



HUNTER BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

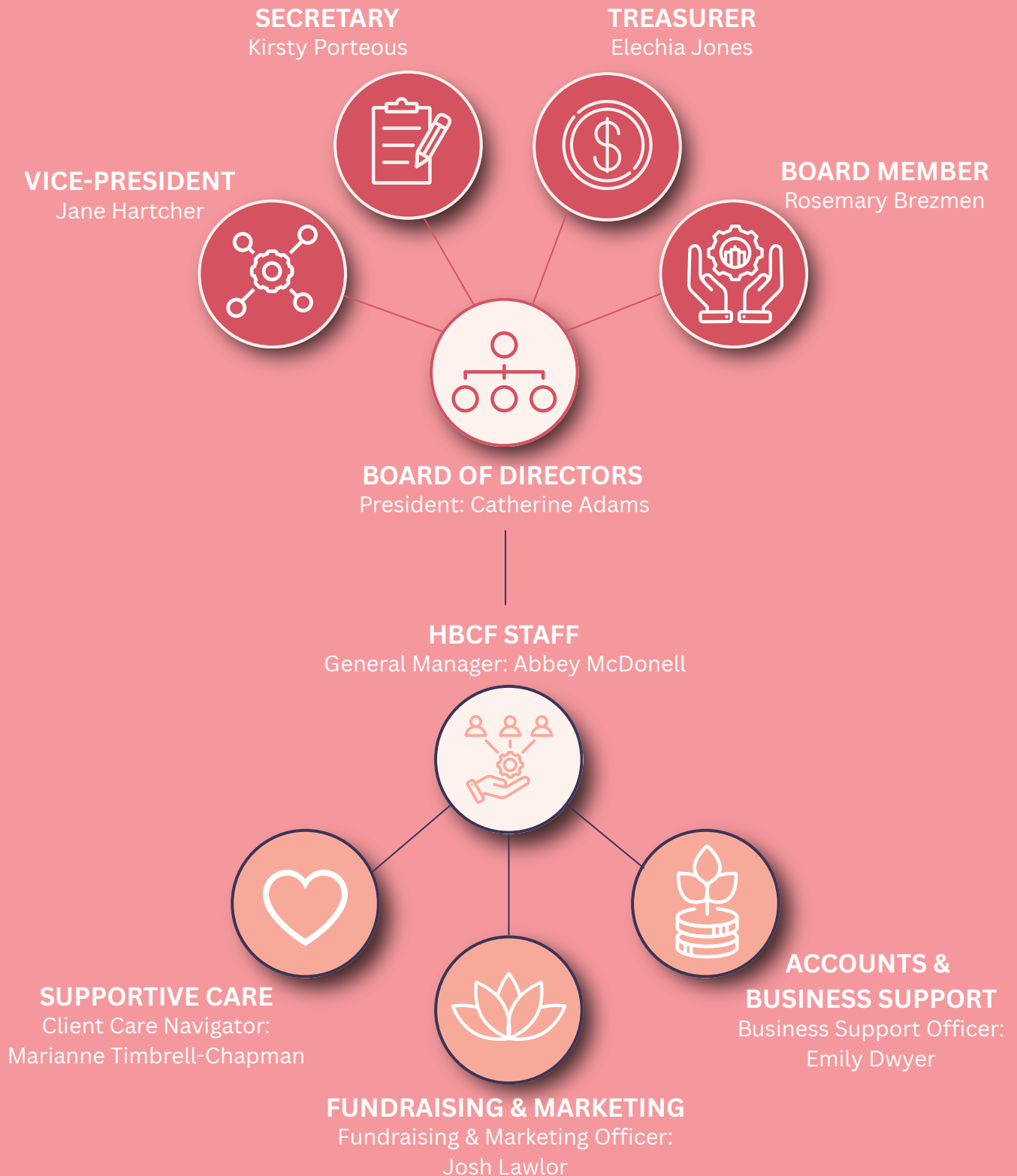
2024-25





**ENSURING NO ONE IN THE
HUNTER FACES BREAST
CANCER ALONE**

HBCF ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE



HBCF LIFE MEMBERS

Milton Rigby

Jane Harris

Bob Jones

Rosalie Taggart

Helen Belcher

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

| | |
|---|---|
| Message from HBCF President | 5 |
| Message from HBCF General Manager | 6 |

SUPPORTIVE CARE

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Support Numbers | 7 |
| Social Impact | 8 |
| New Services | 9 |
| HBCF Clients | 11 |

FUNDRAISING

| | |
|--|----|
| Record Breaking Year for Fundraising | 12 |
| Community Fundraising Superstars | 13 |
| Key Events | 15 |
| Corporate Partners | 18 |
| Marketing | 19 |

PEOPLE & CULTURE

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Our Incredible Volunteers | 21 |
| Our Team | 22 |

GOVERNANCE

| | |
|---|----|
| Our Board | 23 |
| Treasurer's Report & 2025 Financial Statement | 25 |
| Thank You To Our Partners | 26 |

The Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation (HBCF) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout the Hunter Region and beyond. We honour their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of these nations and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

What a wonderful year we have had. Beginning with a fabulous celebration of 25 years of our unique foundation. The idea of HBCF began with one woman's desire to provide the practical and direct support for people undergoing treatment for breast cancer she realised was needed after finishing her own initial treatment. To be able to honour Virginia (and Milton) Rigby's vision and celebrate 25 years of service with the very community we serve was a wonderful thing. Thank you to all our wonderful Life Members, many of whom still provide crucial support to this day.

