members  
across Australasia.

**2x**  
awards  
Recognised by the  
not-for-profit sector with  
two Third Sector Awards -  
Small Charity of the Year and  
Volunteer of the Year.

Close to  
**\$100k**  
raised  
as the charitable recipient  
at the Melbourne Media  
Hall of Fame Luncheon.

# Vale Dr John Tandy (1949 – 2022)

**On 7 September 2022, Snowdome lost a much loved and admired member of our family, Dr John Tandy. John is the father of co-founder Rob Tandy, and his diagnosis of multiple myeloma in 2009 was the catalyst and part of the first chapter in the Snowdome story. Our vision is bound together with John and the mission to ensure that other families do not endure the same loss.**

In 2009, John received the devastating news that he had myeloma, an incurable blood cancer. Like the patients he had cared for at his GP practice in bayside Melbourne, John believed that with a diagnosis such as this, that he was not expected to live for more than a few years.

When Rob received his father's news, just four weeks after the birth of his son Will, John and his wife Pam's first precious grandchild, he was determined to do what he could to ensure that his children would have the opportunity to create precious memories with their grandfather. The seed of an idea of what was to become the Snowdome Foundation, was planted.

"All we needed was a cure and the numbers didn't look good for life expectancy; from what we had heard from dad's doctor it was three to five years at best," recalls Rob.

Driven by the desperate desire for his son to grow up knowing what a great person his grandfather was, Rob, a self-confessed 'doer', sprang into action and within a matter of months found Professor Miles Prince AM a leading Australian haematologist and then Grant Rutherford, an internationally recognised creative director. Within the same year as John's diagnosis, Grant tragically lost his daughter Chloe due to complications from leukaemia; she was only nine years old.

Rob, Miles and Grant went on to found the Snowdome Foundation. All personally motivated to find a cure for blood cancer through medical research.

John was a GP for over 30 years, during which he performed thousands of house calls, visiting his patients in their home or nursing home. This would often include Christmas Day, taking one of his four children (Rob, Charles, Angus and Georgie) with him, instilling a sense of service and hard work in each of them, which they now pass on to their own children. Rob believes these values, passed on while a young child, are integral in the drive to find a blood cancer cure.

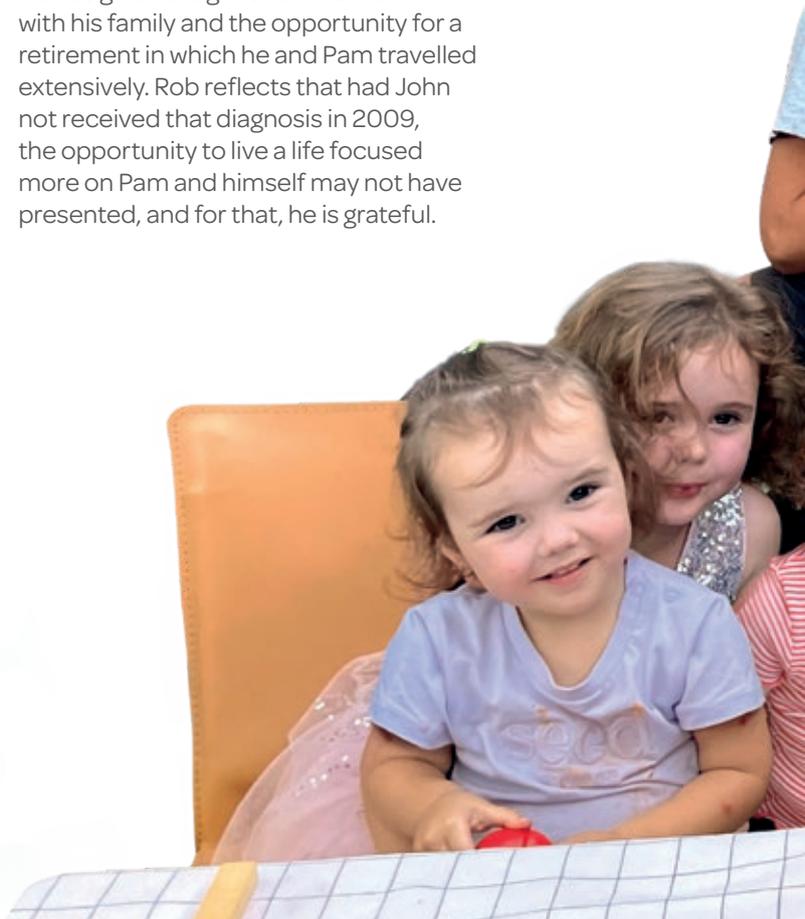
In the early days of Snowdome, and like his approach to life, John rolled up his sleeves to help in any way he could. With his renowned bedside manner, he became an unofficial ambassador, sharing the vision and mission of Snowdome with other healthcare professionals, often with embellishments that still makes Rob laugh.

"Dad was always super proud of everything that Snowdome did," says Rob. John was a constant at Snowdome, contributing his specialist skills, time and blood cancer experience, unassumingly behind the scenes. He would often speak with those affected by blood cancer, offering his personal experience with a gentleness that marked his years as a GP.

"He was such a humble, caring, thoughtful man," reflects Rob.

Thirteen years later, Snowdome has achieved the ability to buy time for those affected. Even though John very sadly passed away in 2022, investment into research and clinical trials meant that John had time to continue to create precious memories with his wife Pam, his four children, his first grandchild Will, now 13 years old, as well as a further eight grandchildren – Ted, Ella, Matilda, Jack, Emma, Chloe, Frank and Olivia.

Thanks to advances in the diagnosis and treatment of myeloma, John lived well beyond the three to five years initially expected. In the 13 years from diagnosis, he was given the gift of cherished time with his family and the opportunity for a retirement in which he and Pam travelled extensively. Rob reflects that had John not received that diagnosis in 2009, the opportunity to live a life focused more on Pam and himself may not have presented, and for that, he is grateful.





We extend our heartfelt condolences to Pam, who remains steadfastly at the heart of the Tandy family, and to Rob, Charles, Angus and Georgie, their partners and children. John, or Doc to his mates and grandchildren, will be forever remembered with deep fondness, adored by those lucky enough to have met him. Snowdome remains committed to honouring his legacy and memory by continuing our mission to accelerate next-generation blood cancer treatments so that patients and families just like the Tandys, can live longer, better lives.

“

My husband John was a unique human being. As a father, partner, GP and friend, no one was more kind, compassionate, caring plus well respected and loved. We are all so grateful that Snowdome and its work gave us those additional precious years with John. That extra time meant we are all better off and live in a much better place. Thank you Snowdome.

– Pam Tandy

”



# Innovation in Action

## Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories

Immunotherapy and targeted therapy are the pioneering new frontiers of blood cancer treatment, delivering significant improvements in outcomes.

Together these therapies are commonly called precision therapy because they are personalised to the genomic profile of the cancer and the patient. Sophisticated medical facilities that integrate research, diagnosis and precision-based treatments are now the benchmark for world-leading cancer care.

In 2021, the Snowdome Foundation proudly partnered with the Epworth Medical Foundation to open such a facility, the state-of-the-art Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories.

At this Centre of Excellence, care will be delivered in a personalised and holistic way by increasing access to next-generation cancer treatments. The Centre will also contribute to the global progress of blood cancer treatments through the delivery of research, clinical trials, education and clinical expertise in immunotherapies.

It is the first step in establishing a Cellular Therapies service including the pioneering form of immunotherapy known as CAR T-cell therapy. Cellular therapies are one of the most revolutionary advances in the treatment of cancer in recent years. From the launch in March 2021, the Centre has now achieved NATA accreditation. We look forward to bringing news of the first patients to have been successfully treated.

**Thank you to the many generous Snowdome Foundation donors who helped make the Epworth Centre of Excellence and Snowdome Laboratories a reality. We would especially like to acknowledge the founding donors.**

Tony and Helen Gandel	Estate of Mary Dupont Nolan
Harbig Family Foundation	Henk and Debbie Verhagen
Estate of Majorie May Kingston	Russell and Diane Withers

## A Centre of Excellence

To achieve the best outcomes for blood cancer patients and support ongoing collaborations, the Centre has four integrated portfolios.

### 1. Academic Haematology and Education

The Centre invests in training the next generation of clinicians and researchers. In the future, through developing CAR T expertise, these experts will educate the first generation of CAR T specialists in Australia.

### 2. Molecular Oncology and Cancer Immunology (MOCI)

Under the leadership of Prof Miles Prince AM and facilitated by the support of the MOCI research program, the MOCI team delivers cutting-edge genomic testing, a variety of investigator-initiated studies, and contributes to nationally recognised blood cancer clinical data registries and meaningful research through membership with the Australasian Lymphoma Alliance (ALA). The registry data supports benchmarking of clinical care for Epworth patients and informs the Australian experience of blood cancer management.

