



MARY POTTER
matters

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EDITION 4, 2025

Thank you for giving Bob his 'Christmas in July' wish

From the moment Bob arrived at Mary Potter Hospice, it was clear to his devoted family that he was in the right place. After a very stressful time, Bob's daughters, Lisa and Belinda, told us, "It immediately felt calm. It was safe and nurturing. Finally, we all felt we could breathe."

Lisa said, "The physio came into Dad's room on his first day with such a positive approach. While Dad had capability, she wanted him to do as much as he could himself. She encouraged us to take him out for lunch, go for drives, have pizza, just 'do' things as a family."

"And after being so anxious, we felt reassured. We realised that Dad had come to the Hospice to live out his days, not just come there to die. It was such a different mentality. They were like, '...You're still here Bob, so what can we do to make things as good as they can be for you and your family?'"

Belinda told us, "We started thinking about Christmas. We knew Dad wouldn't be here in December. And we'd been planning to have 'Christmas in July' at Lisa's house. But it wasn't an option anymore – Dad was getting worse."

"When the Hospice asked us if there was anything they could do for us, we mentioned what we'd hoped for. We have a big family – about twenty or so – and we didn't know what might be possible."

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But the Foundation immediately came back with a big 'Yes': they would gladly arrange our 'Christmas in July' here."

And this is where you – our incredible donors – came in.

You were the reason we could produce a beautiful 'Christmas in July' celebration for Bob, his wife Cheryl and their lovely family.



On a July Sunday, Mel from the Foundation set up a private room in Connery House, behind the Hospice. The table was full of ham, prawns, chicken, salads, pavlova, trifle, drinks and Christmas tree brownies. There were Dixie Cups for the grandkids. Mel also organised three large Christmas trees that Cheryl decked out in the family's traditional decorations from home. There were bonbons next to each Christmas placemat.

Belinda remembers, "When we walked in and saw what Mel had done, we were blown away. I'd expected a few sandwiches and party pies, but it was beyond anything we could have imagined. The room was so Christmassy! It was perfect."

Bob's grandchildren had prepared their own performances – from jokes and stories to Christmas Carol singing. They coloured-in their Christmas colouring books, and everyone unwrapped their Christmas gifts that, with Lisa's help, Bob had carefully chosen.

Belinda read out some beautiful words from her dad, expressing how very thankful he was that they were all able to be together on this special day. And Bob and his family lit their 'Christmas morning scented candle' – now a family tradition and lit each year to remember this most treasured occasion.

Without doubt, you are the reason we could make this remarkable day happen. When time with their beloved husband, father and grandfather was so precious, you gave Bob's family a priceless gift – a roomful of love and lifelong family memories – all wrapped up in a special July Christmas.



Thank you

from the bottom of our hearts.

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Making moments that matter

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Thank you so much to our wonderful donors for always walking beside us and giving our patients and their families some special moments of diversion and joy. Here are just a few of them...

NATIONAL LAMINGTON DAY

July

On National Lamington Day we wanted to take the opportunity to brighten our Hospice patients' day with a familiar sweet treat. Patients receiving home care didn't miss out either. We sent out packs of super-fresh Kyton's Bakery lamingtons to them, delivered with love by the Calvary Palliative Home Care team. Patients and families shared how much these small moments mean to them. As one of them told us, "Every day should be National Lamington Day". We quite agree!

CHRISTMAS in July

Hospice patients, their families and visitors, along with staff and volunteers, were all treated to a special *Christmas in July* lunch. The Hospice was transformed with twinkling lanterns, a festive tree and reindeer, with staff and volunteers dressed in their favourite Christmas scrubs, jumpers and hats! A traditional roast was served, followed by Christmas pudding, pavlova, and festive drinks. There were so many lovely comments throughout the day, with hearts (and bellies) very full. A beautiful celebration to remember for everyone involved.

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW DAY

September

The magic of the Royal Adelaide Show came to the Hospice in September. Patients and families indulged in hot cinnamon donuts, fairy floss, pinwheels and Bertie Beetle showbags. There was a games trolley complete with a hacky sack and spinning wheel for everyone to enjoy. AND our amazing volunteers embraced the Show spirit in full costume!