The thing that I love about our foundation is that we are a Hunter based charity helping our local Hunter community. Thanks to the generosity of Hunter people we are able to do this with no Federal or State support. Just Hunter People helping Hunter People.

The heart of our organisation are our volunteers. This amazing group turns up to help every time we ask. They support everything we do, from making comfort cushions, transporting people to appointments, running the wig library, organising and supporting fundraising events and our support groups. Nothing we ask of them is too much. I cannot thank each and every one of you for everything you do.

As we have grown as a Foundation so has our dedicated staff. We have an amazing team, as reflected in the significant professional recognition Abbey and the team have received this year. More importantly it is reflected in the comments and ratings we receive back from people accessing our services and working with the team. Thank you Abbey, Josh, Emily, and Marianne for all your amazing contributions to HBCF. You all go above and beyond and we couldn't do it without you all.

I would especially like to acknowledge Abbey who is stepping away from her role as General Manager to focus on her passion in business and project development. Abbey has held us steady

through very difficult times while also driving continual improvement and innovation. We could not have achieved all we have in the last year without her.

With Abbey shifting her focus I am also very excited we are welcoming Louise Ross into the role of General Manager. Louise brings with her broad experience in and passion for the NFP sector and Board and Staff alike are excited that she is joining our team.

I am thrilled to we continue to build our partnerships with other not-for-profit's such as the Hunter Melanoma Foundation, Metastatic Breast Cancer Action Australia and The Kaden Centre. We are also incredibly lucky to have a core of local "repeat offender" supporters. I am in awe of just how many local people put their hand up to donate or raise funds for HBCF and always astonished at just how much they contribute! I am particularly pleased some of these funds have been dedicated to re-establishing our support groups. It is wonderful to once again be able to bring people together in a safe and supported environment.

Finally an enormous thank you to my fellow Board Members. As a small group of volunteers, who all have busy professional lives it can be hard to find the time for anything extra. But I would like to recognise the effort and professionalism everyone puts in to the Board as well as thank you all for your generous support.

This has been a year of constant improvement as you will see. I am excited to see where the next 12 months take us!



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Adams'.

CATHERINE ADAMS

HBCF President

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

As I reflect on the 2024–25 financial year, I can honestly say it has been the fastest and most lesson-filled year yet. It's been a year of teamwork, resilience and genuine community spirit – one that reminds me just how special this grassroots Foundation truly is.

Together we've faced challenges, found solutions and celebrated incredible achievements – including being recognised with the 'Highly Commended' award at the Hunter Region Business Excellence Awards – how amazing is that! We've also shared moments of deep heartbreak and empathy through the stories we hear every day from our clients. We've mourned those we've lost and felt goosebumps hearing about the realities no one should ever have to face. Every income record reached, every program expanded and every family supported has been the result of collective effort – from our dedicated staff and volunteer Board to our drivers, fundraising volunteers, partners and local supporters. I couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished together.

This year has brought continued growth in awareness and reach, allowing us to support more people across the Hunter region. Through community generosity, strong partnerships and collaboration, we've extended our practical and emotional support to even more families navigating breast cancer than ever before. Behind every service delivered are real people whose journeys have

been made that little bit lighter through the care, connection and compassion we've provided them. The feedback and stories we receive remind us daily why our small but mighty team works so hard and why the community continues to stand beside us.

As I approach my fifth year with HBCF, I feel immense gratitude. Leading this organisation for the past three years has been an honour – a time of growth and deep appreciation for the power of people coming together. We never stop learning and we never stop evolving, continually improving, to meet the needs of our clients, volunteers and supporters.

While this marks my final year as General Manager, I'm thrilled to continue with HBCF as Projects and Business Development Officer. I'm excited for the Foundation's next chapter under new leadership and grateful to feel so supported by our HBCF family as I begin this next stage of my own personal and professional journey.

To our incredible team (Board, volunteers, supporters, community) – thank you. Your generosity, kindness and authenticity are what make this Foundation truly remarkable. Here's to another big year of impact, care, growth and shared purpose.