### 3. Haematology Clinical Trials – Industry-Sponsored Studies

Under the leadership of Dr Costas Yannakou, Director of the Haematology Clinical Trials Unit, and the support of the clinical trial team, they are delivering 28 active clinical trial treatment options for patients with blood cancer at Epworth, with seven in the development phase. Since 2017, over 111 patients have received care through an industry-sponsored haematology clinical trial program at Epworth.

### 4. Cell Therapies

Under the leadership of Prof Miles Prince AM, the Centre will enable Epworth to become only the second private hospital in Australia to deliver autologous stem cell transplants, complex immunotherapies and ultimately expand the availability of CAR T-cell therapies to patients.



# Advancing Precision Therapy

## Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories

Dr Costas Yannakou, Director of Haematology Clinical Trials and Dr Nicole Brooks, Research Program Manager share a vision for a future where precision medicine is the standard of care, rather than the exception. Their work and clinical practice focuses on identifying the individual characteristics of each blood cancer diagnosis and prescribing bespoke treatments for patients at Epworth.

To progress their vision and make it a reality for all Australians, since 2017 and with the support of Snowdome, Dr Yannakou and Dr Brooks, have been undertaking research in cell-free DNA, also referred to as circulating tumour DNA or ctDNA.

ctDNA provides a novel strategy for earlier diagnosis of blood cancers and guidance of treatment options specific to the type of blood cancer and patient. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the tumour genomic makeup through the detection of mutations, without having to perform invasive biopsies. By identifying the genetic mutations early in the diagnostic and treatment pathway, they can be targeted earlier, increasing the potential for cure.

ctDNA assessment can also be used to monitor a patient's response to treatment and therefore further guide precise therapy. Precision medicine is the cornerstone of the Epworth Centre of Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories, where they both hold senior research roles.

Dr Yannakou sees the future of cancer care as that informed by tests such as the ctDNA, "because we are often able to match a treatment that is quite specific and selective to that tumour cells, unlike chemotherapy which has a wide affect at killing all kinds of cells. More targeted therapies are better tolerated by patients."

The Centre is an exciting step for Australian blood cancer research and treatment and will deliver the very best of precision medicine, which Dr Brooks considers the future of cancer care.

“ We have been able to build what I would consider a state-of-the-art centre which houses the most sophisticated technology and pieces of equipment. We are ready to provide blood cancer patients access to what they need

– Dr Nicole Brooks



Dr Costas Yannakou  
MBBS (Hons), FRACP, FRCPA, PhD  
Director, Haematology Clinical Trials



Dr Nicole Brooks  
BSc (Hons), PhD  
Research Program Manager

# Making Personalised Medicine a Reality

## Genomic Testing

Thanks to the Wilson Centre for Blood Cancer Genomics, over 5,000 Australians diagnosed with blood cancer have received cutting-edge genomic testing since the Centre opened in 2017.

Blood cancers are a set of complex diseases that are driven by genetic mutations within the cancer cells. Precisely which gene mutations are present in the cancer cell determine the blood cancer type and how they will respond to treatment. As technology advances and the world of personalised medicine evolves, understanding the effects of these mutations through research is saving many from undergoing treatments that will have little to no effect on their particular cancer type.

Genomic testing involves analysing a sample of a patient's blood to look for these critical gene mutations and allows the specific cancer type, and the genetic mutations causing it, to be identified. Using this information, the best available treatment can be prescribed, including recruitment to the latest in clinical trials.

**\$9m**

The Centre was made possible by the incredible generosity of the Wilson family, who have donated over \$9 million.

**5,000+**  
genomic tests  
conducted at Wilson  
Centre for Blood  
Cancer Genomics.



the Wilson Centre  
for BLOOD CANCER GENOMICS

Jennifer\* was one such patient. At age 67, Jennifer was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Undertaking genomic testing at the Wilson Centre for Blood Cancer Genomics, the team identified the genetic mutations causing the CLL. Her treatment team then determined the best treatment pathway. In Jennifer's case it was the use of a targeted therapy using two drugs – Venetoclax and Obinutuzumab, avoiding the use of chemotherapy.

Nearly one year on Jennifer continues to respond well to treatment and remains in remission.

Genomic testing is making hope real for Australian blood cancer patients, tailoring treatment to each person and delivering evolution in cancer care.

\*Name and personal details have been changed.

### How is a genomic test performed?

#### 1. Sample collection

Blood, bone marrow or tumour tissue is taken and sent for genomic testing at the Wilson Centre for Blood Cancer Genomics at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Patients are from around Australia.



#### 2. Sequencing

Sophisticated laboratory techniques and instrumentation is used to prepare the sample for next generation sequencing to identify the patient's unique genetic code (using an international reference genome) and identifying the variants which may be causing the cancer.



#### 3. Interpretation

Medical scientists and haematologists analyse the genetic variations to see if there are effective treatment options to improve outcomes, specific to that genetic variation.



#### 4. Reporting

The treating haematologist will discuss the results and treatment options with the patient.



# Blood Cancer Researchers Delivering Hope

We are incredibly proud to support these talented Australian researchers in their quest to discover next-generation blood cancer diagnostic tools and treatments.

Since 2010, Snowdome has funded 65 research projects and over 89 research positions across all types of blood cancer. We are delighted to showcase these researchers.

We remain deeply committed to bringing together researchers and those seeking to support blood cancer research.



A/Prof  
Piers  
Blombery



Prof  
Richard  
Boyd



Dr Nicole  
Brooks



Prof Chan  
Cheah



A/Prof  
Michael  
Dickinson



Dr Katie  
Fennell



Prof Mark  
Dawson



Dr Jamie  
Kuzich



A/Prof Eliza  
Hawkes



Dr Carolyn  
Grove



A/Prof  
Melita  
Kenealy



A/Prof Jane  
Oliaro



Prof Miles Prince AM



Prof David Ritchie



Dr Pilar Dominguez

James Hicks



Prof John Pimanda



Prof Andrew Spencer

Emily Li



Prof Jeff Szer AM



Dr Siok Tey



Dr Peter Tan



A/Prof David Westerman



Dr Costas Yannakou



Dr Carrie van der Weyden



Dr Paul Yeh



Dr Colin Wood

# Blood Cancer Researchers Delivering Hope



Prof Ravi  
Majeti



Dr  
Katherine  
Cummins



Dr Charles  
Mullighan



Dr Charles  
de Bock



Dr Michael  
Osborn



Prof  
Jake Shortt



A/Prof  
Daniel  
Thomas



Dr Kylee  
MacLachlan



Dr Kate  
Vandyke



Prof  
Andrew Wei



Dr Simon  
Willis



Dr  
Elizabeth  
Moore



Dr Mary Ann Anderson



Dr Lev Kats



Dr Gareth Gregory



Prof Ricky Johnstone



Prof Richard Lock



A/Prof Amit Khot



Prof Stephen Nutt



Dr Belinda Guo



Dr Joshua Tobin



Dr Indu Raman



Prof Andrew Roberts AM



Prof Judith Trotman



Prof Sean Grimmond



Dr Jacek Marzec



Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan



Dr Jessie Zhao

# International Collaboration in Paediatric Blood Cancer

The most common form of childhood leukaemia and the most common cancer in children is acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).

Fifty years ago, leukaemia was considered incurable for most, but today with the ongoing advances in treatment options, those diagnosed have much greater hope. In fact, more than 80 per cent of children and teenagers with ALL will be cured. However, for those who relapse the chance of survival remains considerably lower due to resistance to conventional chemotherapy.

Tragically, for a significant proportion of children and teenagers who relapse there have been few treatment options, until now.

Australian and New Zealand children can now participate in a new Phase II trial treating Relapsed Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia with Venetoclax and Navitoclax (RAVEN). This is the first study in both countries to examine the effectiveness of the cancer drugs Venetoclax and Navitoclax, specifically for children with relapsed or refractory ALL.

The clinical trial is the result of a partnership between Australian and New Zealand doctors, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA (the originators of the trial), Monash University and the Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group.

It will be available across ten Australian and New Zealand hospitals and in conjunction with the US will recruit up to 78 patients across the three countries. It is estimated that 30 Australian and five New Zealand children will be enrolled on the trial.

The genomic testing undertaken as part of the RAVEN study by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute also provides an opportunity to strengthen the existing relationship with St Jude and further develop diagnostic tests in partnership with one of the best ALL genomics labs in the world.

Clinical trials are at the forefront of revolutionary change in blood cancer treatment and this trial is proof of the power of global collaborations. Snowdome, together with the Leukaemia Foundation, is proud to fund the Australian component of RAVEN.

Coordinating Principal Investigator on the trial and consultant paediatric and haematologist/oncologist at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide, Dr Michael Osborn said, "high-quality clinical trials are vital to improve clinical care for patients and international partnerships are essential due to the rarity of childhood cancers. We couldn't have opened this study in Australia without the support of the Snowdome Foundation and Leukaemia Foundation."

**\$644k**

**invested**  
together with the  
Leukaemia Foundation.

**78**  
**children**

to participate, with 30  
from Australia who would  
otherwise have limited  
treatment options.

