



TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE

Newsletter



@toowoombahospice

Autumn Edition

March 2025



From the Chairman's desk Graham Barron OAM

Hi and welcome to the Autumn Edition of our Newsletter.

The 2025 year is well and truly under way and there are many things happening. Firstly, our Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Maker-Field, has settled into the role. She is constantly recruiting new volunteers ensuring that they are made to feel very welcome and at the same time, she keeps in touch with our regular volunteers. As we know, volunteers play a very important role in the day-to-day functioning of the Hospice. Also, welcome to our recently appointed Fundraising and Events Coordinator, Claire Roselio, who is settling in and assisting Mark with the planning and functioning of our fundraising activities.

Our recent Business Lunch proved to be very successful with well-known businessman, Kerry Betros, as our guest speaker. Kerry gave a very informative talk on the history of the Betros family, their business ventures, and his involvement with Heritage Bank over many years. Our Management Committee member, Graham Healy, interviewed Kerry and shared many good memories and at times humorous experiences that they had while growing up in Toowoomba. It is of importance that I mention and sincerely thank the Betros family for their generous donation of fruit and vegetables to the Hospice since our beginning.

As has been advised in recent times, we have many events planned for the year. The next important one is our Mother's Day High Tea, an event where we not only enjoy each other's company, but reminisce on the love and care our mothers gave, and in many cases still do.

It continues to be very pleasing to me to be approached by people thanking the Toowoomba Hospice for the end-of-life care we provided to one of their loved ones. The most recent one was where a husband wanted his wife to pass away at home. After much persuasion by his family, he agreed to transfer his wife to the Toowoomba Hospice. This not only relieved the emotional strain experienced by the family but enabled his wife to receive very professional care provided by our dedicated and committed staff. I acknowledge our nursing staff for their efforts.

In conclusion, this care comes at a cost. I genuinely thank the community for their ongoing support and we look forward to the ongoing partnership we have with the community; we can't do it without this support.

Until next time,

Regards - Graham



Director of Nursing Eugenie Corbett



Autumn is once again upon us and is a special time to reflect and to let go of things that do not serve us, whether that is simply decluttering our homes or a courageous step towards letting go. The recent weather events have been a reminder of what is important.

The Hospice has joined the committee to organise a Toowoomba Death Expo, which will be held on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on the 11th of October 2025. The World Hospice and Palliative care day theme for 2025 is **Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care**.

The Hospice has been networking and collaborating with other Queensland Hospices and other stakeholders such as the Toowoomba Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Service to navigate the challenges faced by our local communities to address the gaps in access to palliative care services.

I had the privilege of co-presenting at the Arthur Knight Memorial Meeting with the topic, The Patient Experience, Navigating Care for Palliative Patients, for the Queensland Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) members. The consumer who co-presented with me was Jean Kittson. Many of you may know her as an Australian writer, performer, and comedian but she is also an active keynote speaker as a consumer and advocate for Palliative Care Australia and Palliative Care Nurses Australia. Jean raises awareness of palliative care and coping with death and dying. I would encourage our readers to listen to her story on the Palliative Care Australia website.

With care - Eugenie



Pastoral Care Coordinator Louise Buttsworth

It is a privilege to walk alongside our clients and families at the Hospice. I am always humbled to witness the care given by our staff and the love and dedication of family members and I am always grateful for the opportunity to appreciate my blessings. Time seems to march on relentlessly, and recently I became a grandmother to a little girl born to my own firstborn son. It really seems like yesterday when I was pacing the floorboards at night trying to get my own newborn to sleep. It is a new phase for my own life and while a very happy one, it also needs some adjustment as I negotiate my new role. As our life changes, there is always some grief for the "old times" – I am no longer "young" and now I am watching my own child adjusting to fatherhood and being responsible in a whole new way. New phases in life seem to require time to adjust and courage to adapt – and being kind to ourselves along the way is very important.

Blessings Louise



Business Manager Mark Munro

Fundraising Events Ahead: Join Us in Supporting Toowoomba Hospice!

As the year picks up pace, we're excited to share some wonderful fundraising events coming your way. Our next event is the Toowoomba Hospice's much-loved **Mother's Day High Tea**. This event is always a hit, so we recommend purchasing your tickets early to avoid missing out! Expect a delightful morning filled with a delicious High Tea, fantastic raffle prizes and your chance to win cash from our money boards. It's the perfect way to celebrate the incredible women in our lives.

Not long after, we'll be hosting one of our biggest fundraisers: **Hang Ya Boss Out To Dry!** If you've been with the Hospice for a while, you know this one is a crowd favourite. Here's the fun part—community members have the chance to nominate their boss to be "hung out to dry". The nominated bosses will be lifted into the air via a cherry picker, and to come down, they must raise money through their Givenow accounts. It's a hilarious and exciting event, so don't hesitate to get in touch with us to nominate your boss and encourage them to join in the fun!

