

## Puppy Love

Thank you for making Gillian's story possible  
Read more on page 3

*In this edition*

Christmas in the 'right place' |  
Thank you for supporting calm and contented living to the end



If you are grieving or this newsletter has arrived at a difficult time for you, please know that we have you in our thoughts and prayers.

We acknowledge loved ones who have passed away in recent times in the Mary Potter Hospice or Calvary and remember their family and friends who miss them every day.



## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

The Mary Potter Foundation will be closed from 2pm on **Friday 21 December 2018** and will re-open on **Wednesday 2 January 2019**.



## DANNY WATSON

**Foundation Chair**  
October 2005  
– July 2018

# Vale Danny



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**The Board and staff gratefully acknowledge the truly special contribution that Danny Watson made to The Mary Potter Foundation, and to the patients and families who need Mary Potter Care.**

It is with deep sadness that we note his passing on July 4 in Mary Potter Hospice.

Danny was appointed to the Board in May 2005 and became Chair in October of that year. His leadership and commitment has ensured that the Foundation can meet vital funding needs each year to ensure that patients and their families have the care and support they need in the Mary Potter Hospice.

Danny's legacy extends beyond the Hospice to include the upgrade to St Helen's Cancer Ward at Calvary North Adelaide and the creation of the Mary Potter Northern Supportive Care Unit at Calvary Central Districts.

*... it is Danny's kindness, humour and generosity which will be our greatest loss.*

His commitment to palliative care patients and their families has also seen the Foundation support the creation of a Palliative Care Suite at Keith & District Hospital and the addition of a family lounge at Ardrossan Community Hospital.

It is thanks to Danny's leadership and belief in what Mary Potter is all about that patients and families are now supported in so many beautiful ways beyond medical care.

While we reflect on his leadership achievements, it is Danny's kindness, humour and generosity which will be our greatest loss. His encouragement and support for the team in the Foundation office was always evident.

We were incredibly fortunate to have Danny as our Chair for 13 years. His commitment to Mary Potter will always be remembered and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

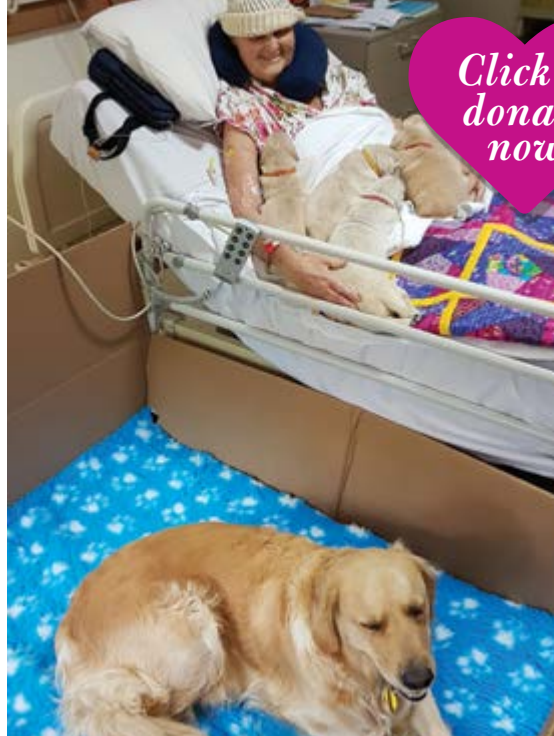
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# Puppy Love

Everyone who comes into Mary Potter is asked the question “what’s important to you?”

Two things were particularly important to Gillian when she came to Mary Potter Hospice.

One was her upcoming international equestrian event. The other was the imminent arrival of her much-loved Golden Retriever’s puppies. Thanks to you, the Hospice was able to help Gillian fulfil her very special goal of being with the puppies every day.



When Gillian and Greg arrived in the Mary Potter Hospice, they knew it was the right place for Gillian’s care. After being cared for at Calvary throughout her treatment, Greg says that Gillian was looking forward to staying at the Hospice rather than going anywhere else.