**22**

collaborative  
partners across  
3 countries.

The Snowdome Foundation is steadfast in its support of global research connections that have, and will continue to, revolutionise blood cancer diagnosis and treatment for Australians.

Dr Charles Mullighan, St Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis USA is one of the originating and lead investigators of the RAVEN project. In 2019, Dr Mullighan was one of the first recipients of the Snowdome – LLS – Leukaemia Foundation Translational Research Grants.



**Dr Charles Mullighan**  
MBBS (Hons), MSc, MD



**Dr Michael Osborn**  
BSC MBBS MRCS  
FRCPath

# Australian Researchers Backed by a Global Partnership

**In Australia, and across the world, blood cancer researchers search for cures for all types of blood cancer.**

International collaborations and knowledge exchanges are fundamental in advancing and promoting vital research, from early studies to those ready to translate into new treatment protocols.

Snowdome is very proud to partner with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) in the USA and the Leukaemia Foundation here in Australia to advance blood cancer research through the LLS Translational Research Program. The program is focused on accelerating research that shows high promise of translating into new clinical application.

## **Professor Richard Lock** Children's Cancer Institute, Sydney

Around 213 Australian children are diagnosed with T-lineage acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) each year; the greatest number of children are sadly diagnosed between the ages of two and four. ALL in children can be broadly divided into two forms; B-lineage and T-lineage, with the latter being exceptionally difficult to cure after relapse.

Professor Richard Lock and his team are focused on a treatment for children who relapse or do not respond to treatment for ALL.

They are investigating the use of a type of drug that converts into an active form once it enters the body, called a 'prodrug', in combination with current standard-of-care drugs. It is hoped that this new combination treatment will improve outcomes for young patients with T-lineage ALL.



**Prof Richard Lock**  
BSc, PhD



**A/Prof Jane Oliaro**  
BSc (Hons), PhD

Since 2019, the three organisations have funded nine Australian research projects, worth a total of AUD \$A7.7 million.

In 2022, together we committed a total of \$1.8 million to two Australian leaders in the field – Professor Richard Lock and Associate Professor Jane Oliaro. Critically, they are both investigating treatment options for hard-to-treat blood cancers that are, all too commonly, incurable.

## **Associate Professor Jane Oliaro** Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne

Associate Professor Jane Oliaro and her team are investigating a combination treatment for difficult to treat blood cancers; lymphoma and multiple myeloma. An immunotherapy, called CAR T-cell therapy, is offering great promise, but not for all patients, with some failing to respond or relapsing following treatment.

A/Prof Oliaro's research focuses on improving response rates by combining CAR T-cell therapy with a class of anti-cancer drugs called SMAC-mimetics. SMAC-mimetics are small molecular anti-cancer drugs that sensitise cancer cells to death-inducing signals produced by the CAR T-cells.

A/Prof Oliaro was the first to show that this combination treatment significantly reduced tumour growth through inducing cancer cell death as well as increasing CAR T-cell activity.

It is hoped this new combination therapy will see more patients respond positively, be well longer and ultimately, cured.

# International Ideas Exchange

## Fulbright Scholarship

### Meaningful international collaborations and knowledge exchanges are fundamental in advancing the translation of blood cancer research from the bench to the patient.

Snowdome's partnership with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), who are based in the United States of America (USA), began in 2019 through our participation in the LLS Translational Research Program. It is an exemplar of our global partnerships. Through this collaboration, Australian researchers, some of whom are profiled on page 19, are financially supported to focus on translational research to accelerate new treatments and find cures for Australian blood cancer patients.

This partnership with LLS took on a new dimension when Snowdome Board Director, Amanda Jones was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and had the privilege of spending time in the USA hosted by the LLS.

The Fulbright Scholarship program is aimed at increasing research collaboration, cultural understanding, global connections and the exchange of ideas between Australia and the USA. In the spirit of the Fulbright, Amanda headed to New York in May 2022 to commence her internship with LLS, engaging with, and learning from, so many inspiring people from across the entire organisation.

This knowledge exchange came from the many interviews and conversations with people from the LLS executive team, research and research funding programs, grants management, Therapy Acceleration Program (TAP), the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office, and the campaign and fundraising teams situated at different office locations across the country. Amanda also met with teams from health research and patient outreach, patient services, clinical trial support centre, advocacy, marketing, science communications, business development and volunteer engagement. Like Snowdome, the LLS team are all motivated to support the mission of finding a cure for blood cancer and improving the quality of life of patients and their families.

Significant insights were gained into the operation and impact of the LLS Research Funding Programs and Grant Portfolio. Amanda had the opportunity to be an observer in the peer review assessment process for the 2022 major research funding schemes administered by LLS. With a total annual budget of \$US50 million for investment in research and the TAP program, the LLS pave the way for new therapies to treat blood cancer.

As a strong advocate for investment in blood cancer research, and a member of the Snowdome Grants Committee, Amanda found this insight to be invaluable and confirmed that the Snowdome strategy to stay focused on raising more funds to support impactful research and clinical trials, is on target.

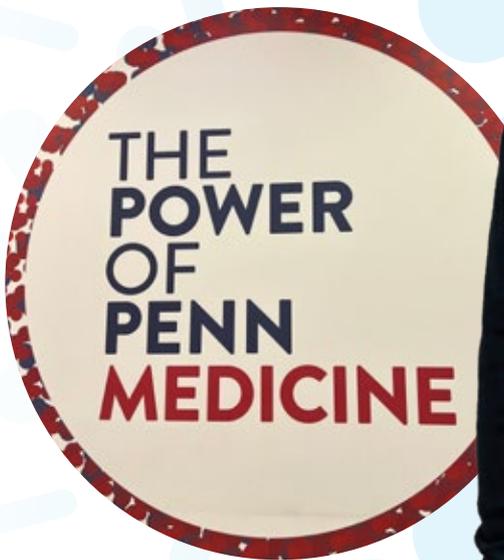
As part of the Fulbright program Amanda also participated in an Observership Program at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Cell Therapy and Transplant Division, Haematology/Oncology, Abramson Cancer Centre) in Philadelphia, pioneers in cell therapy and CAR T-cell therapy. Learning about the logistics and infrastructure (both physical and human) required to deliver cell-based therapies (CAR T treatments) for blood cancers and the current cell therapy research at UPenn was both valuable and timely given Snowdome's investment in the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapy and Snowdome Laboratories (ECISL). To read more about this state-of-the-art facility see page 10. In the hospital environment at UPenn, Amanda also saw first-hand the positive impact of these treatments on blood cancer patients. It is the stories of patients, their challenges, their hopes that motivate us and are the 'why' Snowdome exists.

The Fulbright experience and time spent with LLS also provided Amanda with a new lens on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). LLS are champions of DEI and are dedicated to addressing gaps in blood cancer outcomes and healthcare that disproportionately impact minority and rural communities and other underserved populations. Snowdome is equally committed to ensuring that outcomes for blood cancer patients are not impacted by postcode. Snowdome's support of the formation and operation of Blood Cancer Research WA is DEI in action and has allowed more blood cancer patients in Western Australia access to vital clinical trials without the need to cross the Nullabor.

The Fulbright experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A time for learning and idea exchange, a time for strengthening connections with our international partner LLS, for making new friends, and most of all for providing inspiration to continue to aim higher and continue the fight against blood cancer.

Thank you to the Snowdome Foundation, Prof Miles Prince AM, Prof Paul Neeson and Miriam Dexter, Fulbright Australia and The Kinghorn Foundation. Special thanks to my family, the LLS, Dr Lee Greenberger and Robin Plonsker and Prof Saar Gill from UPenn. Amanda Jones.

Ms Amanda Jones  
2020 Fulbright Scholar  
Snowdome Board Director  
Grants Committee Member  
Co-chair of ECISL Steering Committee



“

The Fulbright experience was incredible and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity. The LLS was the obvious host for me as the Snowdome mission is so closely aligned with its mission. The success of LLS in raising funds to fight blood cancer and the scale of investment in research is both inspiring and mind blowing. I knew that I could learn so much from the experience and knowledge exchange.

– Amanda Jones

”



# A Journey of Positivity

In July, Alastair Evans ran hour after hour, kilometre after kilometre, step after step in a four-day journey of 270 kilometres that took him from Melbourne to Echuca, to raise money for research into myeloma.

Called 'The Positive Journey', Alastair undertook this personal mission to honour his mother Sally, who passed away in 2016 after living with myeloma for 19 years.

Although a gruelling marathon, six in fact, Alastair said that the four days were filled with happiness, laughter and camaraderie, and just a few sore muscles. Most importantly, The Positive Journey was just that, "it would have made my mum so happy to see the positivity that surrounded me, as she filled her days with positivity and inspired others to do the same."

"The 270 kilometre run took me, and those who joined me, along the journey so often taken by mum as she travelled to Melbourne for treatment. As we passed through some of Victoria's stunning countryside, she was so often in my thoughts, as were family and friends, my mum's medical team and the Echuca community who supported her and our family over the 19 years she lived with myeloma."

