

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **\$38,589 to Peter Mac**
- **FireLegacy at work**
- **RC 109's special effort raises \$3500**
- **Brainwave- new children's health charity**

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Peter Mac Cancer Centre: new microscope

For people fighting cancer time is critical. So when the contributors of the Firefighters Charity Fund told us they wanted to support The Peter Mac Cancer Centre we made contact with the hospital to see how your money could produce the best result for cancer treatment.

We met an amazing Peter Mac researcher, Dr Sarah Ellis, who outlined to us the type of advances they could make if they had their own "desktop electron microscope" called a Neoscope Electron Scanning Microscope.

Up until our donation the researchers had to go off site to Melbourne University and hire the microscope at the times when Melbourne University weren't using it.

A scanning electron microscope is a high powered microscope.

Its magnification ability is so strong that a single cell (which is about 10,000 times smaller than the head of a pin) can be blown up to the size of a football field. With a scanning electron microscope, cancer discoveries that would go unnoticed under a traditional microscope are immediately clear.

Much of Peter Mac's laboratory research involves observing physical changes to cells that occur when the researcher applies a particular treatment, such as using a new drug, or changing the way a gene behaves. By looking at the physical changes, they're able to understand what

"...we made contact with the hospital to see how our money could produce the best result for cancer treatment."

medical teams work alongside the largest cancer research group in Australia.

In just a few decades, the five-year overall survival rate for a cancer diagnosis increased from about 30 per cent, to over 60 per cent.

The Firefighters Charity Fund made its biggest single donation to date to the Peter Mac because we could see the difference a scanning electron microscope would make to cancer research and treatment.

It was a proud day to hand over the \$38, 589 required to secure the last funding piece to enable the Peter Mac to order the microscope.

We aim to follow up shortly with the hospital to show you the microscope at work and a chance to hear from Dr Sarah Ellis in person.

Even though 120,000 Australians this year will be told "you have cancer", their chance of a cure is now better than ever.

Left: Peter Mac's Carl Young and Dr Sarah Ellis with FFCF rep Mark Carter



treatments impact cells, and how they might be used to fight cancer.

Every year the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre treats more cancer patients than any other hospital in Australia. Housing some of the best minds in their profession, their highly skilled



Firefighters Charity Fund
www.firecharity.org.au

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2013

A Special Effort from RC 109

Since the launch of the Firefighters Charity Fund each recruit course has generously made a donation.

It is a great sign of how committed to helping the community our new recruits are. Recruit Course 109 was introduced early to the Fire Fighters Charity Fund.

Mark Carter and Shane McCluskey gave up their time to meet with Recruit Course 109 to give some insight in to the Charity funds values, purpose and goals. After having gained a greater understanding about what the Charity Fund was trying to achieve and the valuable contribution it was making to the community we decided to set ourselves the task of running

Right: Recruit Course 109 proudly hand over a cheque for \$3500

“...managed to raise \$3,500 via the special effort ran by Recruit Course 109 ...”

a special effort to assist the Charity Fund to raise money. Knowing that we had 4 months in recruits we knew that we had

substantial time to run a quality special effort and raise some decent money.

We had overwhelming support from friends, businesses

and other members of the MFB family who donated prizes

which were used as prizes in the special effort. We are very grateful for the support and generosity shown from everybody who donated prizes or purchased the special effort tickets. At the end of the Recruit course we had managed to raise \$3,500 via the special effort ran by Recruit Course 109. A further \$250 which was donated by the Stirling syndicate who were awarded Best Syndicate of recruit course 109 and received the \$250 courtesy of the Fire Fighters Credit Union. (By FF Dan Chitty)



Tax Deductible Donations

Tax time again and it's important to realise that your payroll deducted Firefighters Charity Fund contributions ARE tax deductible. Your total contributions for the financial year will be noted on your 2012 / 2013 Payment Summary from the MFB.

This acts as an ATO approved receipt for workplace giving and should be included in your tax return.

If required the ABN of the Firefighters Charity Fund Melbourne Inc. is: 13 916 295 994
Thanks again for your contributions.

“Your 2012 / 2013 Payment Summary acts as an ATO compliant receipt”

With love from Tracey

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the passing of Tracey Anderson at the end of January 2013 after a 7 year battle with breast cancer.

Eric Anderson, Firefighters Charity Fund Board member and Leading firefighter at Thomastown, has written a thank-you note to all who gave generously at Tracey's funeral and online through our GiveNow link on the Firefighters Charity website.



In 2011 Tracey Anderson gave a speech at a Romance Writer's Australia Conference at the Hilton Melbourne that touched everyone in the room. This speech was instrumental in facilitating a charitable donation from the conference of \$16,000 to the Otis Foundation. Thank-you Tracey and our support and sympathies to Eric, Stephanie, Nicole and Toni.

