




Because of you,  
we gave Shane  
a Geelong-size  
surprise he never  
expected. 

Shane had two great loves.  
His adored family, and the mighty  
Cats – the Geelong Football Club.

A lifelong Geelong fan, Shane had  
watched his team claim 15 consecutive  
wins during the 2022 season. Their  
last September win was to take them  
straight to the AFL Grand Final. Shane  
was being cared for at home by the  
Palliative Home Care team, but he was  
determined to be at the MCG on the  
big day.

Shane's nurse was also determined to  
get Shane well enough for that trip to  
Melbourne with his family.

And he did get there. Shane's wife  
Annita told us, "Shane loved Geelong  
so much, and to be there for the Grand  
Final with our daughter Tia – he said  
it was just the best day ever."

*Continued over the page*

When it was time for Shane to move into Mary Potter Hospice, Annita told us:

“Everything was there for us. Shane was given the big family room to stay in, which was perfect. The Hospice team supplied bedding so we could all sleep there and be together as a family. They even let us bring our two cavoodles in to stay a few nights, which meant the world to us. With two teenage children, we needed nurturing and support, and Mary Potter gave us that. I didn’t need to leave Shane. The Hospice became an unexpected home-away-from-home.”

Shane’s kids, Tia & James, were able to tailor their dad’s room to make it meaningful to him. Of course, that meant a room full of Geelong colours and decorations! And because of you, we were able to make sure we could arrange a family dinner with all their favourite foods and drinks.



And then you gave Shane the most wonderful surprise.

It came on a day when the Hospice social worker asked if we could help to do something special that would lift Shane’s spirits. It was needed quickly.

We found out that Shane’s favourite Geelong player was Joel Selwood. He’d just retired.

Thanks to you, we arranged for Joel to record a very special video. It was a heartfelt, personal uplifting message just for Shane.

*Annita remembers: “They said, ‘We have a special surprise for you’. We were handed an iPad and Joel’s face appeared, talking directly to Shane! Shane was teary and struggling for words. He just couldn’t believe it. Tia also couldn’t believe that Joel said her name as well! It was truly amazing.”*

Shane showed that video to everyone who came into his room. He was so proud of it.

The Hospice social worker told us that Joel’s video brought Shane such comfort: “Shane and his family were over the moon. Sad faces were transformed and lit up. Thank you so much for providing the family with this incredible gift.”

**You paid for this special video. We could only make this happen because of your support. You brought a true moment of unforgettable joy to Shane and his family.**

 *Thank you so much.*

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# Heartfelt thanks to you – our valued donors



from our retiring  
Executive Director,  
**Lorna Riddle.**

Over the past 13 years – six as Executive Director – Lorna has witnessed the huge impact of your unfailing support of thousands of palliative patients and their families. In the lead-up to her retirement, we asked Lorna to share a few of her favourite memories, stories and programs that you made possible. Here are just a few of her reflections from behind the frontline ...

Before I became Executive Director, I organised hundreds of patient support activities in the Hospice. Every activity and event have been made possible because of your generous support. Here are just a few that will remain with me forever:

## THE FIRST PATIENT EVENT

*I ever created in the Hospice* 

I will never forget Jan. I will never forget her because I saw first-hand the impact of what it meant to expand individual and meaningful patient care beyond the medical.

Jan was from Robe. And she had been in the Hospice for nine months. Sig, our social worker, came to me and told me how terribly depressed Jan was. Her one wish had been to go to Scotland – now impossible. So we decided to bring Scotland to Jan. 'Jan's Highland Fling' became the theme. There were bagpipes. We had Highland dancers and Scotch whiskey. Everyone wore tartan. There were taters and haggis, with the ceremonial cutting and 'Ode to the Haggis'.



This event was full of joy. Thirty of Jan's family and friends came to celebrate with her. The positive mental and emotional impact on Jan was enormous.

It showed me how much it means for patients to gather their loved ones together; the difference that unexpected care could mean, and the treasured memories and comfort it gave their family. And it was your support that made it possible.



*Let me tell you about*  
**2 CAPPUCCINOS AND  
 A VANILLA SLICE...**

The cost to bring a moment of joy to a patient could also be less than \$20.

One of our Hospice doctors had to tell Evelyn and her devoted husband some very difficult news. He called me and asked if I could organise two takeaway coffees and a vanilla slice to be brought over. He hoped it would cheer them up a little.

The doctor told me that he had recognised this couple from his local café. Every day they would walk there for two cappuccinos, and they'd share a vanilla slice.

I decided to go directly to their café. I ordered two cappuccinos and a vanilla slice. The café staff wrote beautiful messages on the coffee cups and paper bag.

When the Hospice doctor presented Evelyn and her husband with their unexpected afternoon tea, the impact was immediate. This simple gesture, made possible by you, lifted their spirits and brought them joy on a very tough day.

All for under \$20. And priceless.



*My first program -*  
**THE PATIENT QUILT PROJECT**

When I first started at the Foundation in 2012, the Hospice Manager was delighted to hear that I could sew. She wanted to find someone to set up a Quilt Program.

I asked Ronnie, a talented sewer and volunteer, to design a quilt to specifications suiting a patient's bed. We approached quilting groups throughout the state, seeking support. A year later, we distributed 300 quilts to Hospice patients, and we have never looked back.







The program has gone from strength to strength. Now we supply palliative patients with a quilt in Mary Potter Hospice, St Helen's Ward, Calvary ICU, Calvary Central Districts, Calvary Adelaide and in Calvary Aged Care.

