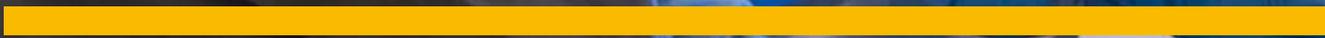




AUSTRALIAN
MELANOMA
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

2021

ANNUAL REVIEW



Research | Awareness | Early Detection

Melanoma is the most common skin cancer in Australia

Australia has the highest incidence of melanoma in the world

An Australian is diagnosed with melanoma every 30 minutes

Melanoma is the most common cancer in young Australians (15-39 years)

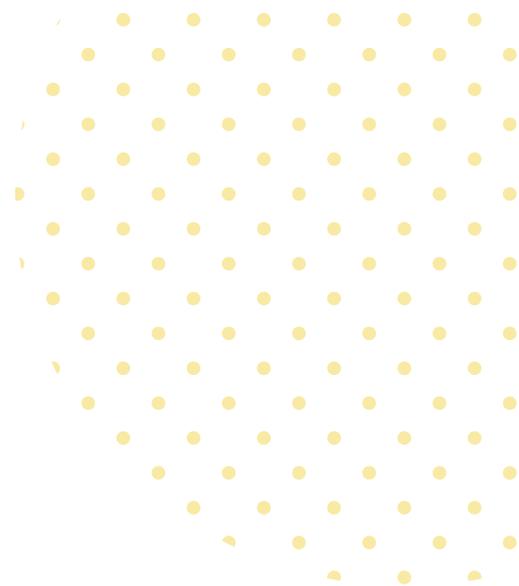
One in 17 Australians will be diagnosed with melanoma before their 85th birthday

AMRF is committed to changing these alarming statistics for future generations



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OUR MISSION

To impact the alarming Australian melanoma statistics by supporting awareness, prevention and early detection initiatives and funding research to improve patient outcomes.

OUR VISION

A future with reduced deaths and improved outcomes for melanoma patients in Australia

OUR VALUES

Support research with measurable outcomes

Ensure ethical practices in all our operations and in the research supported

Collaborate and share information.

AMRF acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land each of us work on. We pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging, and through them to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ABOUT AMRF

The Australian Melanoma Research Foundation Ltd (AMRF) is a national charity established by a dedicated group of volunteers in 2006. Its mission is to significantly contribute to the prevention, early detection and treatment of melanoma to improve patient outcomes.

The AMRF funds:

- innovative melanoma research with a focus on supporting early career researchers
- early detection, prevention and awareness programs
- Significantly contribute to the prevention of melanoma and to improve patient outcomes

AMRF RESEARCH

AMRF provides annual research grants to researchers developing new pathways or taking innovative approaches that will lead to a reduction in the incidence of melanoma and improve outcomes for patients.

Our Research Advisory Committee reports on recent trends in the development of treatment for melanoma. An evaluation framework has been established to assist in the identification of the key research areas to optimise our funding support.

Expressions of interest are sought annually from melanoma researchers across Australia.

AMRF focuses on supporting early career researchers and is highly selective about projects supported. Grant applications must be contestable and show evidence of scientific merit.

WE SUPPORTED



7

RESEARCHERS



RESEARCHERS SUPPORTED IN

4

STATES

WE PROVIDED



271,000

IN GRANTS FOR RESEARCH



75% of skin cancer deaths are caused by melanoma



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Our achievements

The Foundation has maintained its commitment to provide funds to Australian early career researchers and has now provided grants to scientists in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide. Despite the challenges of raising funds in the current environment, the Foundation aims to commit even more funds in future years towards our Purpose “to support research into melanoma, including prevention, disease management and treatment”.

Our people

Marisa Chilcott was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in March, bringing a high level of skill and professionalism to the Foundation after several years at the National Maritime Museum (Sydney). Kim Thackray continued to provide the Foundation with marketing and administration assistance through her long-standing knowledge of the Foundation and the melanoma community.

Peter Goujon was appointed as Company Secretary in March 2021 and volunteers his time to managing our regulatory matters.

