

Community Newsletter

May 2022

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Dear friend of Royal Far West,

I'm pleased to share this newsletter with you to let you know the latest happenings at Royal Far West.

It is a privilege to lead this unique organisation as we continue to provide vital services for rural and remote children, families, and communities and go the extra country mile to ensure country kids have the support they need for healthy development to thrive.

In February this year we were pleased to welcome back country families to our Centre for Country Kids in Manly after another period of COVID lock-down. Our family numbers are growing and it's so nice to see the smiling faces of children back in our Centre with families visiting us from Trangie, Broken Hill, Armidale, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Kelso, Warren, Dubbo, Dalgety and more over the last few months.

This year has also been a challenging year for the communities we serve with the impact and recovery from natural events of bushfires and more recently floods. The Australian Government recently recognised our unique expertise by awarding us a two-year funding agreement to extend our support to 10 flood-affected communities in Northern NSW and Southeast Queensland. Much of what we have learned from supporting bushfire affected communities in the last two years will translate to supporting children and families who have

experienced any type of major traumatic event and we look forward to supporting these communities in their recovery.

COVID-19, natural events and the existing disadvantage of distance and availability of services means country families face an uphill battle to get their kids the support they need.

The redevelopment of our Manly waterfront land wellbeing space will help secure our future in a highly responsible way, enabling us to grow so that we can support new generations of country children, as well as be a vibrant and valued part of the Manly community.

We will continue to work collaboratively with members of the consultant team and a range of stakeholders to realise our vision.

For us, at Royal Far West it's all about the kids. As our dear friends, neighbours, and partners, we want you to share this journey as we bring the dream to life of creating a new, vibrant neighbourhood in Manly and at the same time gifting Australia's country kids a brighter future in perpetuity.



Jacqueline Emery
CEO - Royal Far West

Why are we developing our site?

Royal Far West is dedicated to supporting country kids to access the developmental care they need and has been delivering vital services from our beachfront home in Manly for nearly 100 years.

The redevelopment will bring to life our vision of a vibrant health and wellbeing-focused neighbourhood that is mission-driven and that the whole community can enjoy. It will:

Support Royal Far West to grow and reach more children Provide amenity to the local community and Futureproof the sustainability of Royal Far West and our ability to continue gifting healthcare to those most in need.

Children in rural and remote regions of Australia are five times more likely than children in urban

areas to have developmental health challenges. The growing prevalence of behavioural challenges, mental health, intellectual disability, speech and language delays, coupled with a gross inequity of health care services between city and country, is driving unrelenting demand.

In the last decade, we have grown tenfold in the people we have supported, and in the next decade, we'll see a similar need, compounded by the long-term impact of COVID, floods, bushfires, and drought.

As we approach nearly a century in operation, we look forward to creating a space that will allow us to continue to support today's and future generations of country kids for the next 100 years, alongside the valued members of our local community.

Local member for manly receives a warm welcome from the bush

In February this year the NSW Minister for Environment, our local Member for Manly James Griffin, visited outback NSW. He saw first-hand the work and the meaning of Royal Far West to country families - 'Life-changing, life-affirming kindness', as many locals said to him on his trip.

'RFW's stakeholder engagement and transparency is beyond measure'.



James Griffin MP, Member for Manly (pictured with Ngemba Ngijympaa Elder Phillip Sullivan).





NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) modification approved

Over the past 2 years, we have conducted a number of community information sessions and had a great many face-to-face meetings with neighbours to discuss our plans and listen to feedback. We have listened and responded to the feedback by making changes to the concept approval, which have been reflected in the final plans submitted to the NSW Department of Planning in 2021.

I wish to extend our thanks to our neighbours who have significantly improved the design through their feedback.

The NSW Department of Planning team has, after many months of consideration, approved our design, which enables us to submit our development application to the Northern Beaches Council, detailing all the approved, modified plans.

As we have progressed our redevelopment program, we have added to our strong and collaborative team of consultants and partners to guide us in market research, sales and leasing, and construction costings.



Our vision

"Our vision for our redevelopment is also the timeless vision of RFW's founders Reverend Stanley Drummond and Dr. George Moncrieff Barron, who established the charity in Manly in 1924. Our mission then and now remains the same – with our feet in the sand and our hearts in the bush we remain true to and inspired by our purpose. We care, heal, support, and connect to improve the health and wellbeing of children from rural, regional and remote Australia.

