



John James Foundation

Annual Report 2023



John James Memorial Foundation Ltd

ABN: 25 008 453 469

Unit 2/24

Bougainville Street

GRIFFITH ACT 2603

Email: admin@jjf.org.au

Web: www.jjf.org.au

OUR PATRON

His Excellency General,

The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

Governor General of Australia

STAFF

Mr Joe Roff, Chief Executive Officer

Mr Matt O'Brien, Chief Financial Officer

Mr Andrew Blencowe, Project and Asset Development Manager

Ms Nathalie Maconachie, Grants and Relationship Manager

ABOUT

The John James Foundation is Canberra's leading medical philanthropic foundation.

The Foundation was established in 2006 and comprises 165 of Canberra's leading private medical specialists.

We remain committed to the Foundation's mission and the legacy of Dr John James.

Further, the Board Directors are as follows:

Professor Paul Smith AM, Chair

Dr Elizabeth Gallagher

Dr Vincent Ferraro

Dr Linda Weber

Dr Tim Makeham

Dr Nick Gemmel-Smith

Mr Brian Acworth AM

Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO

Mr Mark Sullivan AO

Our vision
is to strengthen
health outcomes
in our community,
striving to improve
the patient and
doctor experience
in Canberra.



Professor Paul Smith, AM, Chair

Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Foundation Board, it is my privilege to present the 2023 Annual Report to our Members, partners, and community.

Renewing our priorities for the next three years

Every so often an organisation reaches a turning point – a moment in which it is ready to take the next step. I believe the Foundation arrived at this stage in 2023.

During the year the Board spent a weekend retreat together developing our strategic plan for 2023 through to 2026. Given the disruptive forces of the last three years it is courageous to plan this far out, however we do so with the knowledge we have a proven ability to adapt to our changing environment and maximise our impact via a variety of different channels during challenging times.

The key components of the strategic plan are outlined in the following pages and I am optimistic our planning will bear fruit for Members and the Community in the next three years.

Expanding our support for private practice throughout Canberra

The Calvary John James Memorial Hospital opened in 1963 as the first private hospital in Canberra and our Members have all worked in this hospital. With the growth in the number of private hospitals in our community since that time, we are inviting our Members to consider expanding membership eligibility to other committed specialists working across other private hospitals in Canberra.

Our aspiration is to grow the influence of the Foundation in our community. We believe the time is right to make this step whilst maintaining our commitment to the legacy of John James and private medical practice here in Canberra.

Our capacity to deliver on mission

It was extremely pleasing to achieve a surplus of \$1.8M this year. Taking into account the fact we distributed in excess of \$1.7M in grants we are both ensuring the financial future of the Foundation and fulfilling our mission to improve health outcomes in our community at the same time.

Commitment to good governance

We have been fortunate in having a stable, experienced and committed Board in recent years. At the same time, we recognise the Foundation will benefit from fresh eyes and ideas in the years ahead and have agreed on a transition plan that will ensure the skills and the balance of the Board continue to drive the organisation forward. We are fortunate to have committed and passionate Directors on our Board.

Never losing sight of our people

On this note I take this opportunity to thank Mr Brian Acworth AM, who is retiring as a Director and advisor to the various iterations of the John James Foundation Board over 23 years. Brian has spent more than two decades establishing and ensuring the financial health of the Foundation. He can duly retire to the boat with a great sense of satisfaction in his legacy and Brian goes with our utmost thanks.

We also say farewell to Dr Linda Weber who retires from the Board after eight years as a Director. Linda has been a wonderful colleague and passionate advocate for good causes, keeping the standards and focus on the beneficiary and remaining steadfastly committed to delivering on the mission of the Foundation.

There is a significant amount of goodwill in the Foundation and in the opportunity to grow our influence and positive impact in our community.

I commend this report to you and look forward to another rewarding year for the Foundation in 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Roff, Chief Executive Officer

CEO's message

The shackles of the past few years fell away in 2023 and there was a wonderful energy coursing through our activities throughout the year.