A national Board of volunteer directors, comprising Nicoletta Muner (Vic), Vickie Edwards (NSW), Mark Streeting (Qld), Sanjay Gund (Vic), Jeff Carr (SA) and myself (SA) provided the CEO with guidance and assistance on strategic and policy matters throughout the year.

The current 5-year Strategic Plan ends in 2023. The next strategic plan will take account of the changes in the national fundraising landscape, the interests of our growing list of donors and changes in the detection and treatments of melanoma, many of which are the result of first-class research conducted here and elsewhere.



Dr Wayne Harvey
Chairman

“

The Foundation's reputation continues to grow for its focus on providing the community with an efficient, professionally run not-for-profit organisation and the preferred conduit between donors and the achievement of reductions in the incidence and consequences of melanoma in Australia.

”

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Our structure

The Foundation has been operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee for a full financial year and we will continue to build our national profile through the use of the trading name Australian Melanoma Research Foundation Ltd.

Looking ahead

The previous dependence on community events to raise funds has been supplemented by other campaigns, many of which have been on-line. The Foundation's website has been further refined to give our donors a greater awareness of our activities and more insight into everything we do.

The Foundation's reputation continues to grow for its focus on providing the community with an efficient, professionally run not-for-profit organisation and the preferred conduit between donors and the achievement of reductions in the incidence and consequences of melanoma in Australia.

We are very much aware of the changing environment the Australian community and the business sector are now in. The pandemic has changed many things for everyone and the emergence of climate change as an economic force is also beginning to be realised across many sectors.

The way ahead for the Foundation, as a national agency known for funding research into melanoma and its management, treatment and early detection, remains encouraging. I invite you to join us on that journey.

Dr Wayne Harvey
Chairman

“**Melanoma is the most common cancer in younger Australians**”

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

I was surprised by the statistics relating to melanoma. Prior to starting with AMRF in May 2021, I had no idea that melanoma was referred to as Australia's national cancer because we have the highest incidence rates in the world. I was therefore honoured to be involved in the AMRF 2021 grant round supporting contestable, innovative research being conducted by emerging researchers. The competitive process conducted by our Clinical Advisory Panel elected to support the work of two exceptional researchers - Dr Pouya Faridi and Rebecca Simpson. Their work is outlined later in this report.

In the next financial year, we hope to increase our research support by more than 65% - something we are very proud of. This work, combined with the efforts of other researchers, is leading to a brighter future for melanoma patients, their families, loved ones and friends.

COVID has impacted all our lives and businesses. As a national charity experiencing lockdowns and unable to travel, we embraced new ways of working and communicating. During the year, I have spent time getting to know the community and our supporters, partners and donors. In order to develop these important relationships, we have invested in a client management system that will help us communicate more efficiently and to monitor our fundraising activities.

Throughout the year we have been buoyed by the continued support of our generous donors and major partners, BrightEyes and Avenel. We would also like to welcome two new partners SParms and ReverseMate. Our major fundraiser for the year, the Larapinta trek, resulted in amazing fundraising efforts, even though COVID caused the postponement of the trek until 2022. L.E.K. managed to hold their golf day in between lockdowns and the T8T music festival in honour of Nicholas Tait managed to go ahead, thanks to the dedication of his mum Shelley and his family. The Lyell Duffy Golf day also continues to honour the memory of Lyell who was a keen golfer.

I would like to thank our voluntary Chairman and Board for their support during my inaugural year at AMRF and Kim Thackray, whose support and extensive experience has been invaluable.

Thank you to all those who supported our work. We look forward to a bright year ahead.



Marisa Chilcott
CEO

2021 RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS



2021 Post Graduate Student Rebecca Simpson

MIA & University of Sydney

Project: Investigating the effectiveness of diet in altering-systemic immune function during immunotherapy.

My research looks at the role of the gut microbiome during immunotherapy. Specifically, how diet and intestinal microbes influence the efficacy and safety of treatment. Since diet can alter the microbiome, thereby impacting gut “leakiness” and the inflammatory state of the immune system, we hypothesise that changes to diet could beneficially alter the microbiome to improve both the effectiveness and safety of therapy.

