

Foundation Director Ross Noye, Rosies Chair John Scoble, President Dr Shaun Rudd, Rosies General Manager Andrew O'Brien, Foundation Executive Director Jane Schmitt and Foundation President Dr Steve Hambleton.



DOCTORS DOING GOOD

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NEW WHEELS FOR ROSIES' CAIRNS BRANCH

Thanks to all our incredible donors who gave to last year's Tax Appeal, a brand new, specially out-fitted van will be hitting the streets of Cairns very soon.

The new van will be able to carry more Rosies volunteers and amenities safely, which means their Cairns branch outreach program can grow to cater for the rapidly increasing number of homeless, providing them with desperately needed food, beverages, emergency clothing, blankets and support.

Without your help this vital service would not have been able to continue, with their

current 20 year old van about to be forced off the road.

Check out the touching 'thank you' clip on the Foundation's YouTube channel.

"It's just not something a small organisation like us is able to do – raise the amount of money that was raised so quickly by the AMA Queensland Foundation," said Andrew O'Brien, General Manager of Rosies.

"More than 100 volunteers in Cairns will be very happy to see a brand-new, fitted out van go on the road by the end of March," he said. **Q**



2014 CHRISTMAS APPEAL RESULTS

Time and again we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters and our recent *doctors doing good* Christmas Appeal was no exception. A great big THANK YOU to everyone who donated, raising an incredible \$33,485 for the Foundation's general fund.

Since its inception in 2000 the AMA Queensland Foundation has strived to improve medical conditions in our

community, by raising funds and sourcing corporate support. This money will go a long way towards helping us fulfil our charter *doctors doing good*, assisting those with genuine needs and causes that don't fit into the neat boxes of other health-specific charities or government funding criteria, and supporting financially disadvantaged students undertaking medical studies. **Q**

MEET OUR PATRON



Pastoralist Tim Fairfax is well recognised for his philanthropic endeavours.

Last year, he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for his service to business and the community, including as a major supporter of rural and regional development programs.

It was his love of the bush that spurred Mr Fairfax to become Patron of the AMA Queensland Foundation in 2003.

“I was flattered and very honoured to be invited to be the Foundation’s Patron,” Mr Fairfax said.

“I accepted because I am very passionate about rural and regional Australia, and in particular Queensland. The Foundation’s efforts in those areas resonate with me; I’ve witnessed the work that a sole doctor has to undertake in a small country town.”

Mr Fairfax and his wife Gina own cattle properties in Queensland and New South Wales producing grass-fed beef for the European market.

However, most of his time is committed to non-profit work. As well as Chairing the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Salvation Army Brisbane Advisory Board, he is Deputy Chair of the National Gallery of Australia Council, President of the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation, Director of the Foundation for Rural and

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Regional Renewal, and Chancellor of Queensland University of Technology.

“My philanthropy stems from a passion for helping those who are less fortunate however I can,” he said. “I was brought up on philanthropy, it’s in my DNA. We’ve all got the ability to give.”

Mr Fairfax grew up in Sydney’s eastern suburbs but left the city in 1973 to run a cattle property outside Monto near Rockhampton.

“I remember our GP doing house calls in Sydney; the doctor would come to your house and I think that still happens in some cases, but less frequently,” he said.

“I didn’t have the academic results to be a doctor however my grandfather was a doctor specialising in rheumatology. I was interested in the surgical side, repairing things always intrigued me.”

Mr Fairfax is a keen advocate for the benefits of working in the bush and making the most of telemedicine.

“A lot of rural and regional doctors are isolated and have to be a jack of all trades; it is a good learning experience for young doctors to do a stint in a rural practise, even though it can be quite stressful.

“Telemedicine means GPs can usually talk to a specialist and get the support they need. It’s great that patients aren’t necessarily forced to travel into metropolitan hospitals and can in many cases be treated where they are.”

The AMA Queensland Foundation has gone from strength-to-strength since restructuring in 2012 and last year launched its *Thank You Doctor* campaign, encouraging patients to donate to the Foundation in lieu of a gift to their doctor.

Mr Fairfax believes the culture of giving is growing.

“Remember we have an extraordinary number of volunteers,” he said. “They’re not giving money but they’re giving service, their own time and their knowledge.

“I would urge AMA members to give back to their community in whatever way they can and I know lots already do.” **Q**

SUPPORTING THE RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING OF DOCTORS IN TRAINING

The Foundation is excited to announce its support of AMA Queensland’s new *Resilience on the Run* program, funding the development and delivery of a health and wellbeing pilot training program for young doctors in 2015. The program will be delivered by experienced presenter, Dr Ira van der Steenstraten.

AMA Queensland is currently in discussions with Rockhampton Base Hospital, with a view to rolling the program out for their 2015 interns later in the year. The program is aimed at improving awareness of resilience and mindfulness for interns and to reduce stressors and burnout of young doctors.

Upon a successful pilot program, AMA Queensland would seek to publish the findings with a view to extending this valuable program to interested hospitals throughout Queensland. **Q**