Fresh eyes and ideas

Two new starters in the office may not seem a significant delta in human resource, however with a staff of four a 50% turnover has brought a new energy to the office and our work.

This presented a chance to step back and assess our operations with fresh eyes. Ms Nathalie Maconachie ended the first full year with us having implemented a number of new initiatives that were gratefully received in the community, taking the awareness of our work to new levels. We also welcomed Mr Matt O'Brien as our Chief Financial Officer, whose deep level of experience and expertise is enabling us to establish new financial processes and systems for long term efficiency.

Major building projects completed and confirmed

Throughout the year we finalised and announced our next building project, committing \$4M to build a respite facility in support of Palliative Care ACT's model of care. This will provide state of the art respite facilities for patients and families as they enter the end-of-life journey, a service that will be operated by some of the most committed Canberra staff and volunteers we know. We look forward to opening the doors this time next year.

Along with some very committed members, collectively we raised \$900,000 to build the Dr Peter Scott Education Centre in West Timor. The building was opened during an emotional ceremony in June and will benefit some of the poorest people in the world.

Measuring our impact

Having granted \$1.7M in 2023 we are at a stage in which we realise the importance of evaluating the impact of our internal operations and work in the community. Internally we have undertaken a governance and strategy review to assess our success in achieving what we set out to do, committing to a series of recommendations in the ongoing pursuit of improvement.

In relation to our mission, it is challenging to meaningfully evaluate the qualitative impact of our philanthropic work in the community however we have committed to doing just this. We are commencing projects to measure the impact of the John James Village, and our collaborative grants programs, and look forward to 'showing' our members and community the value of our work in the year ahead.

Farewelling significant contributors

This year we farewelled Ms Steph Burgess who is pursuing a new opportunity after more than a decade with the Foundation. The balance sheet grew four-fold during Steph's tenure, and we have all appreciated the integrity of our financial management and Steph's steady hand at the wheel. We wish Steph all the best in her next role.

I am grateful for the support of the Board and add my best wishes to the retiring Directors Mr Brian Acworth and Dr Linda Weber for their significant contribution to our work. I look forward to all that the next year brings and continuing to work together toward improving health outcomes in our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Joe Roff'.

Farewell Directors

Dr Linda Weber



Dr Linda Weber has been a Director on the Board of the Foundation since 2015.

Educated at the University of Queensland and subsequently at the University of Melbourne, Linda has worked as a specialist anaesthetist at the Calvary John James Hospital since 1992.

Linda was a member of the Board of Directors of the Calvary John James Hospital for two years and also served on the Board of Directors of Australian Society of Anaesthetists for six years in the early 2000's.

Linda has served in a variety of non-clinical roles and has displayed a genuine commitment to community service through the medical profession.

Always displaying attention to detail, and passionate about the pursuit of our mission, Linda has added significantly to the integrity, goodwill, and energy of the Board.

We wish Linda all the best in retirement from the Foundation Board. Linda goes with our sincere thanks for a significant contribution to the work of the Foundation, and as a highly respected member of the Foundation Linda will be sorely missed.

Mr Brian Acworth AM



Mr Brian Acworth AM is retiring after 23 years of service on the Board of the John James Memorial Hospital and John James Foundation since 2007.

Brian's deep expertise in financial management was refined over a 45-year career in the financial services industry, earning himself the nickname 'Mr Westpac' because of his influence and expertise in banking matters in Canberra finance circles.

As the Chair of the Finance Committee for two decades Brian led the Hospital through periods of going concern and solvency, subsequently establishing and building the Foundation into one of Canberra's largest philanthropic organisations.

With net assets of \$137M Brian has led the growth and stewardship of this corpus and set the Foundation up into perpetuity.

Although responsible for the Foundations finances Brian has always maintained a clear focus on how these funds could be used for the benefit of the Canberra community and to deliver on the mission of the Foundation.

Whilst Brian is retiring as a Director of the Foundation he will continue as the Chair of the Investment Committee. The Foundation owes a debt of gratitude for Brian's contribution and leadership, and we wish him fair winds as he sets sail for warmer weather in retirement.