With the support of AMRF we will test whether dietary changes are able to beneficially alter the micrombiome which could lead to favourable immune changes during immunotherapy.



2021 Early Career Researcher Dr Pouya Faridi

Monash University Melbourne

Project: Novel targets for melanoma immunotherapy.

Dr Faridi is a recognised young scientist in the cancer antigen discovery field who has developed several technologies to identify novel targets for cancer immunotherapy. He has developed “HybridFinder” technology to identify “spliced peptides”, a new class of cancer immunotherapy targets of cancer immunotherapy.

Dr Faridi has shown spliced peptides are abundant in melanoma, are highly immunogenic and have a high potential to be targeted for clinical studies. In this project, with the help of AMRF, Dr Faridi will work to evaluate the presence of a set of immunogenic spliced peptides in melanoma tumour biopsies.

Clinically verified spliced peptides will be targeted in an ongoing clinical trial for immunotherapy of melanoma patients in collaboration with Prof Gerald Linette (University of Pennsylvania, USA).

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

AMRF is devoted to preventing melanoma and supporting research that will improve patient outcomes.

We are inspired by tributes like these which were written to Jessica Elshaarawy by her two young daughters. Jessica's mother Margaret also wrote a letter to Jessica and her beautiful and touching tribute features on the AMRF in memoriam page on our website.

Jessica was 40 years old when she passed away and will always be held dear in many hearts.

Jessica Elshaarawy



Dearest Mum,

You were the type of person that was approachable and would always listen. There are so many good things about you which is why everyone loved and still loves you, but most of all misses you. The people that miss you the most are my sister and I.

When my sister and I found out you were suffering from melanoma we were devastated, crying in a hospital waiting room knowing this was the end. Luckily, we found this website that can help us to research some of the ways to reassure this is unlikely to happen as often. There are so many things that can be done to save people from missing someone else.

Thank you
Your Aisha

Mummy,

You were my best friend. You talked to me and you made me laugh.

You left me when I was only four, and although your memory is fading I miss my mummy.

You made delicious birthday cakes.

I love you,

Zahra

AMRF BOARD



Wayne Harvey, Chair

Wayne is a science graduate with a doctorate from the UK and is also a graduate and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Following several years in academic roles, Wayne moved into management roles with large organisations characterised by high levels of innovation. Since stepping back from full time work in the university sector, he continues to assist science-based and health-based organisations in senior roles as a non-executive director.



Nicoletta Muner, Deputy Chair

Nicoletta is a Pharmacist with 20 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry, where she has had exposure to the entire drug development process.

As a Regulatory Affairs professional she has mostly focused on the introduction of novel medicinal products into international markets. As the Global Director of Regulatory Affairs at a pharmaceutical company, Nicoletta has had broad exposure to clinical research and has been a key member of the Australian team which led to the European marketing authorisation of a first-in-class drug.



Mark Streeting, Treasurer

Mark is a Sydney-based Partner with global strategy firm L.E.K. Consulting. He has 30 years professional experience and has advised public and private sector clients around the world on strategy and policy. In addition to strategy and policy development, Mark has particular interest in financial and economic evaluation and marketing and communications. He holds post graduate qualifications in economics and business administration.



Jeff Carr, Immediate Past Chair

Jeff is a lawyer with Strachan Carr. With more than 40 years in practice, specialising in commercial, personal injury and estates litigation, his background provides broad-based experience in legal matters affecting the Foundation. One of Jeff's aims is to make the Foundation a truly national organisation, serving the needs of all Australians affected by melanoma, whether from a diagnostic, educational or treatment perspective.

“ The Cancer Council estimates that Australians spend \$1b each year treating skin cancer ”



Vickie Edwards, Board Member

Vickie is a senior executive with over 20 years of commercialisation experience in the Medtech space and medical software area. Vickie's passion lies in developing and commercialising solutions to improve health outcomes for the Australian population. During her time in healthcare, Vickie led successful launches and ground-breaking firsts in human and first to-market healthcare solutions, procedures and products, making a significant difference to patient outcomes, survival rates and care.

