



Fight Cancer News



ACCOMMODATION CENTRES



RESEARCH



YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Luca's Story

"You never expect your child to be the one to be diagnosed with cancer."

Luca, now 10, was a typical six-year-old boy in 2013 when he began to complain of a sore knee.

After Luca's complaints of a sore knee progressed to pains so severe he could no longer walk, Luca's mum, Anna, took him for testing and scans.

The worst possible outcome soon became a reality - Luca was diagnosed with osteosarcoma - an aggressive type of bone cancer. The only way to save Luca's life was to amputate his right leg.

During treatment and recovery, Luca was involved in Fight Cancer Foundation's education support program. Anna explains that the program helped him stay connected with his school which made a huge difference to Luca's state-of-mind while in hospital.

"He was able to focus on something other than what drugs were being pumped into him."

For Luca to be able to interact with other adults that weren't doctors was so important, and his lesson time provided both Anna and Luca a much-needed break.

"It gave me time to step out of the room and just have a bit of me time. It gave him a break from his routine and also a break from me."

After months of treatment and recovery, Luca is now back at school. Luca hasn't let his prosthetic leg stop him from doing anything. He loves footy, is a diehard Richmond fan and is even aiming to be the first AFL player with a prosthetic leg!

This year, Luca came on-board as an ambassador for Footy Colours Day.

In his role as ambassador, Luca took part in a photoshoot with AFL players and Footy Colours Day ambassadors Jordan Lewis, Adam Treloar and Jackson Thurlow. He made special appearances on 'The Footy Show' and 'The Project', where his story captured the hearts of people across Australia. Luca's school held a special Footy Colours Day event and was visited by AFL superstar Adam Treloar.

Perhaps best of all, Luca had an up close and personal experience with his Richmond FC heroes, joining the team at training and even getting to ask some questions at the coaches' press conference!

Luca has had a tough road but he has always stayed positive and continues to give everything his all. He really is a champion.



What's inside:

- 02 Our Year in Review
- 02 Red Ball Melbourne 2017
- 03 Footy Colours Day
- 03 Helping Young Learners Stay Engaged
- 04 Faces of TEAM Fight Cancer



Our Year in Review

As the year comes to a close it's timely to reflect on our achievements throughout 2017, as well as look forward to what 2018 will bring.

2017 has been a year of hard work and growth and we are proud to continue to offer vital support services to Australian families fighting against cancer.

The need for education support for children and young people receiving treatment for cancer continues and we are honoured to play a role in ensuring that need is met. In the first six months of 2017, Fight Cancer Foundation supported more than **850 children and young people** through our education programs. The programs operate in major paediatric hospitals in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, and enable learners receiving treatment for cancer to maintain their education and connection with their school and school friends.

Our accommodation centres continue

to provide much-needed comfortable and affordable accommodation for families fighting against cancer who must travel long distances to access medical treatment. Located in New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria, more than **5000 room nights** were provided to people living with cancer and their families in the first six months of 2017. Our accommodation centres relieve these families of undue financial stress and the worry of having to undertake frequent long distance travel to access treating hospitals. They also offer a home-away-from-home during a stressful and emotional time.

As always, our commitment to medical research remains a priority. Our longstanding partnership to fund translational research into blood disorders with The Royal Melbourne Hospital continues, as we strive to improve treatment methods and outcomes for people living with blood cancers and disorders.

Enormous effort from countless people and organisations goes in to ensuring our many programs remain at a first-class standard. I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of our patrons, ambassadors, board members and associate board members, committee members, our corporate and community based supporters, volunteers and fundraisers, our regular financial donors and our office staff, all of whom are vital in realising our mission of Giving Hope and Saving Lives.

On behalf of Fight Cancer Foundation I wish you a safe festive season and look forward to continuing the fight against cancer with you in 2018.

Eric Wright
Managing Director



Red Ball Melbourne 2017



Fight Cancer Foundation turned Red Ball Melbourne silver to celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday 16 September at Palladium at Crown.

More than 900 guests helped to celebrate the silver linings in life and were treated to a night of thrilling entertainment, fine dining and surprises fit for a dazzling anniversary extravaganza.



The star-studded silver jubilee red carpet included comedian Julia Morris, news presenter Jo Hall and Real Housewives of Melbourne star Pettifleur Berenger, to name a few.