The Positive Journey raised over \$150,000 for a myeloma research project at the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories.



# Raising Awareness

## Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Around the world each September, Blood Cancer Awareness Month is recognised. It is a chance to raise awareness of the challenges, support and research needs of those impacted by blood cancer.

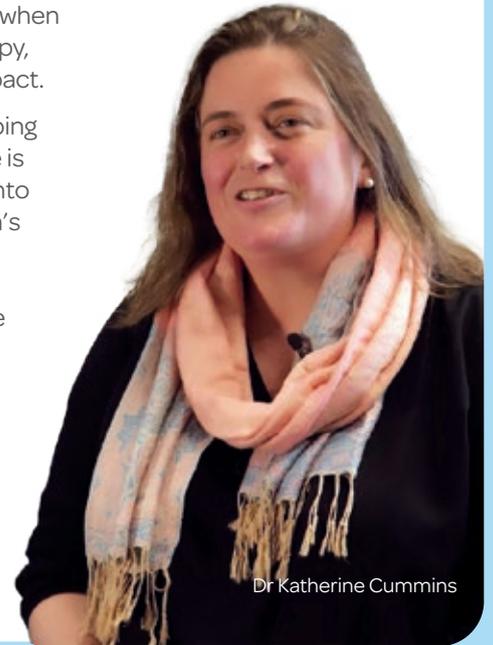
In 2022, for Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Snowdome showcased the generations of research advancement and disease understanding that has led to today's treatment options, where some blood cancer patients can be prescribed treatments specific to the genetic mutations causing the cancer. It is because of years of research that we can look optimistically to a future in which personalised medicine will become standard care.

Using social media, we shared fascinating facts about treatments, taking our readers on a historical journey of the evolution of blood cancer treatments.

For instance, it is not commonly known that chemotherapy originated from chemical warfare undertaken in WW2.

It is heartening to see how treatments have advanced in the past 30 years when immunotherapy and targeted therapy, have started to make a very real impact.

Thanks to technology and the mapping of the human genome, cancer care is evolving rapidly. We had glimpses into this future through four of Australia's brightest research minds who are recipients of Snowdome funding; A/Prof Piers Blombery, A/Prof Jane Oliaro, Dr Katherine Cummins and Dr Joshua Tobin. Interviews with each of the researchers gave us an insight into the next generation of blood cancer treatments.



Dr Katherine Cummins

# Recognition as Leaders

## Third Sector Awards

On the first day of Blood Cancer Awareness Month this year, the Snowdome Foundation and our prodigious volunteer, Geoff Nyssen were honoured at the 2022 Third Sector Awards, a national award celebrating and recognising the best not-for-profit practices across Australia.

For Snowdome, winning 2022 Australian Small Charity of the Year was recognition of the passion that everyone demonstrates in making a real difference to the lives of Australians living with blood cancer. We were humbled to be listed as a finalist alongside some of the most exceptional small charities doing powerful work in Australia.

Snowdome was delighted to also have the amazing work of Geoff Nyssen celebrated with the award of Volunteer of the Year.

Geoff's tireless work at Snowdome and across the entire blood cancer sector including Leukaemia Foundation, Myeloma Australia, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Patient Voice was aptly recognised.

Geoff inspires clinicians and researchers with his belief and optimism in their work, he connects those impacted by blood cancer with his positive attitude and supports the sector with his professional expertise and commercial knowledge. Significantly, Geoff has built an ever-growing community of people affected by blood cancer through his much-loved fundraising event – MY Mount Eliza Run & Fun Festival which has raised more than \$320,000.

We are deeply grateful for this recognition and thank the Third Sector Awards.



Geoff Nyssen

# A Shared Experience

## In May, the third virtual Blood, Sweat and Tears of Joy event was held.

We were delighted that more than 100 people joined us to hear stories from those impacted by blood cancer. Like everyone within the Snowdome family, the speakers shared an unwavering passion for advancing medical research.

Hosted by Prof Miles Prince AM, our co-founder, Board Director and internationally recognised haematologist, our guests had the opportunity to hear the stories of Karen Frankiel, Brenda Cherednichenko AM and Geoff Nyssen, who are all at varying stages of their blood cancer journey. From remission to ongoing management. Despite their diagnoses, they are all passionate about sharing their journeys and ensuring that advances in diagnosis and treatment pathways continue to be made.

Also, joining the panel was Alastair Evans. Alastair's story began when mother Sally, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma as a young mother of three. Sally lived with her blood cancer for 19 years before sadly passing away in 2016. In honour of his mother, Alastair ran from Melbourne to Echuca, a run of 270km over four days in July called The Positive Journey; read more on page 22.

These stories remind us of the importance of our shared vision to accelerate next-generation treatments to help Australian blood cancer patients live longer, better lives.

## Greater Purpose

Imagine having the grace to view a cancer diagnosis as a means of advancing medical research so that more effective treatments can be delivered to more people.

This is exactly how Professor Brenda Cherednichenko AM views her diagnosis of diffuse large B cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. As Professor Emerita and past Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Education at Deakin University, Brenda has a lifelong passion for improving educational equity and outcomes. Perhaps then, it is hardly surprising, when diagnosed in 2013, that she applied the same professional philosophy to her cancer experience.

At the 2022 Blood, Sweat and Tears of Joy webinar, we heard Brenda's cancer journey, learning of her unflinching commitment to medical research and the role and responsibility she has in supporting better treatments and improved monitoring of disease.

"I've had a rewarding, interesting and reasonably uneventful journey through all the steps to remission each time. I am more than happy to play around to make these treatments more effective for others," shared Brenda.

Self-described as curious, among other responses, Brenda has taken a researcher's approach to her cancer experience, reading medical papers, developing a deeper understanding of the drugs she takes and asking her medical team many questions about the treatment she is receiving. Brenda's quest for knowledge is repaid by participating in multiple research projects.

Having received a range of treatments including stem cell transplant and CAR T-cell therapy, and entered remission twice as a result, Brenda knows firsthand the intrinsic value of ongoing and innovative research to discover the next treatment option.

Brenda's partnership with her medical team and blood cancer researchers will make a difference to others. Her treatment, whilst aiming to keep her well, more importantly for Brenda, is progressing life-saving research.

The ultimate act of grace.

“  
I have never been afraid. I have always been grateful it is me. I don't want young people, parents of young children or my children to face a diagnosis like mine.  
”



Professor Brenda Cherednichenko AM

# An Enduring and Evolving Alliance

**Blood cancer research not only leads to better outcomes for patients, but it is also where meaningful partnerships can flourish.**

Snowdome Foundation has had the privilege of fostering partnerships between donors who wish to improve the lives of those affected by blood cancer, with those who can make it possible. Sometimes for deeply personal reasons.

One such partnership is that of George and Yolanda Klempfner AO and Professor Mark Dawson. Since 2015, Prof Dawson and his team have received support through the George and Yolanda Klempfner Fellowship over five research projects and an investment of over \$350,000. To date, the fellowships have included Dr Paul Yeh, Dr Katie Fennell and Dr Jamie Kuzich.

With successful careers in public service, the law and medicine, Yolanda and George's passion for philanthropic support of the health sector in Australia is a natural choice. The funding provided to Prof Mark Dawson and his team, through Snowdome, exemplifies their philanthropic mission.

"Thanks to the tireless efforts of researchers like Prof Dawson and his team, more effective treatments for blood cancer are being discovered. These discoveries would not be possible without teamwork and collaborations. Yolanda and I are privileged to partner with Prof Dawson and his team in their journey to deliver better treatments," says George Klempfner.

Since 2015, their generous support has enabled research into a diagnostic tool called ctDNA for myelodysplastic syndromes, a clinical trial for a new blood cancer targeted therapy, and projects to improve success rates of bone marrow transplants and CAR T-cell therapy.

Through funding Prof Dawson and his team, not only is this important research realised, the Klempfners also support emerging cancer researchers ready to take the lead in the highly competitive world of medical research. Dr Paul Yeh is one such person.

In 2015, alongside Prof Dawson, he was the joint recipient of the George and Yolanda Klempfner Fellowship. Prof Dawson and Dr Yeh went on to receive funding for an additional three novel research projects.

In 2021, Dr Yeh secured a coveted National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Emerging Leader Fellowship Grant, funding his research for five years. Less than 15 per cent of all applications were successful that year. The Klempfners and Snowdome were thrilled that Dr Yeh, as principal investigator, is now leading his own research at Monash University and is recognised by Australia's peak medical research authority, the NHMRC.

"We take great joy in watching the careers of the researchers flourish within the projects the Fellowships fund. Not only are we supporting current research, but we are also investing in the future. We are proud to have played a part in Dr Yeh's success," says Yolanda Klempfner AO.

It is a privilege to connect researchers and donors in our shared pursuit of cures for blood cancer and to know that this not only has life-changing dividends, but helps to build the intellectual capacity of Australian medical research today and into the future.