Above: Tracey and Eric
Right: Eric Anderson with The Otis Foundation representative

"My daughters and myself would like to thank the Firefighters Charity Fund contributors and all who donated money at my wife Tracey's

funeral on the 6th February 2013. We decided to have Firefighters and friends with buckets at the funeral and at the wake afterwards collecting money in memory of Tracey.

The money was donated to the Otis Foundation Breast Cancer Retreat Bendigo. We spent time at one of their properties for a recharging of the soul before the next

round of treatments. I've been guilty of this myself that when you attend a funeral you grab an envelope for their nominated charity with all good intentions to donate but life just gets in the way.

"Otis Foundation Breast Cancer Retreat... for a recharging of the soul before the next round of treatments."

So we decided to collect on the day which we raised over \$1800 and with online donations made to the Firefighters Charity Fund in Tracey's

honour the total amount was around \$3500. The other board members decided to match dollar for dollar with what we raised.

A \$7000 cheque was handed over to the Otis Foundation in the memory of Tracey by myself on behalf of the contributors and friends of the Firefighters Charity Fund.

Otis Foundation have told us that money will give at least 7 families a week of free accommodation at one of the retreats around Australia.

*Thank you
Eric Anderson 7A*



FireLegacy - Amelia's Story

“...this assistance could change someone's life...we were only too glad to assist.”

FireLegacy is the arm of the charity which allows us to make direct grants to individuals who are in financial hardship due to the costs associated with illness. We have made many such donations, however confidentiality in such situations is paramount to the success of this work. However, this case was different due to the public campaign to assist with Amelia to raise the money to have a life changing operation.

On September 28th 2011, when Amelia was 5 years old, she had an accident where she was badly burnt. She suffered third degree burns to 40% of her body. Amelia was assisted on scene by MFB crews, in particular FS27, Nunawading. Amelia spent over four months in the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. During this time she underwent more than 20 operations for skin grafting. Whilst in Intensive Care Amelia's trachea was severely damaged and she had to have a tracheostomy tube inserted into her throat. This meant that Amelia had no voice and communicated by making sounds with her mouth.

In July 2012 she had major surgery to repair her trachea. However this failed. Amelia's Australian doctors referred her to an expert in Switzerland who can perform another type of operation whereby the trachea would be repaired and her voice would return. This procedure has a high chance of success. This surgery will cost \$90,000 with no government funding available. Amelia's parent were left to cover the costs



by their own means and reached out to the community for help.

This case is also special because the crew from Nunawading continued to support Amelia and her family after the fire. They truly have demonstrated the commitment to helping the community that we can all be very proud of.

FireLegacy was approached on their behalf to see if we could help Amelia.

When we read Amelia's story, saw the commitment from the MFB crews from the fire to today, Amelia's need and finally how this assistance

could change her life... we were only too glad to assist.

The level of assistance to Amelia will still remain confidential, however I can say it is the largest single grant we have made from FireLegacy.

This is a grant made possible from your donations and one that we hope you share some pride in.

However the real credit remains with SO Wayne George, LFF Steve Price, LFF Sarah Parnaby, LFF Lincoln Jones supported by Commander Andrew O'Connell and all the MFB Firefighters who have stood by Amelia since this accident. Ben Forsyth 33A

and wife Merewyn for their amazing work in organising Amelia's fundraising auction raised \$20,000.

The great news is that Amelia is currently in Switzerland and has already had the operation to repair her trachea. She is recovering from surgery but all indications are excellent. To continue to follow Amelia's story go to www.facebook.com/HelpAmeliaGetHerVoiceBack To apply for assistance from FireLegacy for someone it is not essential the recipient is a contributor, only the nominator needs to be a contributor to the fund. For more information contact one of us at the FFCF.



Above: Amelia before the operation

Update -Great News!

Success in Switzerland

I would really encourage you to get on Amelia's Facebook link (you can go there via the Firefighters Charity Fund tab on our the MFB intranet home page) and hear this young girl speak again.

We take it for granted and sometimes even wish our children would be a little quieter, yet hearing Amelia talk after all she has been through is both a joyous and emotional experience.

Well done to all the MFB crews who stood by this family and to the Charity Fund contributors for helping her fund this operation.