Gillian could see the difference straight away. She quickly got a sense of the place, noticing the warm smiles, generous number of staff and the size of the rooms.

She loved the way each room opened out to a courtyard and garden, bringing in sunshine, nature and light.

As Gillian and Greg were making the move to Mary Potter, they were asked what was important to Gillian.

When the Hospice heard about the brand new puppies on the way for her beautiful dog, they set about making sure Gillian could enjoy every possible moment with them.

As each room opens to the outdoors it was easy for Greg to bring mother and puppies in and out every day –

meaning a few trips out to the car each morning and night!

It meant the world to Gillian that she got to see the puppies from the day after they were born through to when they were four weeks old.

The gorgeous little puppies brought much joy to everyone in the Hospice too. Greg remembers that at one point there were seven nurses in the room just doting on the puppies.

Greg says that the strong feeling that came through in the Hospice was that “we will do anything for you”.

Gillian loved her regular massages with Rose, the Hospice’s complementary therapist. Greg remembers that while Gillian was at Mary Potter Hospice, “there were so many things that made that time a good time.”

You are part of this story. You made these magical moments possible.

You can be inspired by what you make possible by watching Gillian’s story on our website [marypotter.org.au/inspiring-stories](http://marypotter.org.au/inspiring-stories)

We sincerely thank Greg for sharing their story.





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The family enjoying Christmas lunch

## Christmas in the 'right place'

Every year around 30 families spend their Christmas in the care of the Hospice team. But thanks to your support we do what we can to make their last Christmas together special. Last year one family was encouraged to bring their Christmas celebration to the Hospice. You made it possible for Sharyn, Mike and their family to celebrate Christmas their way.

The Christmas turkey had already been bought when Sharyn learned that her husband Mike would need to come to Mary Potter Hospice.

It was just after his 55th birthday in December 2017 and they had hoped to have their last Christmas at home.

Instead, only hours before Mike was admitted Sharyn came for a tour of the Hospice. She needed to be sure that Mike was coming to the right place.

Her first impression was the smiling staff, and after being in another hospital she noticed immediately that the Hospice was different.

Sharyn was told that they could "reinvent Mike's room". And they did just that, filling his room with birthday cards, artwork, family photos and pictures from their travels. Mike's much-loved dog Mishkar became a very important visitor.

As Christmas was only days away, the family made a plan to bring their Christmas celebration from Sharyn and Mike's home to Mary Potter Hospice.

Christmas Eve champagne with family was followed by a special festive lunch done their way in the Hospice garden.

Mike and Sharyn's sisters put together a

fabulous Christmas spread for everyone. Sharyn remembers raiding the Hospice family kitchen for crockery and glasses while her sister grappled with the microwave.

Most importantly, the whole family was together on Christmas Day just as they planned.

Sharyn knows beyond doubt that Mary Potter Hospice was the right place as they spent another three weeks in the care of the team. She told us

*You made this possible. You gave Sharyn, Mike and their family the chance to celebrate Christmas their way. What a gift to treasure.*



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# Light up the Hospice with love THIS CHRISTMAS

Every year we light the Loving Tree located at the entrance to the Mary Potter Hospice.

The Loving Tree is a symbol of love. Love for those no longer here and a message of love to everyone in the Hospice this Christmas.

Around the tree are hearts with the names of loved ones. If you would like hearts to be added with the names of your loved ones, simply make a gift before 21 December.

You can use the enclosed flyer or call us on 08 8239 0119.

## 2018 MARY POTTER Loving Tree Christmas Carols

We would love you and your family to join us for a special carols night on Wednesday 5 December at 7.30pm.

This is a family friendly event – all are welcome.

The highlight of the evening is switching on the Loving Tree lights around 8.45pm.

Location – rear car park of Calvary North Adelaide Hospital (entrance off Hill St).

A donation upon entry would be appreciated.



Mike and his son Austin



Mike and Sharyn

that during that time they were as happy as they could be and they felt loved.