Vickie is a melanoma survivor and is keen to use her skills to help reduce the incidence, improve treatments and ultimately find a cure for melanoma.



Sanjay Gund, Board Member

Sanjay is a physicist turned chartered accountant and company director. During his career he has grown start-ups, financially turned around organisations from the brink of insolvency and helped entities to responsibly convert plans into profits.

As a Victorian State Councillor at the Governance Institute of Australia and Chairman of its sub-committee, he has been instrumental in contemporary governance practices.

Sanjay is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and a fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (GIA).

“ 90% of melanoma can be successfully treated if detected early ”

OUR TEAM



Kim Thackray

Kim joined AMRF in 2013 and plays a major role in the day to day operations as our first point of contact. Kim is in direct communication with our donors and remains committed to supporting them, in addition to building strong relationships with our Partners. Kim, in conjunction with MIA, project manages our annual major fundraiser Melanoma March and other community events, along with seeking and overseeing fundraising opportunities.

OUR AMBASSADOR

Glenda Thomson

Glenda is AMRF's inaugural ambassador. Glenda works tirelessly to educate and raise awareness about the dangers of melanoma.

Glenda's son Aaron Thomson was just 27 when he died from melanoma. After Aaron was diagnosed, he made a video warning people about the dangers of melanoma and the importance of acting on its signs and pursuing diagnosis. Glenda has gained a lot of satisfaction from representing AMRF and raising awareness, particularly because quite a few melanomas have been diagnosed along the way.

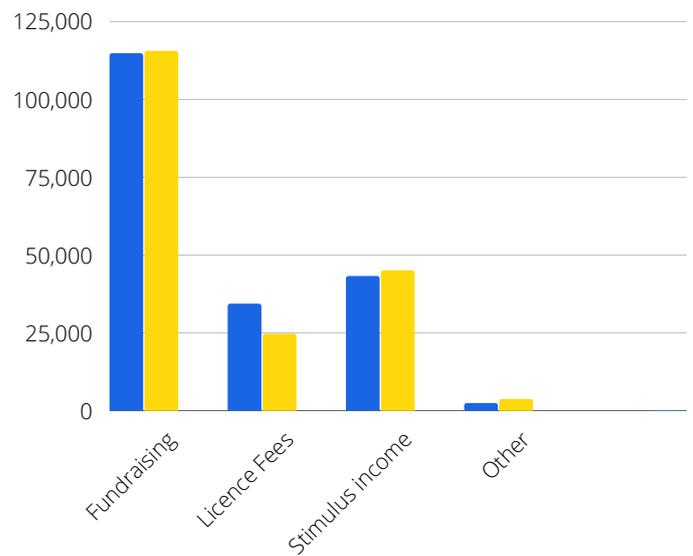


FINANCES

FINANCES

Like many organisations, charities and the community members, COVID has effected the capacity of most organisations to fund research. AMRF usually receives no regular government support and relies on our fundraising to fund our programs and research grants.

INCOME



2021 2020

Scan the QR code below to review the most recent audited financial report.



“Most melanoma is caused by prolonged and repeated exposure to UV radiation and sunlight”

OUR PARTNERS

AMRF is proud to be working closely with committed partners who share our vision to promote awareness and sun safety and help us achieve our fundraising goal for much needed research.

These partnerships can change outcomes and future statistics.

Please support our partners and then you will be part of the life-changing work we do.