“

It is absolutely remarkable how my personal connection with George and Yolanda Klempfner has made such a meaningful impact on our research into new blood cancer diagnostic tools and treatments. It would be safe to say we would not be where we are today without their involvement.

– Prof Mark Dawson

”



**Prof Mark Dawson FAA; FAHMS  
MBBS; BMedSci; FRACP; FRCPA; PhD**



George and Yolanda Klempfner AO



We would like to thank and acknowledge those individuals who have let us know they have left a gift to the Snowdome Foundation in their Will. The Snowdome Foundation wants to ensure that blood cancers become manageable conditions. That hearing those dreaded words “you have blood cancer” no longer have the impact they used to.

By including us in your Will or Trust, you and your family can play a vital role in helping to fund life-changing research and next-generation treatments for Australian blood cancer patients, bringing us closer to that goal.

Gifts in Wills, both large and small, are a unique way to provide for causes you believe in and that your legacy is honoured into the future.

Once you have provided for loved ones, please consider including the Snowdome Foundation in your Will.

# Thanks to our Supporters

The Snowdome Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following Major Donors, Foundations and Estates for their generous contributions that provide support for all our programmes.

In 2022, our amazing donors helped open the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies & Snowdome Laboratories, continued the incredible work of the Wilson Centre for Blood Cancer Genomics and funded world-class research positions.

## Major Donors

Mr Peter & Mrs Sarndi Addison	Mr Paul Naughton
Dr Anthony & Mrs Baker	Mrs Helen Nicolay
Baystreet Pty Ltd	Mr Willy and Ms Mimi Packer
Busby Family	Mrs Rosemary Pitt
Calneggia Family Vineyards	Mr Garry and Mrs Wendy Prendiville
Mrs Michela and Mr Adrian Fini	Mr Kim Ramen
Mr Tony & Mrs Helen Gandel	Sietel Limited – Mr Richard Rees
Mrs Edith Greiman	Mr Ian & Mrs Virginia Rehfish
Mr Peter & Mrs Rae Gunn	Mr John & Ms Debbie Schaffer
Mr Mike & Mrs Jackie Haintz	Mr Rodney & Mrs Ann Smorgan
Mr Gary and Ms Petrina Johnson	Mr Hendrikus & Mrs Debbie Verhagen
Mr Theodore and Mrs Diane Kailis	Mr Peter & Mrs Rachel Vodicka
Mr Theo and Mrs Sia Kailis	Mr Mark Westbrook & Ms Sue McDonald
Dr George Klempfner and Mrs Yolanda Klempfner AO	Mr Bruce Wilson
Leone Family Holdings	Mr Russell & Mrs Diane Withers
Mr Harvey & Mrs Janette Lewis	Mr Philip & Mrs Trix Wollen
Mr Ian & Mrs Jane Mandie	Mdm Mimi Wong
Mr Camillo and Mrs Jo Della Maddelena	

Snowdome would like to acknowledge Mr Geoff Nyssen (MY Mount Eliza Fun & Run Festival) and Mr Alastair Evans (The Positive Journey) for their incredible fundraising efforts in 2022.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the numerous individuals and families who donated or raised funds for us throughout the year and those who wish to remain anonymous. We would like to especially acknowledge the friends and family of Mrs Helen Kyriakou, Mr Steve Novak, Mrs Melinda Rotstein, Mrs Anne Smorgon and Mr Michael Westworth.

## Foundations

Argo Foundation  
The Calvert-Jones Foundation  
CFC Group Foundation  
The Eastcourt Foundation  
GP Harris Foundation  
Harbig Family Foundation  
Jan and Robert Lyng Charitable Fund, a giving fund of the APS Foundation  
The Jon and Caro Stewart Family Foundation  
Morris Family Foundation  
Mostyn Family Foundation  
The Paula and Jack Hansky Family Charitable Fund  
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust  
The Pratt Foundation  
The Quercus Foundation  
Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation  
The Samuel Nissen Foundation  
The Tony Fini Foundation  
The Ungar Family Foundation  
Wealth Mentoring Group Fund - a sub fund of Australian Communities Foundation  
The Wolf Foundation  
The Wright Burt Foundation

## Estates

Estate of Marjorie May Kingston

# A Bloody Good Night

After a more than two-year interlude and three reschedules, the Bloody Good Dinner finally returned in November 2022.

Guests were welcomed to the spectacular Botanica Marquee in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, where they feasted on a glorious banquet inspired by the Mediterranean roots of the extremely talented NOMAD Executive Chef, Jacqui Challinor. The team at Blakes Feast once again, generously and expertly cared for and catered to our 300 guests who enjoyed the delights of the menu in the stylish surrounds, all provided by our incredibly generous event partners and sponsors.

MC Hamish McLachlan hosted the event and our speakers included John Salvaris, Snowdome Foundation Chairman, Ed Kemp, Maddie Riewoldt's Vision (MRV) Chairman and special guest, Grace Joukhadar.

Grace shared the heartbreaking story of her daughter Raya's leukaemia diagnosis and treatment journey at the tender age of just four years old. Her journey involved 220 doses of steroids, 145 nights in hospital, 100 rounds of chemotherapy, 16 bone marrow biopsies, six total body radiation treatments and a bone marrow transplant. In 2021, Raya was finally declared in remission. Guests rejoiced in this news and further celebrated when they were given the opportunity to meet the now five-year-old Raya in a recorded interview with Hamish.

Grace illuminated the critical importance of funding blood cancer research, and specifically the Snowdome research that is the beneficiary of money raised at the dinner; the RAVEN project. RAVEN is a clinical trial for children with relapsed or refractory acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). The most common type of cancer in children. The trial offers immediate access to the promising new combination treatment Venetoclax and Navitoclax, bringing hope to these patients and their families. You can read more about RAVEN on page 18.

The Bloody Good Dinner is a collaboration between the Snowdome Foundation and MRV, raising much needed funds for blood cancer and bone marrow failure syndrome research. This year, \$710,000 was raised through the generosity of our donors, far exceeding our expectations.

We pass on our heartfelt thanks to our guests, partners, sponsors, volunteers, Chair Pennie Callaghan and the Bloody Good Dinner Committee for once again helping to raise much-needed funds for blood cancer research.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to our major event partners who helped to make the night truly special; Blakes Feast, NOMAD, Dann Event Hire, Town Square and Décor It. We are so fortunate to be supported by these wonderful companies and individuals who donated their time, expertise, products and services. Thank you. For a full list of our amazing event partners, sponsors and partners, please see page 44.

Photography: Jim Lee Photography



NOMAD and Blakes Feast creating Jacqui Challinor's menu



John Salvaris, Snowdome Chairman



Jacqui Challinor and Hamish McLachlan



A botanical experience



**\$710k**  
raised  
at the Bloody  
Good Dinner

Grace Joukhadar, sharing the story of her daughter's journey through leukaemia treatment to remission.

# Board of Directors

The Snowdome Board of Directors consists of eleven independent non-executive directors and one executive director.

Our passionate, skilled and highly engaged Directors bring diverse experiences and expertise from various industries and sectors.

They are our governing body, ensuring Snowdome realises its mission through responsibility for our strategic direction, establishing goals for management and achieving these through various committees.

We also acknowledge the ongoing support of our Board Alumni.



**Mr John Salvaris**  
**BEC CA CPA**

Chairman.

Partner of KPMG specialising in corporate tax matters for financial services organisations.

John was appointed to the Board in 2017 and became the Chairperson in 2020.



**Prof Richard Boyd**  
**BSc (Hons) PhD**

Chief Scientific Officer of Cartherics Pty Ltd, a cancer immunotherapy company.

Richard joined the Snowdome Foundation in October 2015.



**Mrs Helen Buckingham OAM**  
**BA, Dip Ed, Grad Dip Careers, AICD Dip**

Helen offers a personal perspective living with multiple myeloma since 2004. Helen was elected to Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament in 2002 and has been involved with Snowdome since its inception in 2010.



**Mrs Helen Gandel**

Pharmacist and philanthropist supporting a variety of community charities.

Helen joined the Snowdome Board in May 2016.



**Mr Michael Robertson**  
**LLM (Hons), BA**

Senior Lawyer, Corporate Advisory, ANZ.

Michael joined the Snowdome Board in March 2016.



**Mr Grant Rutherford**  
**BA Graphic Design**

Co-founder and director of East of Everything. Grant is also Chloe Rutherford's father, for whose love of snowdomes (during her leukaemia treatment), the foundation is lovingly named.

Grant is a co-founder of the Snowdome Foundation.



**Mr Rob Tandy**  
**BSc MPC**

Facilitator from the tourism, investments and property industries. Rob brings a personal perspective of blood cancer lived through his father's diagnosis of multiple myeloma.

Rob is a co-founder of the Snowdome Foundation.



**Mr Ian Thompson**  
**BBus (Accounting)**  
**Grad Dip (Corporate Finance), CPA, GAICD**

Former Senior Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer at Standard and Poor's Rating Service.