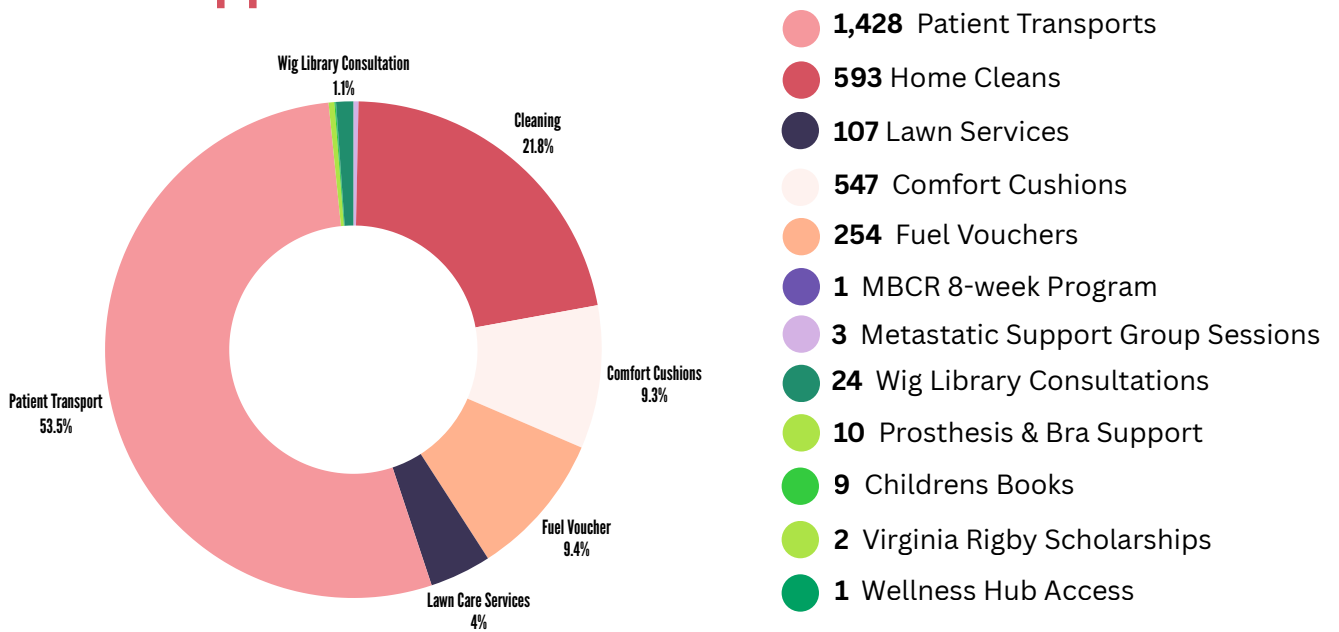
ABBEY MCDONELL

HBCF General Manager

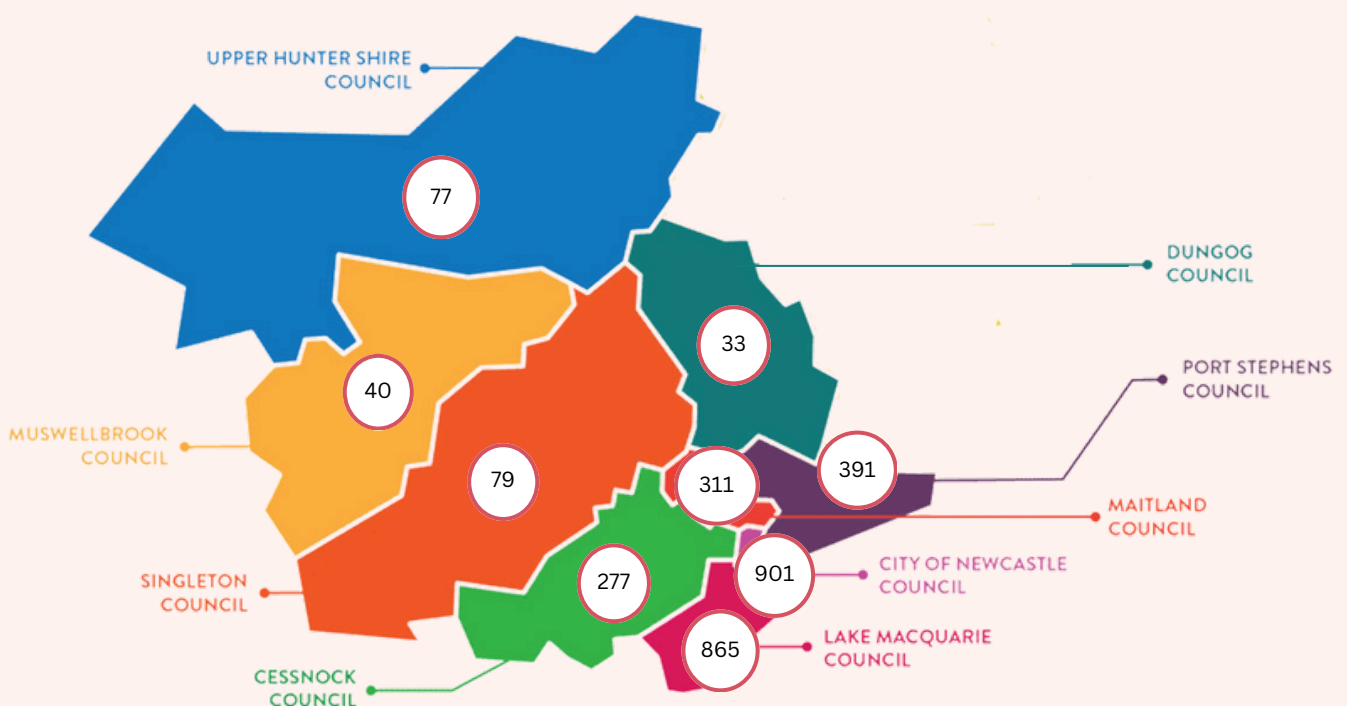
At the heart of HBCF is our unwavering commitment to ensuring that no one in the Hunter faces breast cancer alone. Every service we provide is designed to ease the practical, emotional and financial burdens that come with treatment and recovery.



Types of Support



of Services Offered by LGA



SOCIAL IMPACT - CLIENT SERVICES

What changed for clients

- **Reduced practical barriers:** Transport and fuel support enabled treatment attendance without extra financial stress.
- **Emotional safety & dignity:** Respectful interactions built trust at a vulnerable time.
- **Faster access to help:** Clear processes and responsive contact made it easy to get support.
- **Sustained connection:** High willingness to recommend and opt-in shows a strong community bond.

Client Feedback

"The support I received meant I could focus on my treatment without worrying about how I was going to get to my appointments or keep up with the housework."

"Knowing that HBCF was there for me made me feel less alone during the hardest time of my life."