Crowd favourite Shane Jacobson hosted the evening, and did a fantastic job keeping guests entertained. Guests enjoyed sensational performances from headline act Trevor Ashley and fellow performers Southern Beat Productions,

Chelsi Nikkerud, Steve Sowden and EnSync from SIFA Events.

Red Ball Melbourne was a resounding success, raising more than **\$650,000** to support people living with cancer and their families. Thank you to our partners, organising committee and guests for their generosity.

Red Ball Melbourne would not be possible without the support of our valued partners - **Platinum sponsor:** Foxtel. **Gold sponsors:** Crown, Evoke, Seven Network, and The Hour Glass. **Silver sponsors:** Mi-tec Medical Publishing, Lojac Civil, PKF Melbourne, GB Galvanizing, Evolution Health and Turtle Island Fiji.



Footy Colours Day

More than 2800 schools, organisations and clubs across Australia showed their true colours for kids with cancer this Footy Colours Day season.

Our champion fundraisers came up with some match-winning ideas this year, including hosting club versus club competitions, footy sweeps, round robin championships and even “Pie the Boss” challenges!

Footy Colours Day helped put a smile on the faces of the young learners in our education support programs at The Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead and The Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick as they wore their team’s colours, participated in footy-themed learning activities and got to meet some of their footy heroes.

A special thank you to our long-term major sponsor Foxtel, whose continued support helps ensure that Footy Colours Day is enjoyed by thousands of people around the country each year.

We would also like to thank our wonderful team of Footy Colours Day ambassadors: Jordan Lewis, Adam Blair, Adam Treloar, Tim Mannah, Elise O’Dea, Brandon O’Neill, Kieren Jack, Jackson Thurlow, Will Skelton, Katie Brennan and of course our Footy Colours Day champion, Luca, for their support of Footy Colours Day in 2017.

To see more pictures of participants who wore their team’s colours with pride this year, go to footycoloursday.com.au.



Helping Young Learners Stay Engaged

Fight Cancer Foundation is grateful to work with an incredible team of educators who help children and young people in our education support programs to continue their education, ensuring they reach their full educational, professional and vocational potential.

One of our dedicated educators, Marianne Fernandes, provides education support at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

Marianne is a Science teacher, specialising in Chemistry and Biology. Having taught at The Children’s Hospital for some time now, Marianne has

worked closely with the Back on Track program since its inception and works tirelessly to advance the program.

“Our biggest achievement is to see the joy in the faces of kids who are preparing to go back to school,” says Marianne.

Marianne is currently completing her PhD on support for siblings of children with chronic health conditions.

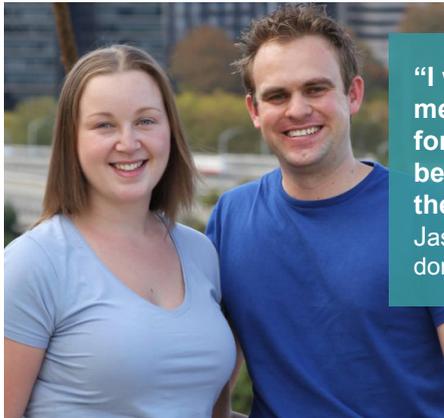
Playing a vital role in the lives of children and young people receiving treatment for cancer, the hard work, passion and expertise of our teachers’ enable learners who are absent from school to maintain their education and

connection with their school and school friends.



Fight Cancer News

Faces of TEAM Fight Cancer



“I want to help fund research into treatment options for blood cancer, so going forward fewer people have to leave behind their family and friends before their time.”

Jason & Deborah Hunt, sell chicken eggs and donate profits to Fight Cancer Foundation.



“I’m not a runner by any stretch of the imagination, but I know that by participating in Run Melbourne, I’ll be helping this amazing charity make a difference in the lives of people affected by cancer.” Kylie Gould, Run Melbourne 2017 participant.



“Unfortunately, way too many of us have been affected by cancer, and we feel very strongly about raising money to go into research.”

Jim, Iron Steel, held a charity concert and donated proceeds to Fight Cancer Foundation.



“I want to join in the fight to put cancer on its heels; back up against the ropes until eventually it accepts defeat and throws in the white towel.”

Thomas Gibbins, City2Sea 2017 participant.



Donate to help save a life

www.fightcancer.org.au

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