Ian joined the Snowdome Board in December 2014.



**Ms Amanda Jones**  
**BAppSc, Grad Dip IP**  
**Law, FIPTA**

IP Professional and former Medical Scientist. MRFF Grant Proposal Manager.

Amanda joined the Snowdome Board in December 2014.



**Dr Andrew Pascoe**  
**MBBS**

Executive Chairman of the Asia Pacific eHealth Group (APeHG).

Andrew joined the Snowdome Board of Directors in 2013.



**Prof Miles Prince AM**  
**MBBS (Hons) MD**  
**FRACP FRCPA AFRCMA**  
**AFRACD FAHMS**

Blood cancer specialist and a Professor of Medicine at both Melbourne and Monash Universities, Professor/Director of Molecular Oncology and Cancer Immunology at Epworth Healthcare, Director of the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies & Snowdome Laboratories and Haematologist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Miles is a co-founder of the Snowdome Foundation.

# Executive

Our team is comprised of talented, generous and committed people, driven by making a difference to the lives of those affected by blood cancer.

In 2022, we were delighted to welcome new team members who broadened our fundraising, marketing, grant management and administration capabilities, joining a highly experienced team with rich experience from a range of industries and backgrounds.



Kirstee Macbeth  
Chief Executive



Cathy Rhodes  
Head of Operations  
and Finance



Fiona Douglas  
Head of Marketing and  
Communications



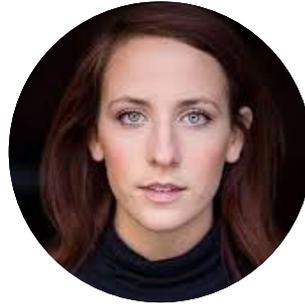
Sally Cane  
Head of Philanthropy  
and Fundraising



Margaret Dandis  
ALA & TCL  
Administrative Manager



Elian De la Rosa Gomez  
Events Manager



Lucy Westbrook  
WA Business Manager



Joanne Huynh  
Grants Manager



Chloe Lanyon  
Administration Officer

The Snowdome Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank Mandi Robertson and Anna Steiner for their contributions during 2022.

# Committees

## Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Ian Thompson (Chair)

Mark Inston

Eleanor Moffat

John Nevins

Michael Robertson

John Salvaris

## Grants Committee

Richard Boyd (Chair)

Helen Buckingham

Amanda Jones

Olivia Milne

Andrew Pascoe

## Development Committee

Andrew Pascoe (Chair)

Ian Allen

Helen Gandel

Miles Prince

Grant Rutherford

John Salvaris

Rob Tandy

## Snowdome Lymphoma Governance Committee

Mark Inston (Chair)

Prof Chan Cheah

Dr Gareth Gregory

Dr Greg Hapgood

Assoc Prof Eliza Hawkes

Prof Miles Prince AM

Prof Judith Trotman  
(until June 2022)

## Bloody Good Dinner Committees Executive

### Steering Committee

Rob Tandy (Chair)

Helen Gandel

Ed Kemp

Michelle O'Brien

Andrew Pascoe

Nick Reiwoldt

### General Committee

Pennie Callaghan (Chair)

### Snowdome Foundation

Kirstee Macbeth  
(Chief Executive)

Elian De La Rosa Gomez

### Maddie Riewoldt's Vision

Amanda Stevens  
(Acting Chief Executive)

Meagan Henry

Peta Twisk

Annabel Banks

Gian Blundo

Vanessa Cohen

Mitchell Coughlin

Carly Duckworth

Lauren Frazer

Jackie Haintz

Lou Johns

Stephen Jolson

Christine Lester

Gina McNamara

Billie Paulino

Georgie Stayches

Georgie Tandy

Kasey Thompson

We would also like to thank Maggie Lynch and Elaine Montegriffo from Maddie Riewoldt's Vision for their contribution to the 2022 Bloody Good Dinner.

# Australasian Lymphoma Alliance

**Snowdome proudly supports the Australasian Lymphoma Alliance (ALA). The ALA is a collaboration of lymphoma clinicians who share research, practice and findings to better shape the care of lymphoma patients.**

Professor Chan Cheah, Chair of the Alliance, leads a group of 115 members, including six New Zealand and three Singapore based clinicians. All Australian states are represented, ensuring Australian clinicians can easily access expert advice and opinions in determining diagnosis and treatment pathways. This year the membership grew 15 per cent, further increasing the reach of the ALA's invaluable work.

It has been an especially busy year for ALA members:

- 5 papers were published in medical literature
- 1 poster presentation at the Australian Blood Conference
- 4 consensus practice statements published and supported with educational webinars

These new published consensus practice statements are relevant to specific blood cancers:

1. Hodgkin lymphoma;
2. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma;
3. Peripheral T-cell lymphoma; and
4. Central nervous system lymphoma.

These new statements were supported with educational webinars, further promoting their role in the provision of evidence-based patient care plans. In total, seven practice statements have now been published providing relevant local guidance in the diagnosis and management of key lymphoma subtypes.

In April 2022, the ALA in collaboration with the Lymphoma and Related Diseases Registry (LaRDR) also shared its expertise in a 'Real World Evidence New Investigator Workshop', providing registrars, fellows and consultants new to research the opportunity to find out more. For the first time, two international speakers; Dr Tarec Christoffer El-Galaly from Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark and Dr Andrew M. Evens from Rutgers Cancer Institute, USA presented to the Alliance. The workshop was a great success.

With face-to-face conferences returning in 2022, the ALA hosted a hybrid ALA, LaRDR and Lymphoma Australia Breakfast meeting. 64 guests were welcomed, with a further 54 joining virtually.

The ALA continues to improve outcomes for lymphoma patients through the collaboration and sharing of expertise, experience and knowledge.



**AUSTRALASIAN  
LYMPHOMA  
ALLIANCE**

*supported by the Snowdome Foundation*

**50+**

**difficult patient cases**  
discussed at the fortnightly  
Australasian T-Cell Lymphoma  
Network eGrand Round meetings,  
assisting in the treatment  
of patients.

**17**

**members**

spoke at the Australian  
Blood Conference.

**34**

**members**

involved in abstracts for  
the European Haematology  
Association Conference.

# Blood Cancer Research WA

## A New Chapter

In 2018, Professor Chan Cheah, driven by the inequity in access to clinical trials for blood cancer patients in the west compared to the eastern states, sought the support of the Snowdome Foundation. The following year, Blood Cancer Research Western Australia (BCRWA) was established under the auspice of Snowdome and driven by our shared mission to provide access to clinical trials for all Australians diagnosed with blood cancer.

Since the very first fundraising event, in which \$550,000 was raised to enable BCRWA to employ the team necessary to establish a research centre of excellence, the investment in blood cancer research has delivered life-changing impact. In its first six months, the number of blood cancer trials delivered in WA more than doubled from eight to nineteen. Today, four years later, this number has grown substantially and more than \$2.2 million has been raised for blood cancer research.

96  
clinical  
trials

828  
patients  
accessed  
a trial.

Over  
\$2.2m  
raised  
for blood cancer  
research.

4  
research  
fellows  
supported.

On 1 January 2023, BCRWA commenced a new chapter, operating as its own not-for-profit organisation led by Prof Cheah and an independent Board of Directors.

Snowdome is incredibly proud to have supported the establishment of BCRWA and to have played a part in delivering real impact to West Australians affected by blood cancer. Looking to the future, we wish Prof Cheah, the Board, and the entire team every success and we look forward to collaborating on future projects in the region.



Mark Westbrook, Chair - BCRWA  
Kirstee Macbeth, Chief Executive - Snowdome  
Prof Chan Cheah, Founder and Director - BCRWA.

## Women in Lymphoma

When Professor Judith Trotman asked female lymphoma experts around the globe if they felt underrepresented in leadership roles, it sparked the idea that transformed into Women in Lymphoma (WiL) - a network of over 800 lymphoma clinicians, researchers and educators from around the world including USA, Canada, South America, United Kingdom, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Snowdome Foundation proudly supported the establishment of the initiative in October 2020, providing administrative and governance expertise, enabling WiL to establish and grow an international network, with a global steering committee and offering a series of expert webinars. Fully established, WiL moved to their new home at Lymphoma Australia on 1 July 2022, where they are best placed for their next stage of growth.

We thank Prof Judith Trotman, the inaugural Chair of WiL, and Dr. Ann LaCasce, (USA) current Chair and the other original steering committee members for their vision in creating a platform that aims to support and increase representation of women in haematology.

We are honoured to have been part of this great work and wish WiL the very best for the future. We are looking forward to celebrating their success as they continue to deliver advocacy, networking and education opportunities for women in lymphoma globally, for their betterment and that of their patients.



# Financials 2021 – 22

The Snowdome Foundation is a leading ‘for-purpose’ organisation focussed exclusively on raising funds to support translational research and clinical trials. Since inception the Group has raised over \$51 million in funds.