"The kindness and practical help I received from HBCF lifted such a heavy weight off my shoulders – I honestly don't know how I would have managed without them."

At a Glance

- 100%** would **recommend HBCF** services to others.
- 100%** reported **respectful, professional** interactions with staff.
- 95%** said **transport** was easy to **access** when needed.
- 96%** rated **cleaning/lawn providers** as respectful and professional.
- 81%** found **contacting HBCF** very easy or easy

Support

Practical help during treatment

Connection

Support to reduce isolation and fear

Local

Hunter-based, funded by locals

Awareness

Community connection to drive action

NEW SERVICE OFFERING

Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group

This year, we reintroduced vital support groups to help locals and their families connect, share and find strength in community. These safe, welcoming spaces offer emotional support, shared experiences and practical guidance, ensuring no one walks this journey alone.

For those living with metastatic or de novo metastatic breast cancer, connection and understanding can be lifelines. This monthly group – alternating between expert-led sessions and facilitated peer support – provides a safe, welcoming environment for individuals to navigate advanced breast cancer with care, knowledge, and community.

IN MEMORIAM



ANGELA JEFFS

We would like to pay special tribute to the incredible **Angela Jeffs**, whose dedication and drive led to the creation of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group. Angela was a fierce advocate and a compassionate voice for many.

Although Angela sadly passed away earlier this year, her legacy lives on in every person supported by the group she fought so passionately to establish. We are deeply grateful for everything she gave to this cause and to our community.

LEARN MORE



REVAMPED SERVICE OFFERING

Mindfulness-Based Cancer Recovery (MBCR) Program

An 8-week, evidence-based program specifically designed for early-stage breast cancer survivors who have completed treatment. Held weekly at the Hunter Cancer Hub, each session blends gentle yoga, meditation and practical tools for managing stress and building resilience. With trained facilitators experienced in cancer care, MBCR empowers participants to reclaim their sense of balance and confidence as they transition beyond treatment.

This group is possible due to the generous funding by locals **Bill & Maureen Royse**.

Social Impact

A survey carried out with group participants gave the following results;

- 100%** rated their overall experience as **extremely good**
- 100%** would **definitely** recommend the program to others
- 100%** felt **better** or **much better** at managing stress and anxiety
- 100%** reported improved ability to be present in daily life
- 85%** experienced **better** or **much better** emotional resilience

LEARN
MORE



Why It Matters

The program is a transformative experience that empowers participants to take back control of their mental and emotional wellbeing. Improved mindfulness, reduced anxiety and strengthened social connections all contribute to a better quality of life during and after cancer treatment.

"It gave me the tools to calm my mind and find moments of peace again."

– Program Participant



Tegan Barrett

When Tegan, a school teacher and mum of two, was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer, life became a constant balance between treatment, parenting and staying strong for her family.

Living in Raymond Terrace, she first reached out to HBCF in December 2024. From that moment, she says, “I felt supported every step of the way.” HBCF arranged transport to her appointments, organised cleaning through our partnership with Orica, and helped her connect with our Metastatic Support Group. The emotional relief of knowing support was there – both practical and personal – has been invaluable during an incredibly difficult time.

“The transport helps me keep life normal for my kids,” she says. “And our cleaner is a godsend – she treats our home and pets with kindness like no other.”

For Tegan, HBCF represents more than just services – it’s a community of care, kindness, and understanding.



Tiffany Edwards

At just 32, Tiffany faced a Stage 3 breast cancer diagnosis. Living in the Upper Hunter, each hospital visit meant a four-hour round trip to Newcastle, which carried a heavy toll both financially and emotionally.

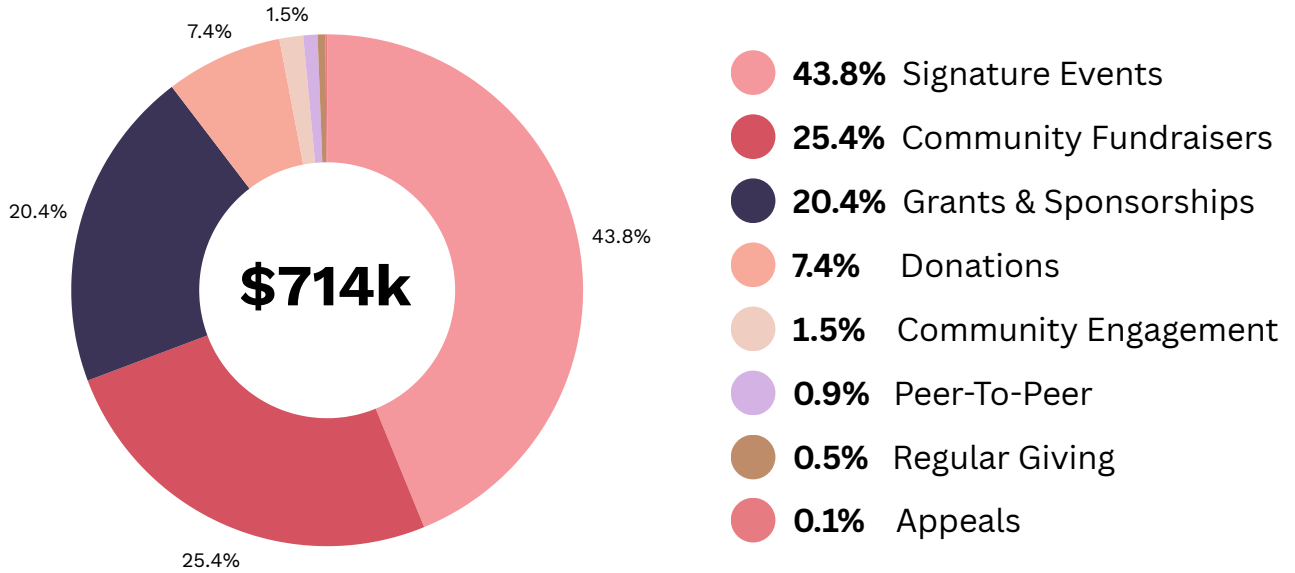
Through HBCF’s fuel voucher program and transport service, Tiffany received the help she needed to attend her daily radiation treatments and ongoing appointments without added stress. The compassion shown by her volunteer drivers made every journey feel less daunting and reminded her she wasn’t facing this alone.