Superstar Supporters



Stellar Supporters



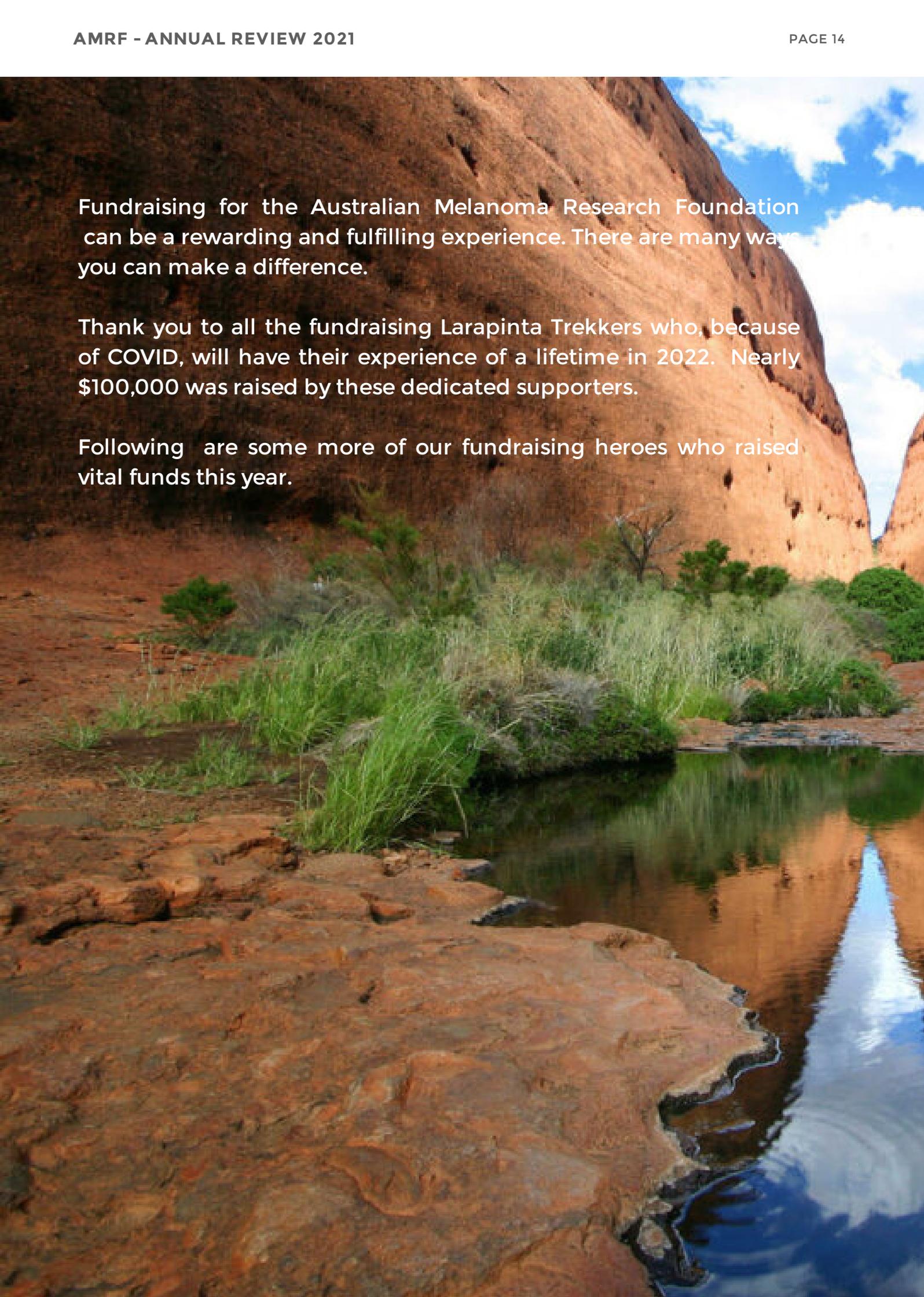
Partner

Grant Provider



Supporters





Fundraising for the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. There are many ways you can make a difference.

Thank you to all the fundraising Larapinta Trekkers who, because of COVID, will have their experience of a lifetime in 2022. Nearly \$100,000 was raised by these dedicated supporters.

Following are some more of our fundraising heroes who raised vital funds this year.

Just a few of our dedicated fundraisers - thank you



LEK Invitational Golf Day



In memory of Nicholas Tait



In partnership with the Melanoma Institute Australia



Manly Juniors



Lyell Duffy Golf Day



Margaret Moore's Open Garden





SAVING YOUR SKIN

Research | Awareness | Early Detection

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