JOHN JAMES FOUNDATION

STRATEGY 2023 - 2026



John James Foundation



Charity of Choice



The Muder Ignacia Hospital was officially opened on 11 June 2016 in Soe, West Timor. Less than 700 kilometres across the Timor Sea from Darwin - but a world away from the privilege and easy life of Australia. At present, the hospital is run completely on donations and voluntary payments for services.

Inspired by the outstanding contribution of Member Dr David O'Rourke and his family, and in memory of colleague Dr Peter Scott, the Foundation nominated the hospital as our first 'Charity of Choice'. With generous donations from Members and the community, and amplified by dollar matching from the Foundation we have raised \$900,000 to build the Peter Scott Education Centre and commence the Central Unit building (a 2,700 sqm building) to include outpatient and inpatient rooms, medical record room, emergency room, operating theatre, laboratory, and pharmacy.

Through a translator Sr Bernadette shared a story of how this hospital is different to other hospitals...

"One man needed medical help but couldn't pay for the doctor. He received treatment (of course) and left his scooter at the Hospital with a commitment he would return with payment. After a week staff found out the man needed his scooter to make a living as a delivery man. He had no way of making the money to pay for the doctor... and too much pride to return to the hospital. We drove the scooter two hours to the man's house and gave it back to him. He needs to make a living for his family. Looking after people can be as simple as that".

On 11 June 2023, the hospital opened the new Dr Peter Scott Education and Training Centre and laid the first stone of the new Central Unit Building at an event attended by a delegation of over 30 Australians, including the Foundation's Grants and Relationships Manager Ms Nathalie Maconachie.

It was a joyous celebration of the financial support provided and a fitting tribute to honour the life of colleague Peter Scott who visited the hospital 30 times to educate and build capacity of local Indonesian medical professionals and staff.





Philanthropic Giving

Regular Giving – Canberra Foundations Collaborative Grant Round

Organisation	Project	Funding
Australian National University	PhD on Health and Homelessness	\$50,000
Asthma Australia	Linking pharmacies with asylum seeker communities	\$25,000
Bosom Buddies ACT	Breast Cancer Support Program	\$20,000
Cancer Patients Foundation	Look Good Feel Better	\$10,000
Capital Region Muscular Dystrophy	Power Chair Football League	\$20,000
Cerebral Palsy Alliance	Student Placement Program	\$10,476
Community Home Australia	Transport for Dementia Care	\$20,000
Delta Therapy Dogs	Bringing Joy to Canberra	\$10,000
Deafness Resource Centre	Hearing Aids Program	\$30,000
Directions Health	Pathways to Assistance and Treatment (Mini-PAT)	\$33,000
Directions Health	Teen Clinic Erindale and Tuggeranong	\$19,000
First Steps Pregnancy Support	Establishment of pregnancy support service	\$40,000
NextSense (RIDBC)	Peer-support to reduce dementia risk	\$32,650
Orthopaedic Outreach	Hand Surgical Program	\$25,000
Palliative Care ACT	PalliLearn community education program	\$35,000
Special Olympics ACT	Sport awareness and growth	\$5,000
Spinal Cord Injuries ACT	Improved health, wellbeing, and community participation	\$23,728
The Humour Foundation	Clown doctor program	\$20,000
The Shepherd Centre	Hearing Test Equipment	\$5,040
University of Canberra	UC Cancer Wellness Centre rehabilitation equipment	\$27,200
Total		\$436,094

Major grants

Organisation	Project	Funding
AEIOU Foundation	Operations of AEIOU early intervention centre for children with autism	\$440,000
Leukaemia Foundation	Operations of John James Village delivering respite to regional cancer patients	\$468,000
Make-A-Wish Australia	Building the Canberra Wish Program	\$150,000
Total		\$1,058,000

Scholarships, research, and community development

Scholarships	Indigenous scholarships x 3, Humanitarian scholarship, and Oncology scholarship	\$112,000
Travelling Fellowships	Oncology observerships	\$28,000
Community Development	Seminars and community development events	\$55,000
Research	Tony Ayers Award	\$15,000
Total		\$210,000



Philanthropic Giving

We proudly distributed over \$1.7 million in 2023 to support improved health outcomes in our community through grants, scholarships, supporting research and community development.