Today, Tiffany continues to access HBCF’s support and says she’s “forever grateful” for the kindness and care she’s received.

“Thank you so much, HBCF. I will be forever grateful for everything you’ve done for me and my family.”

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING: OVER \$700K RAISED

In 2024/25 there was a 37% increase YOY in fundraising revenue due to growth in all fundraising streams.



OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



TRACY & DAVID

“We choose to support HBCF because it’s a local charity making a real difference for families in our community. Knowing our donations help people close to home means so much to us. While we recognise the importance of research for the future, we feel strongly about supporting those needing assistance through cancer right now – helping them feel cared for and supported through a difficult time in a really practical way.”



HAYLEY

“I understand the enormous impact cancer has on individuals, families and communities. I give fortnightly to HBCF because there’s genuine heart behind everything they do. Every dollar goes directly to people from the community I grew up in who truly need the support and the organisation is driven by passionate staff & volunteers who live and breathe their mission, creating a huge impact with limited resources.”



MONICA

“I choose to support HBCF because I truly believe in what they do. Their support is practical, immediate and compassionate and it meets people in the moment they need help the most. Giving to HBCF feels meaningful because I know it stays right here in our community. I donate as often as I can because I want to play even a small part in making sure no one goes through breast cancer alone.”

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING SUPERSTARS

We deeply appreciate our dedicated community fundraisers, whose generosity enables HBCF to continue to provide support to individuals and their families facing a breast cancer diagnosis, throughout the Hunter Region.

DIVAS ON THE GREEN CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

Celebrating its 15th year, Divas on The Green raised an impressive **\$45,000**, bringing its lifetime total to \$305,840, shared between HBCF and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Created by Michelle Faithfull, this sell-out golf day has become a staple in the local events calendar, with guests eagerly awaiting each year's theme reveal. A marquee full of women (and a few gents) ensures a day of laughter, connection and generosity – rain, hail or shine.



TIMBERLINA BY THE SEA SMASHES TARGETS

Karen Starrett and Katrina Pastourmoglou, joined by the fabulous Timberlina, brought the sparkle to Swansea/Belmont SLSC with a dazzling afternoon of entertainment, laughter and community spirit. Guests enjoyed a vibrant day while raising **\$42,382.84** (bringing their grand total for the two years to \$77,382.84) to support locals facing breast cancer.

PINK & BLING TURNS UP THE DIAL

A sell-out event once again, Pink & Bling raised an incredible **\$16,675**, bringing its lifetime total to nearly \$40,000 for HBCF. Guests, including host Patti Conway, danced on tables to the sounds of a Pink tribute band, creating an electric atmosphere of fun, community and generosity. The prize table overflowed, showing incredible support from local businesses. An amazing job done by the entire volunteer committee!



BELMONT 16S MELBOURNE CUP SUPPORTS HBCF

With sweeps, fashions on the field, raffles and all the Melbourne Cup favourites, Belmont 16s (a long-time, dedicated HBCF supporter) delivered a race day to remember. The sell out event raised over **\$10,000** to help HBCF continue providing essential services for local families. We can't wait to see this fabulous day return in 2025.



SCHOOL TURNS PINK TO SUPPORT TEACHER

Tighes Hill Public School turned fundraising into an act of love, raising **\$12,000** for their beloved teacher during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Students, staff and the local community rallied together to make a powerful difference. Students and families donned pink and made pink cupcakes, lollies and more.

BUSTY MOVERS RETURNS FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, The Busty Movers from Hunter Imaging joined forces for a powerful month-long fundraising effort. Their passion, creativity and community spirit rallied incredible support, raising **\$7,074** for HBCF.



KLOSTER VOLKSWAGON TEES OFF FOR A CAUSE

As the proud charity partner for their VIP Golf Day, Kloster Volkswagen hosted over 100 guests for a day of networking, friendly competition and generosity. Guests not only enjoyed the event but also learned more about HBCF's work in the Hunter community. Their efforts raised over **\$5,000**, helping us continue delivering our vital, free services.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF THE CLUBS IN THE COMMUNITY PINK RACE DAY

July 2024 marked the 15th anniversary of the much-loved Pink Race Day, a flagship event born from the strong and enduring partnership between local Clubs and Newcastle Racecourse. What began as a small community fundraiser has grown into one of the Hunter’s most anticipated social events, drawing a crowd of 3,500 attendees to celebrate, connect and give generously in support of locals facing breast cancer.

The racecourse was awash with a sea of pink as guests enjoyed a day of racing, entertainment, raffles, auctions and special fundraising activities, all while sharing in the spirit of camaraderie and purpose. The atmosphere was electric, fuelled by a collective determination to make a difference.