Reflections from the heart

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Our Hospice and Calvary Palliative Home Care staff see first-hand the impact of golden moments you help make possible for the patients and families they care for:

“Book Week is a fun time where we can escape into a fantasy world or go on far-reaching adventures. It’s a time where we can reminisce about our childhood and perhaps share tales with our children and grandchildren.



And during Book Week in August, this is exactly what we wanted to do in the Hospice: offer the opportunity for young and old to

Reading a book with a loved one in the Hospice was a warm and caring opportunity to spend time together.

rekindle stories and share some stories of their own. Reading a book with a loved one in the Hospice was a warm and caring opportunity to spend time together.

It was very special to see patients and family members open up about their childhood, share poignant or funny stories, and see how books prompted some cherished memories long-tucked away. I found it very moving to be a part of.”

Claire, Hospice Volunteer

“I’ve been reflecting on one of our patients who has been receiving palliative care at home, and her delight in receiving a birthday bouquet of flowers from the Foundation. I’m just so grateful to the Foundation’s donors for bringing such a smile to Carolyn’s face.

Working with Carolyn in regular, companionable art sessions, we’ve both seen her painting confidence grow.

She has expressed how grateful she is for this supported art timeslot. It’s really helped build

“The art program has given me another reason to live. It encourages me to get up in the morning and get on with the day.”

her confidence and sense of purpose. Prior to this, she felt quite isolated. With her friends leading active, busy lives, some things became unreachable for



Carolyn because of her cancer symptoms and treatment. The art has restored focus and her sense of accomplishment.”

Carolyn said, “The art program has given me another reason to live. It encourages me to get up in the morning and get on with the day. The coffee and cake are great too!”

Vicki, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Light up the Hospice with *your love* this Christmas

Each Christmas we light up thousands of twinkling lights on the Loving Tree to remember our loved ones and to shine a light on those in our care. The tree stands at the entrance to Mary Potter Hospice as a symbol of our love, while each light remembers a very special person.

This Christmas you're warmly invited to remember your loved ones by dedicating a light to them on the Loving Tree. Your gift will also support the many patients and families who will spend their last Christmas in our care. Simply make a gift from your heart and we will add your loved one's name to our Loving Tree, Remembrance

Book and
video.



Proud Sponsor of
the Mary Potter
Loving Tree

2025 CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT

Each year, we mark the Lighting of the Loving Tree with a special Carols Concert. It is an evening for us to come together; to reflect and remember those who are loved and missed every day, but especially at Christmas. It features music from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's brass ensemble, with various choirs and soloists leading the carols.

The concert is a ticketed event, exclusively for those who have donated to the Loving Tree. There is no cost for the ticket.

VENUE: St Francis Xavier's Cathedral,
39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

DATE: 7.30pm – Monday 1st December 2025

To have your loved one's name included in the honour roll video, please make your gift on or before Wednesday 19th November. You can either do this online at marypotter.org.au/lovingtree, use the enclosed donation form, or call us on 08 8239 0119.



HOW TO *Get involved*

CLICK TO
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CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING AT RUNDLE MALL PLAZA

Bring your Christmas presents to get wrapped! Gold coin donation per item – all in support of The Mary Potter Foundation.

Wrapping Station located in Rundle Mall Plaza (Ground Floor), next to Caffè Da Marco | Open 12-4pm daily (except Sundays) from Mon 8th to Wed 24th December | Extended hours 12-7pm on Fri 12th, Thurs 18th & Fri 19th December



CARING HEARTS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Held 2nd Tuesday of every month | 10am-12 noon
Next meetings will be 11th November & 9th December

To RSVP, please call us on 08 8239 0119, or by email reception@marypotter.org.au There is no meeting in January 2026. Meetings resume on 10 February 2026.

OFFICE CLOSURE DATES

As the year ends, The Mary Potter Foundation team wishes you a blessed, peaceful Christmas. **The Foundation office will close from 2pm on Friday 19th December 2025.**

It will re-open on Monday 5th January 2026.

We are thinking of everyone who has had to say goodbye to their loved one this year. Please know you are in our hearts.

GIVE A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS THAT LASTS ALL YEAR – BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR HEART FOR HOSPICE MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Our donors are at the heart of the nursing care and extra special support we provide. Your small monthly gift provides care for patients and their families when they need it most.

To join, just **complete the Heart for Hospice section on the reply slip enclosed, or use the QR code to register online.** We are so grateful for your support.



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.



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Business Hours:

Monday-Friday
9am to 4pm



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