I am in awe of the amazing quilters and quilting volunteer groups. They give their time, their talent, and their own funds, to make the most exquisite quilts. Palliative patients choose their own quilt, making their room feel more like them, and less clinical. Their quilt then becomes a treasured keepsake for the patient's family.

## *My favourite* **QUILT STORY**

There have been many quilt stories over the years.

The one I will never forget involved Ken.

Ken was a challenging patient. A Vietnam veteran, life had been very tough for him. He had no family. He distrusted the Hospice staff, didn't want to talk, and wanted nothing special done for him.

He initially said 'No' to receiving a quilt but finally agreed to choose one – an Australian design with gumnuts. But he refused to put it on his bed. It remained folded up on his chair.

When he was asked why, he said he would only use the quilt if there was a map of Vietnam on it. A country that had deeply impacted his life. He told us 'You'll never be able to do it.'

But I knew Spotlight sold material with world maps. Within 24 hours – and thanks to you, our amazing donors – a map of Vietnam and Australia, with the yellow and red of the Vietnamese flag, was hand-stitched onto Ken's quilt. It was put at the end of his bed while he slept. When he woke up and saw it, he was overwhelmed – and transformed.

I had never believed that a quilt could impact someone's life like it did Ken's. He couldn't believe anyone would go to that effort for him. His barriers came down. He started to talk, to open up, to trust. He showed the quilt to everyone who entered his room. He talked about where he served and his love for Vietnam.



This change in Ken brought peace and closure to a troubled man. He felt valued and respected. I will never forget Ken, and that wonderful quilt full of gumnuts and the colours of Vietnam.

## HIDE & Seek

You, our donors, have made so many wonderful things happen in the Hospice. One of the most heartfelt was when we helped a family play 'Hide & Seek'.

A young mother, who had been a patient in St Helen's Ward, really wanted to go to the Hospice for her end-of-life care. The problem was she had young children who were very anxious and didn't want Mummy to move at all. So the Hospice nurses hid little toys, teddies, trinkets, coloured pencils and treats that you supplied – all along the corridors from the patient's room in St Helen's to her new room in the Hospice.

The children and their mum made a game of looking for the treats together, ending up in her new room which had been decorated with fairy lights and toys from the Family Room. The children loved playing a game with their mum and getting to keep their special finds. They moved seamlessly into their new room without any distress.



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## THE PROGRAM THAT *means the most to* FAMILIES IN THE HOSPICE

The physical heart of the Hospice is undoubtedly the Family Kitchen. And it has had the greatest impact on families while their loved one is in the Hospice. Since 2014, when it was first installed, to 2024 when it was replaced and refurbished, it has transformed their Hospice experience.

The kitchen offers 24/7 food, drinks, snacks, fruit, cakes and treats – all free, thanks to you, our extraordinary donors. The kitchen is a

touch of home. It is so unexpected and comforting to families – who no longer need to leave their loved one to go out and get food off-site. This is such a precious gift from our donors – giving families the gift of time as well as meeting a basic need. It is undoubtedly one of the programs I am most proud of.







## MOST AMBITIOUS PROJECT

*with lasting impact:*

## THE REFURBISHMENT OF MARY POTTER HOSPICE

What started as an upgrade to one room, catapulted into the total refurbishment and upgrade of all 15 patient rooms! Closing rooms for building works was very challenging. And disrupted by the pandemic, it took five years to deliver, but the result was worth it.

Thirteen organisations and individual donors – plus bequests, and funds raised from two *Chip in for Mary Potter* Golf Days – made this all possible. The difference that these amazing donors have made to the patient experience is simply astounding. Our donors should be so proud. The environment has been brought into the 21st century and nurses are now proud to show patients into their lovely rooms.

**At the heart of Lorna's stories are the donors that made them possible.**

*Thank you for  
your loving support.*

## HOW TO *Get involved*

~



### LIGHTING OF THE LOVING TREE & CAROLS CONCERT

**Monday 1 December | St Francis Xavier Cathedral**

Ticketed event. Invitations will be sent in October.

More information will be provided in our November newsletter or on our website [marypotter.org.au](http://marypotter.org.au)

### SPONSOR THE SPARKLE

Calling on all businesses to sponsor a Christmas Tree in Mary Potter Hospice! For more information, please contact **Vicki Shearer** on **08 8239 0119** or at [vicki.shearer@marypotter.org.au](mailto:vicki.shearer@marypotter.org.au)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Foundation Members and Honorary Life Members are warmly invited to join us at our AGM on **Tuesday 14 October 2025, 5.30pm, at the Arkaba Hotel, Fullarton**. Invitations will be posted.

### CARING HEARTS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held on **2nd Tuesday of each month 10am – 12 noon**  
**Next meeting in August 12, 2025 | There is no cost to attend**

Open to any family member who has had a loved one die at Calvary SA. To RSVP, please email your name and phone number to [reception@marypotter.org.au](mailto:reception@marypotter.org.au) or phone us directly on **08 8239 0119**.

### **CALVARY EVENTS** CALVARY CATHOLIC MASS & CALVARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

For any more information, please contact Calvary Pastoral Care directly on **8239 9285**

**Wednesday 5 November | 12pm Catholic Mass | St Laurence's Catholic Church**

**Thursday 13 November | 1.30pm Ecumenical Service | Christ Church North Adelaide**

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### OUR MISSION

Inspiring people to share our belief that caring for people at the end of their lives is an honour and a privilege and to work with us to support living every day, every hour.



The Mary Potter  
Foundation Inc

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#### **Business Hours:**

Monday-Thursday  
9am to 5pm,  
and Friday 9am to 4pm



ORGANISATIONAL  
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A member of the Professional Body  
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A registered charity with the  
Australian Charities and  
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