*“You come to know that this is the best experience for your loved one. We had time to just love Mike and be with him and do the things he wanted to do.”*

We are so grateful that Sharyn allowed us to share her story. We are so grateful to you for making this story possible.

After Christmas Sharyn and Mike spent another few weeks in Mary Potter Hospice. Thanks to you, they experienced other special and unexpected moments of care and support. You can read their full story at [marypotter.org.au/being-in-the-right-place](http://marypotter.org.au/being-in-the-right-place)

Major Sponsor:



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# Celebrating a special relationship

For over 30 years, The Mary Potter Foundation has had the remarkable support of a special Catholic parish community.

The Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd at Clearview and The Church of St Brigid at Kilburn are truly about giving back to the community. Year after year, parishioners continue to generously raise money for The Mary Potter Foundation.

Such a long-term commitment to Mary Potter Care is exceptional and we are so grateful for this incredible 30 year relationship.

Nita Badcock has lived in the parish for 55 years. Her commitment to fundraising for us follows on from fellow parishioner Monica Whittenbury. She handed the baton to Nita to continue their amazing fundraising and sponsorship of the Hospice.

Nita and a group of fellow parishioners, volunteers and friends continue to do wonderful work raising money for Mary Potter. Their support enables meaningful and individual care for everyone who comes through the doors of the Hospice.

We want to acknowledge this very special group of people in the Clearview and Kilburn parish. This is an extraordinary commitment by a parish who follow the Venerable Mary Potter's mission by "being for others".

If your church can support the work of the Mary Potter Hospice we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Louise** on **08 8239 0119** or at [louise.baida@marypotter.org.au](mailto:louise.baida@marypotter.org.au).



Lorna from The Mary Potter Foundation with Nita

*Their support enables meaningful and individual care for everyone who comes through the doors of the Hospice.*



Cathy from The Mary Potter Foundation with Monica

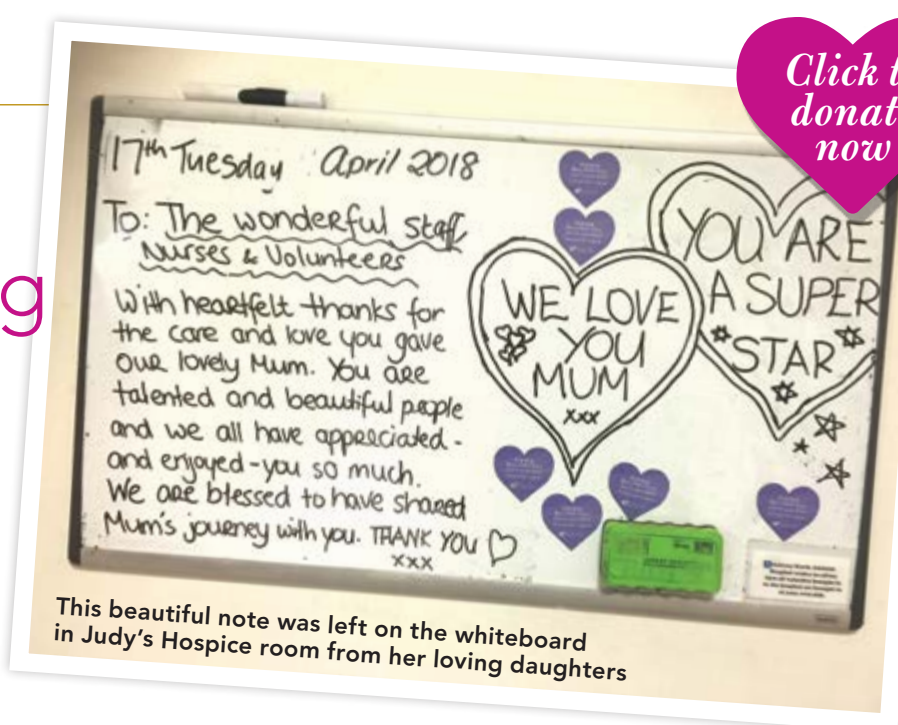
## Just in time ... VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Stuck for Christmas gift ideas? We have some special gifts perfect for family and friends that will also help Mary Potter Hospice patients make the most of their time with their family and friends this Christmas.