The Foundation has a long history of philanthropic granting and providing vital funds to community organisations that deliver health and disability services.



Almost \$1.3 million was granted by the Canberra Foundations Collaborative across 57 local community organisations in their second annual joint grant round. We are proud to be a partner in this sector-leading initiative that combines the forces of the three major philanthropic charities in Canberra (John James Foundation, The Snow Foundation, and Hands Across Canberra) to reduce the administrative burden and improve access to funding for community organisations that support those most at need in the Canberra region.



Canberra Foundations Collaborative

While working together, each Foundation maintains a focus on their individual strategic area with the John James Foundation directly funding \$436,000 across 20 projects in health and disability. Projects supported include a three-year PhD on Health and Homelessness in the ACT, led by Foundation Member Dr Charles Mosse in partnership with ANU; seed funding for the establishment of a clinical pregnancy support service for young and disadvantaged women; and funding to increase the number of health students working within the disability sector.

Giving



Make-A-Wish partnership launch
(Joe, Sally Bateman MAW CEO, and Feyja Christiansen wish recipient)



PI Phillip opening
(Nat and Remy Tanddo)

Scholarships, research, and community development

Scholarships

Building capacity to ensure a sustainable and strong health sector for the future is a priority for the Foundation, with \$210,000 of funding support distributed during 2023. We have enjoyed a 15-year partnership with the Australian National University, improving health outcomes for communities through scholarships and education. Two new medical scholarships valued at \$100,000 (\$25,000 per year for the duration of the degree) were awarded in 2023, growing the Foundation's Scholarship program to cover five students from some of the most marginalised, talented and driven people in society.

Having donated more than \$1M to ANU over the years we remain committed to the value of education in achieving better health outcomes.

ANU Scholars (Deborah Eades and Pouya Saeedian)





Travelling Fellowships

Through the passion and leadership of Member Professor Desmond Yip, the Foundation funded travelling fellowships for two medical oncologists to spend several weeks on observership in Canberra. The visits provided access to skills and capacity building that will directly benefit service improvements for cancer patients of the Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH) in Papua New Guinea, and the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in the Solomon Islands.

Both Dr Peter Olali (PNG) and Dr Andrew Soma (SI) spent time visiting key oncology departments at the Canberra Region Cancer Centre, building on existing partnerships supporting the commissioning of the PMGH Cancer Centre and the NRH Oncology Unit.



Prof Desmond Yip
and Dr Andrew Soma



Mark Polizzotto

Research

The highly contested and prestigious **Tony Ayers Award 2022** was presented to Professor Mark Polizzotto from the John Curtin School of Medical Research for his excellence in translational oncology medicine. Cancer is an increasingly urgent global health problem with many cancers in resource-limited countries caused by infectious agents. Professor Polizzotto has developed simple immune-based therapies offering great promise in treating cancers within limiting health service frameworks.

Community Development

Capacity building seminars

We joined forces with The Snow Foundation, and Hands Across Canberra, to deliver capacity building seminars in 2023. The sessions on 'Grant Writing Skills' and 'Marketing for Community Organisations' were highly valued by the sector with over 70 local charities attending each event to hear from expert panels offering tips and advice.

Representing the three major philanthropic organisations in our community, the Canberra Foundations Collaborative is uniquely placed to bring the charity sector together and provide support for our grantees to maximise the impact of funding and help them seek additional funding for their valuable work in addressing disadvantage in Canberra.





Community marquee initiative

We have always supported our community partners through financial grants, and as 2022 ended also supported our partners ability to reconnect with the key people that make their organisation special after two years of postponed and cancelled events.