Amelia's Story-Thanks to all the charity contributors



Left: Amelia with the crew from FS27 and
Below: recovering in hospital after the operation in Switzerland—Look no trachy tube!!!

www.facebook.com/HelpAmeliaGetHerVoiceBack

Hi All,

Just a short message to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all of the charity members for allowing such a generous donation to be contributed towards supporting (this) family in their quest to help Amelia get her voice back. I am pleased to let you know that the outcome of Amelia's operation so far seems to have been extremely favourable. For the first time in two years Amelia has been able to breathe without a tube and an endoscopic inspection of her airway has shown that the operation has resulted in her airway working perfectly. She has already spoken a few words but the professor who performed the surgery has recommended that Amelia doesn't talk so as to not hamper the healing process. It is still early days, but from all accounts things are looking very positive and Amelia will shortly be out of intensive care.

The family were deeply moved when we presented them with the cheque from the Firefighters Charity Fund. Amelia's dad even asked if he could do something at the fire station to help us out in return. I think that this is an indication of how decent and grateful these people are. Thanks to all of you wonderful people, I was a part of something that I would easily say was one of the proudest moments in my career.

I once again thank you all for your amazing efforts and thanks to the generosity of people such as yourselves, it looks very likely that Amelia will get her voice back. In closing I would like to pass on a special thanks for pulling the donation together in such a short timeframe. It made a huge difference (for the family) to be able to head overseas without having to worry about how they were going to pay for the operation and as stated earlier this was only achieved through the generosity of many different people and organisations such as the Firefighters Charity Fund and of course the people behind them. Warmest Regards
Station Officer Wayne George
Southern District



Charity Fund Board and Committee

The Committee and Board of the Firefighters Charity Fund consists of the following people. Please feel free to contact anyone of us if you wish to discuss an element of the fund and how it operates.
Chair: LFF Mick Whitty
Deputy Chair: LFF Shane McCluskey
Secretary: Ms Alison Brideson B.A LL.B / GradDipACG

Treasurer: Commander Mark Carter
General: LFF Eric Anderson
Committee:
ACFO Paul Riley
SSO Gerard Woodlock
SO Mark Narayan
LFF Chris Cleary
LFF Mick Bergin
Mr Dominic Lallo



Treasurers Report



Thanks to the
Firefighters
Credit Union

*“ thousands of
dollars have
been passed on
by the Firefighters
Charity Fund
Melbourne to
support some
special fundraising
efforts of
contributors”*

The Firefighters Charity Fund has since its inception made 27 donations to a wide range of charities. Most significant has been the support we have given to FireLegacy, which is there to support our community when they are in need with the financial costs associated with medical treatment. Direct assistance of almost \$20,000 has already occurred.

It is also worth noting some of the other major donations that have taken place:
Peter Mac \$38,589
Royal Children’s Hospital including assistance on Good Friday \$25,950
Otis Foundation \$23,000
Alfred Burns Centre \$10,000
Donations have been made to a variety of other charities such as:
Eureka Stair Climb—

Whitelion / Interplast
SANDS
TLC for kids
Austin Cancer Centre
St Vincent’s Sleepout
Ride to Conquer Cancer
Daniel Morcombe Foundation
Everyday Hero
Leukemia Blood Cancer NZ
Melbourne City Mission
Ride for the Kids

Many in this list are where the Firefighters Charity Fund has supported the excellent work done by people and groups within the MFB. Great work done by the MFB Charity Running club and the wonderful initiative of Commander Rob Dean with the MFB Classic Car day.

If you are working to raise funds for a charity that is in

line with the goals of the Firefighters Charity Fund please contact us to see how we can help boost your efforts.

The amazing figure of \$170,139 in donations have been made in just two short years, starting from nothing.

“...\$170,139 in donations have been made in just two short years”

That’s all thanks to the huge generosity of our contributors!
Weekly contributions, using the last month as an example, range between \$1833-\$2295.

Corporate and Technical Staff

The name Firefighters Charity Fund could suggest to some people employed by the MFB that this is a charity that only appeals to the firefighters and FireLegacy is also only for firefighters.

Let me assure you that we are there for all employees and our firefighting community whether that is in supporting your fundraising, welcoming you as contributors or helping you when in need.

The charity has many corporate and technical staff already as contributors and most of these people have been with us for two years already. However, we fear

“...it is important to have input from each sector of the organization”

that some of you may think the charity was not created with you in mind.

Once again, can I reiterate, we welcome your support and when we are all contributing together the

charity can only get stronger.

If you are a corporate or technical employee and would like to be more involved with what we do in the charity then please get in contact with us. We would appreciate your thoughts at our meetings and it is important to have input from each sector of the organization we work for.

Right: The presence of a MFB crew along with Shaun Micallef and Kat Stewart in Mr and Mrs Murder produced a \$500 donation to the charity.



GiveNow on-line donation facility



The Firefighters Charity Fund website has access to an online giving site, "Give Now", which is sponsored and supported by the Westpac bank. This means that giving through this site is secure and done without a third party profiting in fees. The GiveNow website has enabled the public to support our work without needing to do payroll deductions.