This year’s efforts were nothing short of extraordinary, raising over **\$143,000** (surpassing last year’s total of \$105,000). These vital funds will help HBCF continue to provide practical, local, and life-changing support services to hundreds of Hunter families navigating a breast cancer diagnosis.

We look forward to another 15 years of this amazing partnership!



The event is about Clubs of Newcastle and the Hunter combining to put some money together for a charity. The combined efforts of Newcastle Racecourse and ClubsNSW (Newcastle and Hunter Valley) have in supporting the Pink Race Day allow the HBCF to continue their valuable work in our community.

Scott Williams, Belmont 16s CEO



HBCF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Last year marked a huge milestone for the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation – 25 years of supporting locals through every step of a breast cancer diagnosis. To celebrate, we hosted our 25th Birthday Party and invited our incredible community to join us in honouring this journey. The event was a resounding success, selling out in record time, and bringing together past board members, clients, volunteers, supporters, and partners for a truly special night.

Held at the stunning Merewether Surfhouse, the evening was filled with warmth, gratitude, and reflection. We were humbled to receive official congratulatory messages from Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and NSW Premier Chris Minns, who acknowledged the profound impact HBCF has had on the Hunter community over the last two and a half decades.

It was a night to celebrate not just our history, but also the countless people who have walked beside us on this journey. From those who were with us in the beginning, to the new faces helping carry our mission forward, we felt the power of community more than ever. The 25th Birthday Party was a beautiful reminder of just how far we've come – and how much more we can achieve together.



“Celebrating 25 years with our community was such a proud and emotional moment. It was a reminder of the lives we’ve touched, the strength of our local support and the bright future ahead. I’m so incredibly grateful to everyone who’s been part of HBCF’s journey.”

Catherine Adams, HBCF President



HBCF'S BUBBLY BREAKFAST RETURNS!

This year marked the much-anticipated return of our Bubbly Breakfast, and it did not disappoint. Held in celebration of International Women’s Day, the event was a powerful tribute to the strength, resilience, and unity of women across the Hunter. The morning was a complete sell-out, with over 300 guests coming together to honour, uplift, and support those in our community affected by breast cancer.

We were incredibly honoured to welcome the inspiring Michelle Faithfull as our guest speaker. Michelle shared her powerful and deeply personal journey with honesty, vulnerability, and hope. Her story was a moving reminder of the importance of community and the impact that genuine support can have during life’s most difficult moments.

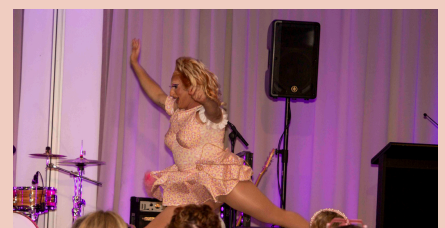
Guiding us through the morning were two phenomenal hosts – Tanya Wilks, a long-time supporter of HBCF and local media legend, and the fabulous Timberlina, who brought sparkle, heart, and humour to the stage.

We were incredibly grateful to our Platinum Sponsors for the event – The Beauty Bar and The MacDougall Foundation – whose generous support helped make the morning such a success. Their contribution ensured that every dollar raised on the day could go straight towards supporting Hunter locals. After a few years’ break, the return of Bubbly Breakfast reminded us just how special this event truly is – and why it’s here to stay.



“It was such a joy to see this event return and to see the room filled with so many incredible, supportive people. I was truly honoured to be invited as the guest speaker and to share my story with a community that understands the importance of connection, compassion and care.”

Michelle Faithfull



CORPORATE PARTNERS

HBCF is incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our wider network of corporate partners, whose generosity helps us deliver vital programs and services across the Hunter.

Hunter Valley Operations

continue to raise both funds and awareness through their iconic Pink Dump Truck initiative, with donations accumulated from every truck run completed throughout the year.

Tomago Aluminium and **Verve Partners** champion our work through their dedicated workplace giving programs, while **Klosters** have proudly supported multiple fundraising initiatives throughout the financial year.

The continued contributions from **Orica**, supporting our Home Cleaning Program, and **Port of Newcastle**, supporting our Lawn Program, ensure that local families facing breast cancer receive practical, hands-on help when it's needed most.

Together, these partnerships demonstrate the incredible impact that local businesses can have when they stand beside their community.

THE MUTUAL BANK SHOWS SUPPORT WITH MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

The Mutual Bank has been a valued partner of the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation since 2022, currently supporting our Wig & Headwear Library through a three-year partnership. Their commitment has ensured that local breast cancer patients experiencing hair loss during treatment can access quality wigs and headwear at no cost, helping them feel confident and supported through one of the most challenging times in their lives. We're so grateful for their ongoing generosity and belief in our mission to ensure no one in the Hunter faces breast cancer alone.



PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICES - MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

Port Waratah Coal Services has been a valued supporter of the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation since 2021, providing ongoing funding for our Comfort Cushion Program. Through their current two-year partnership, Port Waratah continues to make a meaningful difference by helping us provide handmade comfort cushions to local breast cancer patients following surgery. Their continued generosity reflects a genuine commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of people in the Hunter community and we love how much PWCS appreciate our beautiful sewing volunteers.