The Snowdome Group recorded a consolidated surplus of \$2.1 million for the fiscal year ending June 2022, reversing the two years of deficit brought about by the adverse economic impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its consequential constraints on fundraising activities.

The very strong financial result in fiscal 22 was due to the generosity of donors, Snowdome’s success in obtaining philanthropical grants to fund our various activities along with prudent expense control. Overall, revenue grew by 25 per cent during the financial year, while Snowdome expenses ratio was held at 15 per cent. These favourable trends enabled Snowdome to continue supporting research into cures for blood cancers.

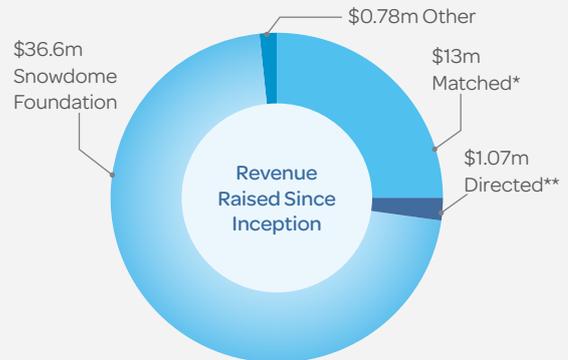
We expect the near-term outlook to remain challenging for fundraising, with local and global economies continuing to be tempered by inflationary pressures and the lingering economic impact of the pandemic.

Snowdome’s prudential discipline and conservative approach to funding and cashflow will continue to hold us in good stead and support continuation of granting activities.

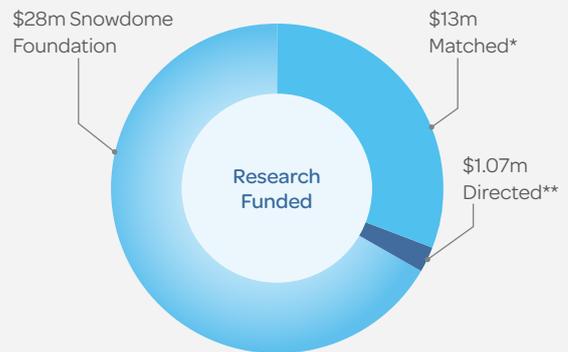
Snowdome is particularly proud of the fact that throughout the pandemic we have been able to maintain all existing research grant commitments while offering new grants and securing funding for our collaborative partnerships. During fiscal 22 a total of \$2.269 million of research grant funding was paid.

Since inception Snowdome has funded 65 research grants for an amount of \$42 million, enabling more than 89 funded research projects.

Revenue raised by Snowdome from inception to the end of FY22 \$51.4 million

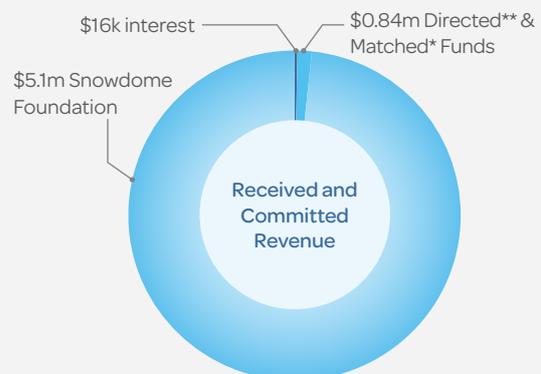


Research funded through Snowdome from inception to end of FY22 \$42 million



At the end of FY22 96 per cent of available funds had been granted. This was an increase of 9 per cent on the previous year.

Revenue Received and committed during the FY22 \$6 million



\* Matched – funding support matched by collaborative partners

\*\* Directed – when Snowdome donations are paid directly to the administering organisation.

Pharmaceutical grant funding for the Australasian Lymphoma Alliance and Women in Lymphoma global initiatives have not been included in the figures above (\$344,000).



## Legal Structure

The Snowdome Group consists of Snowdome Foundation Limited DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) Item 1 and Snowdome Limited DGR Item 2. As a result, the Snowdome entity can accept tax deductible donations from all donors including Private Ancillary Funds. Going forward, the Snowdome Foundation Limited DGR1 entity will become the principal group member in terms of fundraising for all new grant activity.

## Governance

Throughout the year the Snowdome Grants Committee reviews and recommends strategic projects to be funded. We are mindful that many of our grants are multi-year research projects. As such, we seek to fund them with multi-year donations to provide certainty of funds. We start the process by first attaining the donation commitment and then extending the grant commitment.

All grants provided have clear, measurable key performance targets which are reviewed every six months by the Snowdome Grants Committee.

The Snowdome Finance, Audit and Risk Committee oversees financial performance to minimise risk for the organisation.

## Financial Year 2022 (FY22) Accounts

Snowdome’s financial year accounts have been audited and submitted to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC).

Notwithstanding the lingering impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic hampering the ability to fundraise face-to-face, coupled with general business uncertainties and rising inflation, Snowdome’s donors generously supported us in fiscal 22. In addition, Snowdome received philanthropic grants in fiscal 22 and coupled with tight expense control, resulted in a pleasing consolidated surplus for this financial year of \$2.1 million.

Throughout the pandemic Snowdome has continued to meet all grant commitments, fiscal 22 was no different with \$2.27 million invested in Australian blood cancer research grants.



### Highlights of the 2022 financial year:

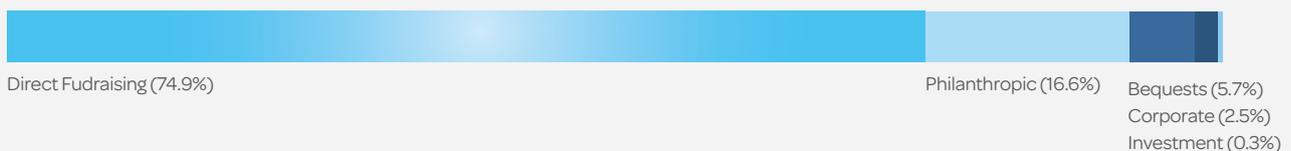
#### Pro Bono Support of \$173,000

Undeterred by the ongoing market turbulences in 2022, our incredibly generous pro bono partners continued to support Snowdome. We are extremely thankful for their ongoing commitment.

#### Granting of \$2.27m for Blood Cancer Research

During the financial year Snowdome granted \$2.27m. As of June 2022, Snowdome has a collective \$5.5m of outstanding grant obligations to be paid in future financial years.

### Income Breakdown Financial Year 2022



### Expense Breakdown Financial Year 2022



# Financials 2021 – 22

## FY22 Financial Year Accounts

### Australian Charities & NFP Commission (ACNC) Financials Expanded

Snowdome Foundation Limited (DGR1) – ABN 79 624 141 117

Snowdome Limited (DGR2) – ABN 26 239 780 877

Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2022	Snowdome Ltd ATF Snowdome Foundation (DGR2) (AUD\$)	Snowdome Foundation Limited (DGR1) (AUD\$)	Consolidated (AUD\$)	Consolidated 2021 (AUD\$)
<b>Income</b>				
Donations	-3,089,590	7,091,305	4,001,715	3,355,784
Fundraising Events Income	650	517,603	518,253	148,308
ALA Income	-	89,425	89,425	87,557
BCRWA Income	-	576,824	576,824	495,687
WiL Income	-	43,221	43,221	20,000
Pro Bono Services Received	-	172,815	172,815	612,221
Interest Income	4,438	11,831	16,269	31,854
Other Income	-	6,506	6,506	124,428
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-3,084,502</b>	<b>8,509,530</b>	<b>5,425,028</b>	<b>4,875,839</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Grants to Organisations	-5,000	-2,264,213	-2,269,213	-4,652,314
Fundraising Events Expenses	-	-132,480	-132,480	-27,641
Employee Benefits Expense	-	-460,111	-460,111	-516,398
ALA Expenses	-	-45,291	-45,291	-32,920
BCRWA Expenses	-	-41,236	-41,236	-41,164
WiL Expenses	-	-41,691	-41,691	-20,221
Pro Bono Expenses	-	-172,815	-172,815	-612,221
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	-4,938	-7,203	-12,141	-6,391
Bank and Credit Card Charge	-229	-	-229	-490
Fees and Permits	-594	-	-594	-723
Other Expenses	-	-94,747	-94,747	-120,957
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-10,761</b>	<b>-3,259,787</b>	<b>-3,270,548</b>	<b>-6,031,440</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit for Year</b>	<b>-3,095,263</b>	<b>5,249,743</b>	<b>2,154,480</b>	<b>-1,155,601</b>

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2022	Snowdome Ltd ATF Snowdome Foundation (DGR2) \$AUS	SD Foundation Limited \$AUS	Consolidated \$AUS	Consolidated 2021 \$AUS
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	468,310	8,612,101	9,080,411	6,997,882
Trade and Other Receivables	-	119,847	119,847	836,205
Financial Assets	-	151,402	151,402	302,852
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>468,310</b>	<b>8,883,350</b>	<b>9,351,660</b>	<b>8,136,939</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Plant and Equipment	-	5,385	5,385	1,026
Intangible Assets	3,304	11,235	14,539	25,438
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>16,620</b>	<b>19,924</b>	<b>26,464</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>471,614</b>	<b>8,899,970</b>	<b>9,371,584</b>	<b>8,163,403</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Trade and Other Payables	-	11,770	11,770	792,825
Financial Liabilities	-	151,402	151,402	302,852
Provisions	-	29,129	29,129	41,610
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>192,301</b>	<b>192,301</b>	<b>1,137,287</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
Provisions	-	14,715	14,715	16,028
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,715</b>	<b>14,715</b>	<b>16,028</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>207,016</b>	<b>207,016</b>	<b>1,153,315</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>471,614</b>	<b>8,692,954</b>	<b>9,164,568</b>	<b>7,010,088</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
Settled Sum	100	-	100	100
Retained Surpluses	471,514	8,692,954	9,164,468	7,009,988
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>471,614</b>	<b>8,692,954</b>	<b>9,164,568</b>	<b>7,010,088</b>

# Partners and Collaborators

## Supported by Snowdome Foundation



## Collaborative Partners

The Snowdome Foundation and our collaborative partners work together to advance blood cancer research to 'make hope real' for Australians diagnosed with blood cancer.