Following our own Annual Dinner event, the marquee was maintained at a cost of \$50k, and its use was gifted to some of our community partners. We were pleased to support the following community partners with their end-of-year celebrations and in thanks of their people:

- Roundabout Canberra
- Project Independence
- Canberra Foundations Collaborative
- Hands Across Canberra
- Focus ACT
- Perinatal Wellbeing Centre
- Palliative Care ACT



Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards

We are proud to support the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards, an annual acknowledgement and celebration of the outstanding achievements of people with disability who are leaders in the community as well as the businesses, organisations, and individuals who have demonstrated their capacity to encourage, welcome, and support people with disability in their workplace, business, and community.



Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards (Wendy Millar)



Events

We remain committed to offering a range of events and activities for our 167 medical specialist Members that build collegiality in social settings.

Member dinners

Offering an opportunity to connect with cross-discipline colleagues outside busy vocational and professional commitments, we hosted four dinners during the year. Members and guests enjoyed good company, unique venues and heard from interesting speakers including Senator David Pocock and Dr Martha Sear, curator of the new Great Southern Lands exhibition at the National Museum of Australia.

Following a 2-year hiatus, we held our Annual Dinner in the stunning outdoor setting of the Senate Gardens at Old Parliament House in a marquee that was gifted on to the charity sector over the following weeks.

Members and guests enjoyed socialising within the exquisite gardens as they explored the restored pavilions, pergolas and rose gardens while listening to the classical tones of a string quartet.



Fundraising weekend in Bright

In support of our Charity of Choice, we welcomed 29 guests to a fundraising weekend in Bright, including Directors, Members, and their families. The weekend was designed as a networking retreat with a range of activities on offer for cyclists, hikers, and those wishing to pursue leisure options in the stunning surrounds such as fly fishing. Our cyclists took on the local mountains, riding Mount Hotham on Day 1, and Mount Buffalo on Day 2, climbing an impressive 3,654m and covering nearly 200km. Our hikers followed a guided tour to the Monolith on Mount Buffalo on Day 1, and Wandiligong on Day 2, covering 21 km of stunning mountain trails.

Donations to our Charity of Choice, Muder Ignacia Hospital in West Timor, reached an impressive \$18,550 thanks to the generosity of those attending the weekend.





Supporting Member volunteering

The Foundation has a long and proud history of supporting Member led international volunteering missions, with three completed during the year all providing surgeries and capacity building for local medical staff that would have otherwise been inaccessible.

Professor David Croaker mission

Professor David Croaker led a surgical team to the Solomon Islands in December 2022, screening over 80 paediatric patients and performing over 30 major surgeries at the National Referral Hospital for newborn babies, children, and young adults.



Dr John Tharion mission

Dr John Tharion travelled to Cameroon and Malawi in partnership with Pangea Global Health Education performing surgeries, donating equipment, and assisting with surgical training reaching nearly 100 local medical students and staff over three days.

Dr Liz Gallagher mission

Dr Elizabeth Gallagher led a team of 8 volunteers on a surgical and educational mission to the Solomon Islands performing 26 obstetric surgeries in Honiara, and a further 25 surgeries on the island of Malaita. Local specialists joined the surgery team with teaching and mentoring provided. A refurbished ultrasound machine was purchased and donated making it possible for local staff to identify twins, breech, malpresentations and other relevant conditions ongoing.



With the new Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026 deepening our focus on improving health outcomes in the Canberra region, we have transitioned away from fully funding international missions. Instead, a new Member Volunteering Grant (MVG) program has been introduced to maintain direct support for members wishing to volunteer both overseas and domestically.

The MVG program offers small grants of up to \$10,000 to support a member engaging in a volunteering activity that addresses the constitutional objectives of the Foundation.

We are lucky to have Member's who volunteer within their own vocation and on their own time, showing a true commitment to helping others and giving back.



Completing the Puzzle

They say things happen in three's, a sentiment acknowledged by the Foundation as we prepare to launch our third and final Community Infrastructure Project to complete the Foundation's John James Village Precinct in Garran.

After officially opening the AEIOU Autism Centre in 2022, we identified a new partner in Palliative Care ACT.

