

# Heads Up!



## Mark Hughes Foundation Newsletter October 2017

**MARK HUGHES**  
FOUNDATION



## Welcome

I'm in my final preparations for our next MHF Trek to Everest Base Camp. This year I have 29 great blokes coming along including some you may know from

my rugby league career. We are proud to be sponsored on this trek by NIB Health Funds and Adam and Belinda MacDougall's The Man Shake team.

I am so lucky to have found such a generous group who have decided to go on this journey with me and collectively we are looking at raising \$500,000 for MHF. To donate head to our website. NIB will be covering the trek so keep an eye on our social media for coverage.

Only within the last few days the Matt Callander Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Kelly McKelvey. We are very excited about this fellowship and look forward to welcoming Dr McKelvey to the MHF funded research team.

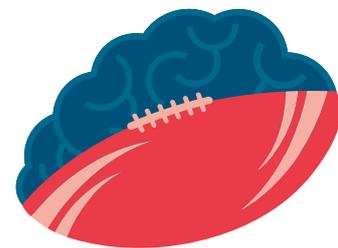
The process for this fellowship has highlighted the varying research strategies being undertaken across the country to tackle brain cancer and it has been exciting to see the future research directions proposed by talented young researchers.

I'm heading to get my scheduled MRI next week. This is always a daunting time and weighs heavy on my shoulders during the lead up. I've been feeling great though and enjoying the preparation training for Everest base camp so will go into this scan with a positive mindset as always, there's no other way to tackle it...

Mark

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**TACKLING**  
BRAIN CANCER

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# MHF BEANIE FOR BRAIN CANCER RAISES \$2.3 MILLION



An unprecedented response from all over Australia saw the rugby league community and beyond come together to support this year's Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign.

This year the campaign kicked off with Round 11 of the NRL which saw the whole weekend become the Beanie for Brain Cancer Round. In combination with the NRL and Channel 9's The NRL Footy Show we aimed to raise \$500,000 to honour Nine Network Executive Producer Matt Callander who is battling brain cancer.

This was smashed by more than double after the first weekend and saw over 70,000 MHF beanies sold. A staggering \$1,750,000 was raised at the conclusion of Round 11, including a host of donations and an online auction. Round 11 saw the NRL teams, major media outlets and the community as a whole unite in

a way that hadn't been seen before, with every NRL club running out in MHF beanies at the beginning of each match.

The campaign in June culminated in the Beanie for Brain Cancer week, which saw thousands of individuals, schools and businesses hold a Beanie event and raise awareness and further funds towards the campaign. At last count MHF had raised over \$2.3 million, and sold almost all of the 110,000 beanies available. Limited stock from the 2017 range are still available, please email enquiries@markhughesfoundation.com.au if you are interested in purchasing any.

The overwhelming generosity from all around Australia saw brain cancer in the spotlight like never before, and made so many people aware that more needs to be done to support patients and families fighting this terrible disease. To everyone that supported this campaign, we wholeheartedly thank you.



## MATT CALLANDER FELLOWSHIP



The recipient of the Matt Callander Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship is Dr Kelly McKelvey.

Dr McKelvey works with the team at Sydney Neuro Oncology Group (SNOG) and her research project will focus on unravelling the tumour microenvironment to combat Brain Cancer.

We are very excited to have Dr McKelvey join the team of MHF funded researchers and we look forward to introducing her and her work in the next edition of the newsletter.



# MAGIC BALL

## BIG HEARTS HELP RAISE \$215,000

Saturday 19 August saw the big hearts come together at NEX (West's City) to help those facing their toughest days tackling brain cancer.

An incredible **\$215,000** was raised on the night, with the sold-out crowd celebrating an amazing year for MHF whilst also recognising the urgent need for more funding into research for this terrible disease.

Students from 'Star Struck' opened the night with an incredible performance of "Bridge over Troubled Water" arranged by Dan Wilson. MC's Dr Chris Brown and Natalia Cooper entertained the guests, while Matty Johns provided the laughs along with the Everest trekkers on stage including Matt Gidley, Bill Peden, Danny Buderus and major sponsor Adam MacDougall.

Matt Callander and Glenn Pallister were recognised for their amazing contribution to the Round 11 NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign with a presentation on stage. Kirralee and Mark Hughes gave a heartfelt message on what the support from the community means to them and where the money raised is going to make a difference.

The MHF Magic Ball, proudly supported by AHA NSW, The Man Shake and McDonald Jones Homes, was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone who attended, sponsored, donated and bidded on our auction items. We couldn't achieve what we do without the support from all of you.