Haematological Society of Australia and New Zealand

Mater Research

Monash University

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australia

University of Adelaide

University of Melbourne

University of New South Wales

University of Queensland

University of South Australia

University of Western Australia

# Pro Bono Partners and Supporters



## Pro Bono Partners & Supporters

The continued generosity of these organisations enables Snowdome Foundation to maximise funds that are directed to blood cancer medical research.



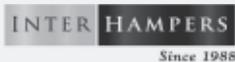
CHRIS BUDGEON



Davidson



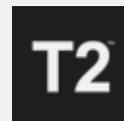
GREG ELMS PHOTOGRAPHY



phd



SEVENPOINT.  
STUDIO

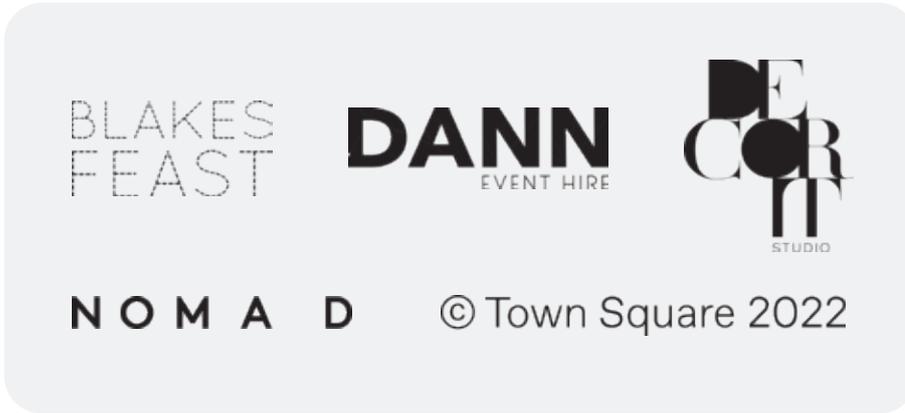


# Bloody Good Dinner

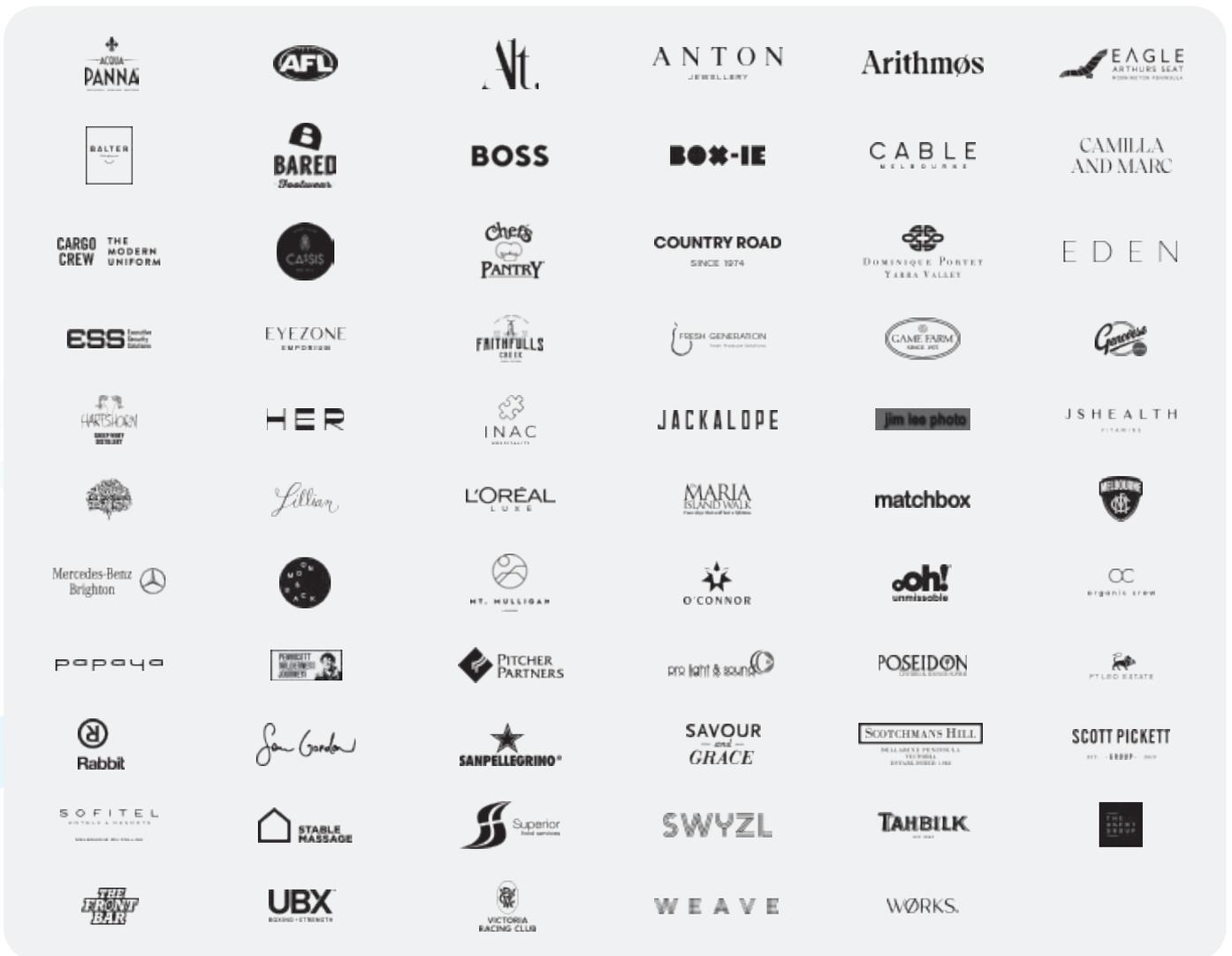
The Snowdome Foundation and Maddie Riewoldt's Vision together raised over \$710,000 at the 2022 Bloody Good Dinner.

This would not have been possible without our event partners and supporters. Through their generosity the funds raised can be directed to ground-breaking medical research for blood cancers and bone marrow failure syndromes.

## Pro Bono Event Partners



## Pro Bono Event Supporters





# What's in a Name?

The Snowdome Foundation is named after Chloe Rutherford.

Diagnosed with leukaemia in 2007, Chloe seemingly beat the disease only to relapse and die of complications arising from pneumonia in 2009. She is survived by her loving mother, beautiful sister and her adoring dad, Grant Rutherford, who is a big part of Snowdome.

The Foundation's unusual name emerged from a case of mistaken identity rather than a flash of inspiration, but it's entirely appropriate.

On the first of many visits to the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Chloe thought she saw a gift shop, with snowdomes from all over the world adorning its glass walls.

In fact, it was the nurses' station in the middle of the ward, but to Chloe it was beautiful and magical, and like all things beautiful, she just had to have a snowdome of her own. As she bravely battled her cancer, more and more snowdomes appeared; gifts from family, from friends both old and new and from the nurses who cared for her.

So, when the Foundation was conceived it seemed only fitting to name it after Chloe's love of snowdomes.

# Dedication

The Snowdome Foundation is dedicated to all those that have been touched by blood cancer.

Sadly, in 2022, Snowdome farewelled some treasured members of our family. We would like to recognise the memory of Mr Andrew Cody, Mr John Date, Associate Professor Bruce Davis, Mr Greig Gailey, Mr Steve Novak and Dr John Tandy.

“

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

- Unknown

”





snowdome™  
FOUNDATION  
*making hope real*



[snowdome.org.au](http://snowdome.org.au)

Snowdome Limited (DGR 2) – ABN 26 239 780 877  
Snowdome Foundation Limited (DGR 1) – ABN 79 624 141 117  
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