We welcome you to join us on our journey to create the RFW's new Neighbourhood, an iconic place that will make a profound difference in Manly and to future generations of rural children and families across our vast continent."

Lindsay Cane, AM

Project Director and Client Representative for RFW Redevelopment

About the planning process

NSW Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE) approves S75W Modification

Architects Murcutt Candalepas were engaged to design the remaining stages of the redevelopment of the site situated at 14-22 Wentworth Street & 19-21 South Steyne, including the preparation of an S75W modification with the following key adjustments to the approved Concept Approval:

Changes to the approved building envelopes, including building layout, height, and setbacks demolition of the rear of Drummond House and replacement with a new RFW client accommodation building Conversion of the approved hotel and commercial use building to a residential and commercial use building Changes to the ground floor retail fronting South Steyne, including the addition of a new publicly accessible courtyard

The S75W modification was lodged with the DIPE in July 2021 and publicly exhibited over August 2021. Our first community information session was held with the public on 19 August 2021 to discuss the

S75W modification and RFW has continued to consult with neighbours throughout the process.

Amendments were made to the S75W design, following the public exhibition, and taking on board community feedback, to accommodate submissions made by the Department, Council, and public including:

removal of a floor level from the rear addition to Drummond House increased setbacks to southern and western boundaries abutting neighbouring properties on Victoria Parade reintroduction of landscaping within the western side boundary setback

The Response to Submissions was lodged with DPIE in December 2021 and the determination was made by the DPIE on 20 April 2022.

A DA for temporary signage is being prepared for lodgement in April 2022 and will be lodged in advance of the redevelopment DA which we anticipate submitting in May 2022.

DROP-IN COMMUNITY SESSIONS



Community members who wish to discuss the redevelopment face to face are invited to drop into the ground floor of our Centre for Country Kids at 18 Wentworth St, Manly on:

Wed 8 June: 4:00pm

Wed 15 June: 4.00pm

We look forward to seeing you.



Then and now

Our 9,000th patient

In 2021, Royal Far West supported 12,406 children, families, and communities from our Centre for Country Kids in Manly, via telehealth and through outreach visits to rural and remote communities. Today we support country children's mental, developmental and behavioural health, to help them reach their full potential.

Back in 1960, we reached a different milestone where we celebrated our 9000th patient, after 36 years of continuous service to country children. Lawrence from Hillston (pictured) came for the treatment of a fractured hand by (L to R) Dr. A Moncrieff Barron, Medical Superintendent, Mr. Norman W Drummond, Chairman of the Scheme, Mr. W E Wattison, MLA for Sturt, and the General Secretary of the Scheme, Matron E Hill.

1960 was a year of expansion for the Far West Home, with accommodation for an extra 32 children created by the conversion of two floors of the neighbouring Wentworth Flats into wards. This was a temporary measure to manage the growing demand, while plans for a new building at the time were taking shape.



**KEEP UP
TO DATE**

Check out our redevelopment website www.rfwcampus.com.au for the latest information about the redevelopment and more.

Our website will be updated as the project progresses, so make sure you check back frequently to see what's happening



Leith's Story

How We Support

Living in a small town in regional New South Wales, the Freestone family has its fair share of challenges.

Mum Cherise explains, "Our second son, Leith, was born 16 weeks premature, and life has been pretty hard ever since then.

We knew Leith wasn't meeting the milestones that his brother Timothy had reached at the same age. His various needs meant he required the help of several specialists, who were often hundreds of kilometres away, all of which stretched our family's capacity.

We were very fortunate when Leith was admitted to Royal Far West four years ago. We've had several trips to Manly, and at each visit, Leith has

appointments with a range of clinicians, while Timothy attends the onsite school, and our family gets to spend precious time together.

Royal Far West is unique. Without a doubt, it saved Leith and our family. The difference the ongoing support and care have made to Leith is incredible. Because of where we live, and the lack of access to services, we could never have given Leith the opportunities he deserves. His life, and ours, have been enriched because of the wonderful care he receives at Royal Far West's Paediatric Developmental Program (PDP)."

*Names and some elements of the story have been changed to protect the privacy of our client families.

Learn more about Royal Far West

Discover more about how Royal Far West is helping to improve the health and wellbeing of Australia's country kids, follow us at