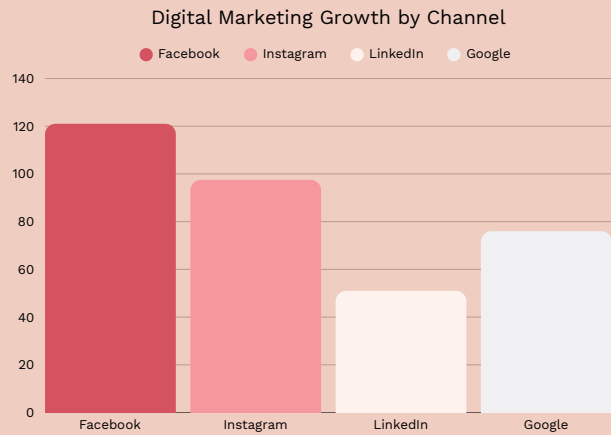


MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

DIGITAL MARKETING

This year, HBCF experienced significant growth across all digital platforms, with record-high engagement, reach and impressions across our social media channels and Google. More people are seeing, interacting with and sharing our content than ever before. This increased awareness means our messages of early detection, community support and local impact are reaching further across the Hunter region and beyond.

Our online presence has never been stronger, with more individuals discovering HBCF, connecting with our mission and becoming part of our community of support.



BUSINESS AWARDS

This year, our General Manager Abbey McDonnell was honoured as Young Business Leader of the Year at the **Newcastle Business Club Awards** – recognising her dedication and leadership in strengthening HBCF’s impact across the Hunter.

We were also proud to receive a Highly Commended Award at the **Hunter Region Business Excellence Awards**, acknowledging the vital role HBCF plays in supporting local families facing breast cancer. These achievements reflect the collective effort of our staff, volunteers, board and supporters – and the community that continues to stand with us.



MARKETING PARTNERSHIPS



In 2025, we proudly welcomed **The Media Park** as our digital marketing partner. Through this incredible pro bono partnership, their talented team has helped elevate HBCF's online strategy, enhancing content quality, improving reach and amplifying awareness of our services and events.

Their creativity and generosity have made a remarkable difference, easing the workload on our small team and helping us grow our impact across the Hunter Region. A heartfelt thank you to The Media Park for being part of the HBCF family.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

This year, HBCF partnered with the **University of Newcastle** through their Work Integrated Learning program, welcoming a team of final-year students to help us better understand our presence in the Hunter community.

The students conducted in-depth research into community awareness of HBCF and provided valuable insights and recommendations to help increase our reach and engagement.

Their thoughtful analysis and creative strategies have already begun shaping our future marketing and communications approach, ensuring that even more local families know that help is available when it's needed most.

We're incredibly grateful for this partnership and proud to support the next generation of emerging professionals right here in the Hunter.



OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS

At Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation, our volunteers are the heart and soul of everything we do.

From driving clients to treatment, delivering care packs and wigs, helping at events, lending a hand in the office, and so much more – our volunteers show up with kindness, reliability, and compassion every single day. We are incredibly proud to now have over 35 regular volunteers supporting HBCF and the local community.

Some of our volunteers have been with us since the very beginning. Others joined us just this year. No matter how long they've been with us, every single volunteer has made a lasting impact.

HBCF simply wouldn't be here without the generosity and dedication of our Pink Army. You embody the spirit of community, and we are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and love you give to those who need it most.

Thank you. From the bottom of our hearts.



MEET OUR EXTRAORDINARY TEAM

At Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation, our small but passionate team works every day to support locals facing breast cancer. From delivering essential services to raising vital funds, we're united by compassion, professionalism, and a shared commitment to making a lasting difference in our community.



ABBEY MCDONELL, HBCF GENERAL MANAGER

Abbey leads HBCF with purpose, compassion and a deep commitment to the Hunter community. Since joining the Foundation in 2020, she has overseen a period of tremendous growth, expanding services, introducing new initiatives and strengthening our partnerships and supporter network. With a focus on innovation and sustainability, Abbey ensures that HBCF continues to meet the evolving needs of local individuals and families facing breast cancer. Her leadership is driven by heart and backed by strategy.

MARIANNE TIMBRELL-CHAPMAN, CLIENT CARE NAVIGATOR

Marianne is the warm and reassuring voice that clients hear when they first reach out to HBCF. As our Client Care Navigator, she is responsible for coordinating all aspects of our support services – from transport and cleaning to comfort packs and counselling. Marianne works closely with clients, volunteers, and suppliers to ensure services are delivered with empathy, respect, and efficiency. Her role is at the heart of HBCF's mission to offer practical, emotional, and compassionate support.



EMILY DWYER, BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER

Emily provides essential day-to-day support across the organisation, helping to ensure that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. From donor care and office administration to supporting our events and programs, Emily brings a calm and capable presence to the team. Her attention to detail, friendly approach, and strong organisational skills help create a seamless experience for clients, supporters, and stakeholders alike.

JOSH LAWLOR, FUNDRAISING & MARKETING

Josh is the creative force behind HBCF's fundraising campaigns, events and communications. With a background in marketing and community engagement, he crafts meaningful stories and experiences that connect supporters to our mission. From social media strategy and donor communications to major events and partnerships, Josh works to grow awareness, build relationships and raise the vital funds needed to sustain and expand our services. His work ensures that HBCF remains visible, relevant and well-supported across the Hunter.



OUR BOARD

HBCF's board volunteers their time and expertise to ensure the efficient and sustainable operations of the organisation. The Board and Management are committed to HBCF's vision of ensuring no one in the Hunter Region faces breast cancer alone. HBCF operates within a sound corporate governance framework, ensuring compliance with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission's (ACNC) Governance Standards.