Click to  
donate  
now

# Thank you for supporting calm and contented living to the end



This beautiful note was left on the whiteboard in Judy's Hospice room from her loving daughters

## We thank Judy's family for sharing their Hospice experience:

*"When our treasured Mum was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer we thought we may be able to look after her at home to the very end. Five months later, when infection control and pain management became more difficult, she was admitted to Mary Potter Hospice.*

*Having been with her every step of the way we were worried about handing her care to others. However, within hours of her admission, there was a collective sense of relief and confidence in her new carers.*

*We returned to being loving daughters rather than loving primary carers, thanks to the extraordinary doctors, nurses and volunteers.*

*Our dear Mum, over the next eight weeks was surrounded by expert care, love and calmness, for which we will always be grateful.*

*Every patient on arrival in Mary Potter, is given (to keep) a most beautiful hand-made quilt; such a warm welcome thanks to charitable quilters, and an early sign that this Hospice was far more akin to being at home, than in a hospital. Our Mum, a lifetime sewer, was thrilled. She studied that beautiful quilt marvelling at the way it had been made and so expertly finished. It gave her enormous pleasure.*

*Mum actually rallied in her first two weeks at Mary Potter. She was relieved to be there – for us. It proved to be a wonderful facility focussed on 'living', comfort and care for the whole family. It was so much more than we had anticipated.*

*There was an array of comforts provided – manicures, pedicures, soothing massages, a hairdresser, music, encouragement to bring in*

*family pets; indoor and outdoor places to sit or be wheeled. An excellent menu was provided for our Mum, we were also catered for. These additional services and opportunities helped our Mum and us, to continue to 'live', be positive and feel supported – despite the overwhelming sadness.*

*The medical and nursing care was at the highest possible level – always with consultation, sensitivity, compassion and great expertise. The volunteers cheered us up daily.*

*We continue to feel so grateful our lovely Mum was cared for at Mary Potter – and that we saw first-hand, what an outstanding and re-assuring place it is.*

*We cannot thank the Foundation enough for the services they provide. They allowed calm and contented living to the end."*

**Because of you, Mary Potter Care was given to Carolyn, Prue, Erica and their beautiful mother, Judy.**

**Your donations provided this family with a loving, memorable experience at an incredibly difficult time and we are so grateful. Your continued support will ensure this care is available to other families in future. Please consider making a gift today using the reply slip enclosed.**

SUPPORT THE MARY POTTER FOUNDATION AND YOU COULD WIN A BRAND NEW HOME  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW [marypotter.org.au](http://marypotter.org.au) 08 8239 0119

## TelethonSA Rivergum Home & Land Lottery at Playford Alive

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARY POTTER LOVING TREE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Wednesday 5 December.

Christmas carols commence at 7.30pm, lighting of the Loving Tree at 8.45pm.

For more information please refer to [page 5](#) or contact Louise on 08 8239 0119.

### CALVARY PASTORAL CARE 2019 MEMORIAL SERVICES

Thursday 2 May at 1.30pm and Thursday 7 November (time to be confirmed).

Services are held at the Calvary North Adelaide Hospital Chapel and are followed by refreshments in the Connery building – all welcome.

## THANK YOU

Along with others mentioned in this newsletter, we want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the following organisations and community groups for their support.

- The Lady Mayoress of Adelaide, Genevieve Theseira-Haese
- Order of St John of Jerusalem
- Lions Club of Adelaide Italian
- North Adelaide Golf Club
- SA Power Networks Employee Foundation

*Chip in for Mary Potter Golf Day Sponsors:*

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- Thomas Foods
- Coca Cola Amatil
- Peter Kittle Motor Company
- SA Power Networks
- Macquarie Private Wealth

*The Mary Potter Foundation is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)*

