



Autumn / Winter 2017

Fight Cancer *News*



ACCOMMODATION
CENTRES



RESEARCH



YOUTH AND
EDUCATION

Bella's Story

In 2013, we shared the story of little Bella, who was only three years old when she complained of a sore throat.

Thinking it was only tonsillitis, it was a shock to her parents, Casey and Keegan, when doctors discovered a tumour the size of a golf ball in Bella's throat. It felt like their world was falling apart.

"That was it. Bella had cancer and we were booked in for chemotherapy in Melbourne three days later. Things happened very fast. It was so scary. I was 38 weeks pregnant, the rest of our family was in our small country town 200km away and we couldn't go home," said Casey.

Home is very important – particularly to Bella as she is an identical twin. She and her sister Lahni were inseparable. "Before Bella was diagnosed the twins hadn't been apart for even a few hours. They have such a special connection," explained Casey.

Bella and her family found a comfortable home away from home in one of Fight Cancer Foundation's accommodation centres during Bella's treatment.

"We believe it was staying together as a family at Fight Cancer Foundation's accommodation centre that gave Bella the best chance to beat her cancer. We couldn't have done this without Fight Cancer Foundation because we simply didn't have the resources to be able to fight this disease."

Bella is now three years cancer-free and has just completed Prep at school. She's caught up to Lahni in every way – in height, weight, socially and academically – and as Casey says, "We're back to normal as a family."

Bella is learning to be a kid again and doing really well.

"Having a home away from home made all the difference for our family in Bella's fight against cancer."

To make a difference to families living with cancer like Bella's, go to www.fightcancer.org.au



Bella and her twin sister, Lahni.



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Donate Your
Birthday!

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A second chance at life

The BMDI Cord Blood Bank was established by Fight Cancer Foundation in 1996 and operates as a partnership between Fight Cancer Foundation, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Working closely with the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, the bank provides cord blood for patients needing a stem cell transplant for treatment of leukaemia and other life-threatening illnesses. Making sure the cord blood bank continues to be a viable resource are Cord Blood Bank Collection Nurses, like Sue.

Sue has been at the BMDI Cord Blood Bank for the past two years, following 20 years of working as a nurse and then a midwife. There is no typical day for Sue, who screens and approaches pregnant women ensuring they meet the donation

criteria, attends the birth of the baby and undertakes the collection of the cord blood. Sue then performs follow up health checks to make sure the donation is suitable for transplant.

"There are a number of things I love about my job; I enjoy working with a like-minded group of people in a supportive and friendly environment, meeting lovely, generous couples who are very keen to help the cause of the Cord Blood Bank and seeing babies born – which I never tire of!" said Sue.

"Knowing that cord blood transplants save lives makes this job a very rewarding one. I have learnt so much in the past two years and the learning continues."

Read more at www.fightcancer.org.au/youth-education/



Cord Blood Bank Collection Nurse, Sue.

Volunteer of the Year 2016



Fight Cancer Foundation 2016 Volunteer of the Year, Alf Armstrong.

Congratulations to Alf Armstrong, who was recently named Fight Cancer Foundation's Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

Alf has been a dedicated and passionate volunteer with Fight Cancer Foundation since our Albury Wodonga accommodation centre was first mooted. Alf, who is a staunch member of Rotary Club Albury North, joined the Albury Wodonga Accommodation Centre Steering Committee. As a lead member of the Steering Committee, Alf oversaw a number of major fundraising and development projects for our Albury Wodonga accommodation centre, Hilltop.

His high level of engagement with Albury and surrounding communities is invaluable and greatly appreciated by the Fight Cancer Foundation Board of Directors.

Now a member of Hilltop Board of Management, Alf works tirelessly to ensure Hilltop continues to offer accommodation of the highest possible standard for people living with cancer and their families.

Read more at www.fightcancer.org.au/news-and-media/2017-news/volunteer-of-the-year-2016

TEAM Fight Cancer

TEAM FIGHT CANCER

Fight Cancer Foundation is always on the lookout for community fundraisers to join TEAM Fight Cancer to help people living with cancer and their families.

In 2016, we had 64 loyal supporters sign up to be part of TEAM Fight Cancer and together they raised just under \$165,000! Jason Hunt was one of those 64 fundraisers and once again has decided to help Australians living with cancer. This year, Jason is putting his excess chicken eggs to good use by selling them to colleagues for a gold coin donation to Fight Cancer Foundation.

"I feel as though I am on a team and part of a community, and I really feel like I am helping people," said Jason.

You don't have to hold an elaborate event or run a marathon to support people living with cancer and their families – sometimes it's the simplest ideas which are the most effective.

For more information on how you can become a member of TEAM Fight Cancer, email team@fightcancer.org.au or call 03 9342 2606.

Donate Your Birthday

Make your next birthday one you will never forget by helping Australian families living with cancer. It's simple - this year, ask for donations instead of gifts.

Email team@fightcancer.org.au for more information on how you can donate your birthday to help Australians living with cancer.

This Year,
Donate Your
Birthday!



UPCOMING EVENTS

4 June	CITY2SOUTH, QLD Join in the fun with a 5km or 14km run and enjoy live entertainment, food trucks and kids activities along the way!	11 June	PERTH MARATHON, WA Run the full marathon or get a team together for the relay and fundraise with us!
30 July	RUN MELBOURNE, VIC More than a 'fun run' - a great opportunity to support cancer patients and their families!	06 Aug	CITY2SURF, NSW Enjoy one of Sydney's most spectacular courses and raise money for Australians living with cancer.
Sept	FOOTY COLOURS DAY, National Go to footycoloursday.com.au and register your school, group, club or organisation.	16 Sept	RED BALL, VIC A night of glamour, entertainment and fun at Melbourne's Palladium at Crown.
17 Sept	CITY-BAY, SA Three different courses provide a chance for runners and walkers of all abilities to get active and fight cancer!	19 Nov	POINT TO PINNACLE, TAS Take part in "the world's toughest half marathon" and join the fight against cancer.

Fight Cancer News

What's been happening



Christmas stall at Royal Melbourne Hospital



Footy Colours Day at Royal Children's Hospital



The Little Red Luncheon, Tas



Easter celebrations



TEAM Fight Cancer



TEAM Fight Cancer



Drysdale Volunteers



ANZ Volunteers

Footy Colours Day - September 2017

Show Your True Colours this September for kids with cancer. Host a Footy Colours Day fundraiser at your school, workplace, group or club and wear your favourite team colours with pride to raise funds to support kids with cancer.

Every dollar raised helps kids with cancer:

- continue with their education;
- stay in touch with their school and peers;
- stay at the same educational level;
- transition back to their regular school once their treatment is complete.

To make a difference, register at footycoloursday.com.au



Donate to help save a life

www.fightcancer.org.au

CONTACT US



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everydayhero.com.au/event/fightcancerfoundationteam