The GiveNow link has received over \$6300 in donations since we set it up. It has been used to support other fundraising efforts and even to allow people to make a donation in lieu of a wedding present. (This was a fantastic initiative and we are very grateful for these donations). Our GiveNow link has been used several times already to allow people to make donations instead of putting in a funeral notice.

"...giving through this site is secure and done without a third party profiting in fees."

If you are raising money for a charity that is in-line with the FFCF's aims and using our on-line giving would help...then contact us to arrange this great facility's use. The donator immediately receives a tax receipt and the recipient receives an email from GiveNow that a donation has been received in honour or in celebration of their name.

Go to the Firefighters Charity Fund page and then click on GiveNow link and follow the directions.

Donation in lieu of Funeral Notice

It now costs around \$150 to put a funeral notice in the Herald Sun. Already, on several occasions, Fire Stations and other MFB work locations have instead put this money into the Firefighters Charity Fund as a donation in honour of the passing of a colleague or a work mates family member.

In this way the money will go to a charity rather than a print / publishing company and the

person or family of the person will receive an email telling them of your donation and support.

This is a great way to honour someone and if you wish to make a special effort at the funeral, like with Tracey Anderson's funeral, then talk to one of us at the charity and we will help to support, facilitate and boost this giving.

"...this way the money will go to a charity rather than a print / publishing company"



Christmas

In 2012 Christmas cards that 100% profited the Firefighters Charity were sold successfully.

Thank-you to all those people who purchased them. We will be working on a new design for 2013 and hope that more of you will consider using our Christmas cards to wish your family and friends the best for Christmas.



Cards

There are some cards left over from last year so if you want to get in early let us know and we will get them to you. The price as per 2012—10 cards for \$10.

Otherwise look out for our email in the next few months to order cards. 100% of the price of the cards goes to the Firefighters Charity.

Firefighters Charity Fund Melbourne
PO Box 1040
WILLIAMSTOWN VIC
AUSTRALIA 3016
www.firecharity.org.au
ABN 13 916 295 994



**Everyone Giving a little
will mean a lot**

Firefighter's Charity Fund Melbourne will contribute funds to various major charities (including donations to our core areas of children's health, burns and cancer) in Victoria, and to FireLegacy

FireLegacy is a fund that will be available to assist our community and their families when they are put under financial stress due to the costs of serious medical treatment.

The Charity has been developed with the full support of both the MFB and UFU, however an independent board will administer it.

Brainwave - New Children's Core Charity

Brainwave is Australia's only charity that focuses on Paediatric Brain Illnesses.

Brainwave was established in 1994 to support the treatment, rehabilitation and care of children with neurological disorders and their families.

Brainwave supports children with a wide range of disorders including brain tumours, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and acquired brain injuries resulting from road and bicycle trauma.

Brainwave's principal focus is helping children and their families cope with the new demands in their lives—providing family support through Care Program activities and funding mobility and rehabilitation equipment.



BRAINWAVE
SUPPORTING KIDS WITH BRAIN ILLNESSES

“...supports children with a wide range of disorders including brain tumours, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and acquired brain injuries”

SO Chris Wasnig, 50D, introduced us to Brainwave last year when we were looking for a new cancer

Charity. The Peter Mac won that position, however the Firefighters Charity Fund team were keen to see this worthwhile charity receive some support. So we are happy to announce Brainwave as our 2013 Children's Health Charity.

Chris's daughter, Tiffany, is also a junior ambassador for Brainwave and we look forward to hearing from Tiffany as to how our donation can make a difference.

The Firefighters Charity Fund aims to support the Brainwave charity directly by assisting with the purchase of urgently required mobility and rehabilitation equipment such as wheelchairs and pressure mattresses. We are also investigating supporting the Camp Brainwave event.

A donation to Brainwave can be expected to given in only a matter of weeks.

New Core Charities

The Firefighters Charity Fund Melbourne is undertaking to put in place new charity recipients for our three core areas:

Children's Health
Cancer
Burns

If you have a nomination for us in one or more of these areas please contact us at info@firecharity.org.au or one of the committee members directly.



Stickers & Feedback

Firefighters Charity Fund Stickers are available that you can use to "claim" your lockers. They have space for your name & platoon / location and are a great way to promote the charity at your station or work location. Send us an email if you would like us to DX some out.

We would also love to receive feedback from you as contributors and also if you are not a contributor what it is that you would like to see. We have been lucky to receive some feedback already on how we can improve and we hope our actions reflect this improvement already.

You are welcome to contact me directly by emailing:

MWHITTY@mfb.vic.gov.au OR
info@firecharity.org.au or