We're incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our community. At Toowoomba Hospice, we're passionate about the vital service we provide, and there's no better way to celebrate this than through the laughter and camaraderie we share at our fundraising events. I look forward to seeing you all at these exciting gatherings and continuing to put the fun back into fundraising with all of our amazing supporters.

Yours in partnership with the community - Mark



Fundraising & Events Coordinator Claire Roselio

Introducing your new Fundraising & Events Coordinator Claire!

Having spent the past 15 years working in the hospitality industry, my hands finally told me that it was time to try something new. In previous years, I may very well have poured you a beer or wine at any of the various venues around Toowoomba where I spent the earlier and later years of my career.

I can't imagine kicking off 2025 with a better welcome than what I have received from the Hospice in my first week; joining the team just in time to be included in our first event of the year, the Business Luncheon at The Royal Hotel. Many thanks go out to Hot Property and Power Tynan for being our sponsors for this great event.

Currently we are seeking sponsors for our upcoming events for the remainder of 2025, so please don't hesitate to jump on board with us. Reach out to give me feedback or advise on what you have enjoyed about the Hospice events in the past and what you'd like to see in the future!

I look forward to meeting you all at some point or other throughout this year and spending time on the other side of the bar, enjoying events from a different perspective and being involved in this warm community.

Now let's put the fun back in fundraising - Claire



Volunteer Coordinator

Judy Maker-Field

MY CHILDREN TWEET, CLUCK & PURR

You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.

As I have entered into the new phase of my life (hitting the ground running) as the new volunteer coordinator, I have been blessed to have met some of the most wonderful people on this Earth. The dedication and compassion that the volunteers show in their day-to-day activities is truly inspiring. I learn so much every day and I am fascinated by the treasured chats that I have.

I am still yet to learn about and meet many volunteers who are active for events for the Hospice, but do not attend the Hospice on a daily basis. On that note, an expression of interest will be sent out for volunteers to assist at many of the upcoming functions being organised by our lovely new Fundraising and Events Coordinator, Claire.

I have been engaged in taking over the day-to-day running of the main kitchen, making sure that everything is compliant with the latest legislations and ensuring the volunteers and staff are comfortable in their roles.

A sad goodbye to two of our volunteers; Sally who retired after 10 years at the Hospice and Cleo, who has gone onto an exciting new career which unfortunately does not allow her to continue to volunteer at the Hospice. Thank-you both for your time with us!

Last but not least, to volunteers who have taken time off due to health issues, we wish you a speedy recovery and hopefully see you back on deck real soon.

Cheers for now- Judy

*Mother's
Day
Volunteers
Needed*

We require some
fabulous volunteers
for the Mother's Day
High Tea on
Wednesday 7th May
2025

*Happy
Birthday!*

Happy birthday to six
of our volunteers in
February and March
2025!

*Volunteer
with
us!*

We would love to
have new volunteers
in all areas, especially
Kitchen
(Lunch/Dinner shifts)
Housekeeping,
Gardening and
Flower Arranging

email: volunteer@toowoombahospice.org.au



OR phone 07 4659 8500



What's Next?



Mother's Day
High Tea

May 7th 2025

\$65
per ticket

LOOKING
FOR RAFFLE
DONATIONS



TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE

HANG YA BOSS
OUT TO DRY!!



SAVE
THE
DATE

May 30th 2025

DOB YOUR
BOSS IN
NOW!

To purchase tickets for these or other upcoming events please go to our website
www.toowoombahospice.org.au/events
 For more information please email or phone
events@toowoombahospice.org.au OR 07 4659 8500

Putting the fun back into
Fundraising



Thank You



@toowoombahospice

For your support in 2025

*Together with the community,
Toowoomba Hospice provides
boundless love and dedicated
care when it is needed most.*



Thankyou to all
our anonymous
community
donors!

Many thanks to Jacob Carlile and Greg Riehl from Hot Property for coming on board with us and sponsoring our welcome drink for our Business Luncheon at The Royal Hotel on Friday February 28. It's so rewarding to hear that as families grow, the roots to community and giving back run deep through the Toowoomba area.

Thanks to the
Clifton Arms Hotel
for sending us a
donation tin!



Yours in partnership

Have you heard about our Partnership Program? Toowoomba Hospice is required to generate \$964k from the community in the 2024-2025 financial year to continue to provide fee free speciality palliative care to individuals in our community with a life limiting illness at the end of life stage. To help the Hospice provide this care we are encouraging any individual or business to join our Partnership Program.

*On behalf of the Toowoomba Hospice Family we
appreciate your continued support!*