CATHERINE (CATH) ADAMS, PRESIDENT

Board Member for Six Years

Cath Adams is a Psycho-Oncologist who has broad experience in providing psychological support in both the public and private sectors. She is also a conjoint clinical senior lecturer at the SMPH at the University of Newcastle. Cath works to support patients in developing coping strategies as well as managing anxiety and depression following a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Cath brings a wealth of clinical expertise, research insight and compassionate leadership to the HBCF Board. Her deep understanding of the emotional and psychological impact of cancer ensures that HBCF's programs remain client-centred, evidence-based and responsive to the needs of the Hunter community.



JANE HARTCHER, VICE-PRESIDENT

Board Member for Three Years

Jane Hartcher brings over 20 years of experience in marketing and communications strategy, with a career spanning corporate and not-for-profit sectors. With a passion for sustainable change and a strong strategic mindset, Jane plays a key role in guiding HBCF's communications and marketing approach. Her belief in localised access to care drives her commitment. Jane describes HBCF's volunteers as "diamonds" and finds great reward in meeting the people who benefit from the Foundation's services. Beyond her professional expertise, she brings a warm, approachable energy, an ability to cheerlead the team, and a genuine passion for making a positive community impact.



KIRSTY PORTEOUS, SECRETARY

Board Member for Four Years

Kirsty Porteous is a Partner at Pitcher Partners Newcastle & Hunter, where she has built an impressive 30+ year career in audit and business consulting. A Newcastle local, Kirsty holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Newcastle, is a Chartered Accountant ANZ member and a Registered Company Auditor. Her extensive experience in assurance, strategic business advice and guiding clients through major decisions brings invaluable financial and governance expertise to the HBCF Board. Kirsty is passionate about empowering the local community with awareness, early detection and support.



ELECHIA JONES, TREASURER

Board Member for One Year

Elechia Jones serves as Regional Director for The CFO Centre in North New South Wales, bringing over 15 years of expertise in strategic finance. In her leadership capacity, she excels in empowering business owners with budgeting, forecasting, cash-flow optimisation and system implementation. Elechia contributes invaluable financial governance, mentoring experience and strategic oversight to the HBCF Board. Her business acumen and supportive approach help ensure that HBCF's financial decisions are sound, transparent and purpose-driven, helping to foster sustainability and impact across the Hunter community.



ROSEMARY (ROSE) BREZMEN, BOARD MEMBER

Board Member for Three Years

Rose Brezmen is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Genesis Care with a Bachelor of Nursing and extensive experience in radiation oncology for breast cancer. Her professional journey is deeply personal, shaped by her own breast cancer diagnosis and a career spent supporting patients through treatment. Rose brings a unique combination of clinical expertise, lived experience and a compassionate understanding of the physical, emotional and financial challenges faced by those navigating a breast cancer diagnosis. Rose is committed to ensuring HBCF's services remain patient-centred and informed by the latest evidence-based care, contributing valuable insights into treatment pathways, patient support needs and community engagement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

Firstly, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to HLB Mann Judd Newcastle and the audit team for taking on our audit for the first time this year on a pro bono basis. Their professionalism, attention to detail, and guidance throughout the process have been invaluable, and the Foundation is extremely grateful for their support.

The 2025 financial year closed with a manageable operating deficit of \$95,225, compared with a deficit of \$96,741 in the previous year. This result was expected and reflects our continued investment in community programs and operational capacity. The Foundation remains in a strong financial position with net assets of \$504,613 at year-end.

At the end of the year, the Board made the decision to write off all remaining merchandise stock valued at \$17,325. These items had been on hand for an extended period and were unlikely to be sold. This adjustment ensures our financial statements provide an accurate and transparent view of the Foundation's position.

Income for the year totalled \$757,023, a 37% increase from the prior year, primarily due to the success of fundraising events, sponsorships, and donations. Expenditure increased proportionally as we expanded our activities, with employee costs representing 36% of total expenditure – consistent with prior years and reflective of our service delivery model.

The audit resulted in a qualified opinion relating solely to the inherent limitations around verifying all cash-based fundraising income, a standard consideration for charities that handle community donations.

Looking ahead, FY26 is already shaping up positively. We are delighted to welcome Louise Ross as our new General Manager. Louise brings extensive experience in the community sector and a strong focus on governance and process improvement. Louise will implement processes and procedures around the collection and recording of all fund-raising monies.

Together, we will review and enhance income recognition processes for both fundraising and grants to strengthen our reporting consistency and transparency. No other issues or irregularities were identified, and the auditors confirmed that the Foundation's accounting practices and governance controls are appropriate and compliant.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members, our staff, and our many volunteers and supporters. Your dedication ensures the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation continues to deliver meaningful, grassroots support to local families when they need it most.



Elechia Jones

ELECHIA JONES

HBCF Treasurer

**To view the 2025 Audited
Financial Statement;**



[Click Here](#)

OUR PARTNERS WHO MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

REFERRAL PARTNERS



The Breast and Endocrine Centre



HUNTER CANCER HUB



Hunter Melanoma Foundation



OUR PARTNERS WHO MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE



LOCAL CLUBS IN THE COMMUNITY





HUNTER
Breastcancer
FOUNDATION_{INC}



HUNTER BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

ABN 97 371 104 347

10d Bradford Close, Kotara NSW 2289

☎ (02) 4033 1500 ✉ enquiries@hbcf.org.au 🌐 hbcf.org.au