*Matt Callander and Glenn Pallister receiving a thank you gift from Kirralee and Mark Hughes for their contribution to the 2017 Beanies for Brain Cancer campaign.*

## MHF assists in fast tracking international collaboration on paediatric brain cancer



We are proud to announce that the Mark Hughes Foundation has provided funding to support step 1 of the AIM Project an initiative of the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation in conjunction with ANZCHOG.

The AIM project seeks Access to Innovative Molecular diagnostic profiling for paediatric brain tumours. Brain cancer is the leading cause of children's cancer death in Australia. The long term vision is that this project will ensure that every child in Australia and New Zealand has the opportunity

to rapidly access the best and most accurate diagnostic information about their brain tumour to inform their treatment pathways and optimise their chance of survival. It will build capacity within Australasia to future-proof our ability to participate in research (including clinical trials) that stratify patients by molecular profiling.

The Federal Government have also contributed to this project and have made funding of children cancer research a priority. We look forward to keeping you informed on the projects progression.

For more information on the AIM project please visit [www.rcdfoundation.org](http://www.rcdfoundation.org).

## RUN FOR BRAIN CANCER RAISES \$70,000



On Sunday 17 September MHF headed to Sydney to participate in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival.

We had several runners in the 42km Marathon – Belinda Peden and Gary Avery and a special mention to Shelby Walton and the Brain Train Team.

Our MHF ambassador and good mate Danny Buderus completed his first 21km Half Marathon.

The 10km bridge run was our most popular event with our very own Mark Hughes taking part as well as our highest team fundraisers for Run for Olivia. Rounding up the events were our MHF team and kids enjoyed the family walk over the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

We had participants in every race and raised over \$70,000 for brain cancer research.



A special mention to the 15 volunteers that dedicated their day to assist with the drink station at the Opera House. Events like this cannot happen without our amazing volunteers.

Our first year as a charity partner for such a great event. We will be back in 2018 bigger and better, so start training!

## MHF EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK

Following on from the success of the MHF Kokoda Trek last year we have a group of 29 trekkers about to embark on another monumental challenge in support of MHF and to help tackle brain cancer.

Leaving in October the group will tackle a 14 day trek to Everest Base Camp.

Mark will be joined by a group made up of some friends and former team mates, lead by the Chief Paul Harragon.

As the highest base camp trek in the world the group need to be in a good physical condition to be able to withstand major physical and emotional challenges that are going to come along the way.

The biggest challenge however, is not just the physical and emotional hardships they will encounter on their journey - but reaching the **\$500,000** fundraising target the team has set.

If you would also like to contribute, please visit [www.everydayhero.com.au](http://www.everydayhero.com.au) and search for '2017 Everest Mark Hughes' to make a donation and support the team. Good luck boys!

Our great mates at nib and The Man Shake have come on board as major sponsors to continue their ongoing partnership with MHF. You can follow the trek through NIB's 'The Check Up' or via our website.



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## LIVE FOR LIV

written by Olivia's parents Jenny and Roger

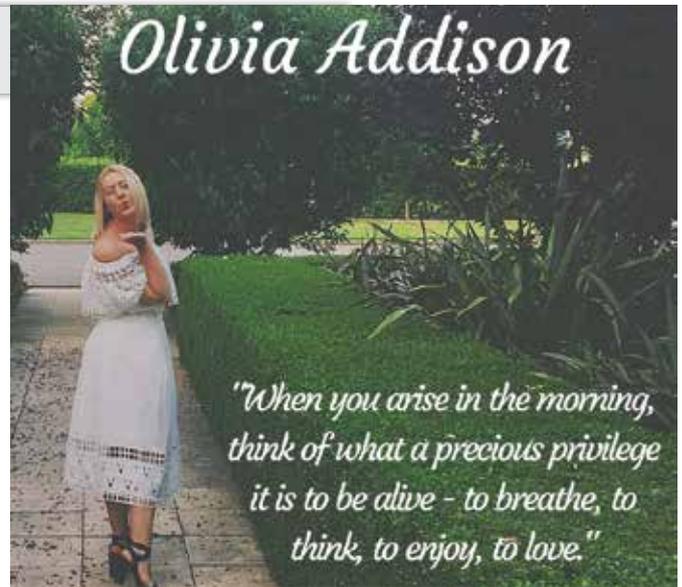
Olivia had been suffering severe headaches for two weeks and our family GP made the decision to send Olivia for a CT Scan on the Friday. After the scan we were told to go straight to Royal North Shore Hospital. That Sunday night our lives changed forever. Olivia was diagnosed with a Grade 4 GBM. That night my beautiful daughter Olivia had emergency brain surgery.