Palliative Care ACT (PACT) is a service-based organisation providing respite care and support services for community members, families and carers living in palliation.

The Foundation has long supported PACT in developing and testing its model of care which is supported by government funding, engaging volunteer supporter groups, and providing outstanding service delivery.

The Foundation and PACT are excited to be partnering in this project.

We have engaged DJAS Architects to design the 6 Bedroom respite "home away from home". The project has been entrusted to the Foundation's Project & Asset Development Manager, Andrew Blencowe who will lead the build.



*CONCEPT PLAN

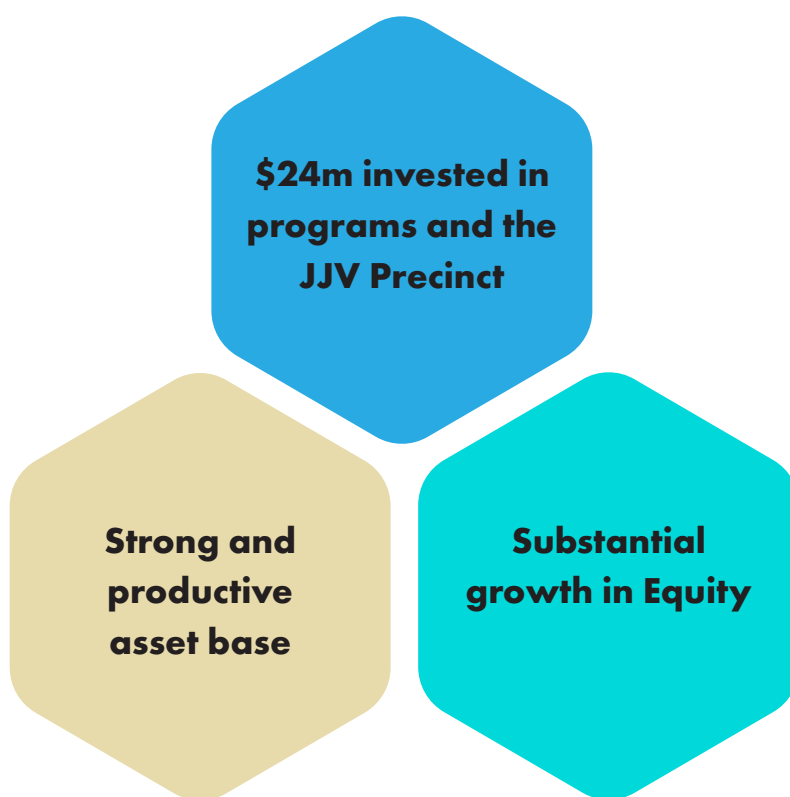
The PACT project is expected to cost \$4million, and with a targeted construction commencement of February 2024.

The project signifies the final chapter of development within the John James Village Healthcare Precinct in Garran. We look forward to a very exciting sod turning event to be conducted early in the new year.

Seven Year financial journey

In the last seven years the financial base of the Foundation has undergone a transformation which has seen the equity in the Foundation grow by almost 60%. This increase in equity, strengthening the financial base for the Foundation, has been achieved alongside an increasing level of investment in mission driven programs and the development of the John James Village precinct in Garran.

Today's asset base for the Foundation includes almost \$73 million of funds under investment and \$79 million in investment properties in the ACT, New South Wales and Queensland. This asset base is the income generating engine for the Foundation which delivers the means for ongoing investment in mission driven programs.



Over the last seven years, the Foundation has invested approximately **\$24m** in philanthropic activity, covering both mission driven programs (**\$9m**) and property held for charitable purposes at the John James Village Precinct (**\$15m**).

In 2022/23 the Foundation made its single largest annual investment in programs at **\$2.15m** for the year and the coming year will see the commencement of the third charitable build at the John James Village Precinct – a new and permanent location for Palliative Care ACT's 'Leo's House'.

At the end of the 2022/23 financial year the Foundation delivered a **Net Surplus of \$1.8m** and we look forward to what 2024 will bring.



John James Foundation
Annual Report 2023