Olivia was re-admitted to hospital with complications on 13 May 2016. In the room next door was Peter, the father of one of her girlfriends - He had been diagnosed with a brain tumour as well. They pinkie promised each other that they would beat this together. Sadly, Peter lost his battle.

On this particular trip to the hospital Olivia wrote the following on her social media page:

*"No one ever expects anything to ever happen to them, and why would we? But when you get told something is wrong and maybe your year isn't going on the path you expected, your priorities really get a shuffle. **You realise things are not important and that memories and feelings are everything.** So let us all make 2016 not just about you, but about our families, our friends, our dreams and our goals. Make it your year to reach a little higher or to go a little further! Because next year might not be your year.. #standstrong".*

We feel this passage is something we should all remember and reflect upon. On 26 September 2016, Olivia's soul mate Daniel asked her to marry him. Daniel proposed to Olivia in a Hot Air Balloon over the vineyards of the Hunter Valley, it was so romantic.



Love and happiness was truly the best medicine for Olivia. Olivia attended Mt Wilga Rehab Hospital two days a week and was doing so well. She always showed amazing strength and courage. Olivia was recovering well and was looking at going back to work.

In May 2017 Olivia's tumour started to grow back aggressively and the doctors told us it was inoperable. Chemotherapy was tried for a short time but was unable to slow down the cancer.

Olivia passed away peacefully at home on 27 July 2017 surrounded by family and her fiancée Daniel. It was Olivia's wish to raise \$50,000 for brain cancer research and we have committed ourselves to continue fundraising and creating awareness in our local community about this terrible disease.

Olivia's passing has left a huge hole in our hearts. She was the funny, witty one in the family and the sparkle in our lives. We have now made the promise that we will "Live For Liv".



## REMEMBERING DEAN SUMPTON

written by Dean's sister Linda

I was asked by the Mark Hughes Foundation if my family wanted to share my brother Dean's journey. I can tell you now I will spend the rest of my days supporting this cause. MHF made

my brothers days as a brain cancer patient bearable.

Dean tried so hard to make sure we were all ok. He was the cheekiest man alive, Sandy and Jane – the Mark Hughes Foundation Brain Cancer Coordinators, would agree. Dean even pinched Sandy's mobile

phone and rang her husband to say hello!

I take my hat off to Jane, as we sat with the doctor and he gave it to us straight up that Dean was in deep trouble, she was as heartbroken as we were.

MHF doesn't just search for cures they are helping all our families survive this disease. It's not just the patients its us left behind that they support. I hold this foundation as my family not just a charity.

On behalf of myself, my family and Deano thank you MHF!

*Dean passed away from brain cancer in 2017. Linda, in conjunction with her workplace, Warners Bay Private Hospital has raised over \$7,000 for MHF.*



The Legends of League (LOL) are bringing back all the big names from yesteryear for one action packed day of 'old school' Rugby League.

The inaugural LOL Tournament will be held at Central Coast Stadium on Saturday November 18, 2017.

Some of the biggest names in Rugby League have been recruited, including Wendall Sailor, Danny Buderus, Steve Menzies and Kurt Gidley.

MHF are proud to be supported by LOL with a percentage of the gate takings to be donated to MHF in support of brain cancer research. Grab your tickets today...

**BUY TICKETS**

[www.ticketek.com.au/legendsofleague](http://www.ticketek.com.au/legendsofleague)

or visit [legendsofleague.com.au](http://legendsofleague.com.au) for more information.



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25% of purchase price is donated to MHF

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Donations can be made online at [secure.hmri.org.au/mark-hughes-foundation](http://secure.hmri.org.au/mark-hughes-foundation)

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## In memory of....

We gratefully acknowledge donations received in memory of loved ones..

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Mark Hughes Foundation  
**Legends**  
TRACKSIDE MARQUEE

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER from 1pm

Join the MHF team with some special guests in the Trackside Marquee for a day at the Races!  
\$80 (+ \$2.95 booking fee) per ticket includes Buffet Lunch and Entertainment  
(\$20 from each ticket goes to MHF)  
Visit [www.newcastlehorsecourse.com.au](http://www.newcastlehorsecourse.com.au) to purchase your ticket today.

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