



The
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FOUNDATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

30 July 2019

Record-breaking night sees BrainChild Ball reach \$1 million in funds raised for childhood brain cancer research

2019 BrainChild Ball delivers outstanding result, raising \$402,000 in funding to underpin exciting new immunotherapy research at the Telethon Kids Institute

The Pirate Ship Foundation is pleased to announce that its 4th annual BrainChild Ball – the Italian-themed *La Dolce Vita* – raised a record **\$402,000** for childhood brain cancer research, taking the total amount raised since the ball's inception in 2016 to over \$1 million.

This year's ball, which was held in the Grand Ballroom at Crown Towers Perth on Saturday 27th July 2019, saw 470 guests enjoy the food, entertainment and ambience that so unmistakably comes from one of the world's most loved countries, cultures and peoples.

This year's ball was backed by Star Sponsor **True North Adventure Cruises**, with generous support from a range of corporate and private sponsors and supporters.

Amongst the glitz and glamour, the crowd sat silently while listening to the heart-wrenching story of 11-year old Bonnie, bravely shared by her mother Pippa.

Bonnie was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma, the most common form of brain cancer and underwent gruelling surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy in 2014. Despite completing her treatment, the cancer returned in 2016 and Bonnie is now left with no viable treatment options for her growing brain tumour.

100% of the funds raised from the ball will be directed to research to improve survival rates and discover less damaging treatment options, including new advances in the highly promising area of immunotherapy research, as well as funding the BrainChild



Advancing discovery in childhood brain cancer research

ACN: 617 078 485

Fellowship, held by Dr Raelene Endersby, Co-Head of the Brain Tumour Research Program (BTRP) at Telethon Kids Institute.

Childhood brain cancer kills more Australian children than any other disease, with over 200 children diagnosed each year. Survival rates have significantly lagged other cancers, especially adult cancers, where research funding has been prioritised.

Treatment options remain extremely harsh and damaging to kids' still-developing brains and bodies, with the result that even survivors are left with severe and life-long impacts from surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

The Pirate Ship Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to support medical research to discover improved, less damaging, treatment options for children with brain cancer.

The BrainChild Ball founder Mrs Victoria Fitzgerald, herself a mother of a brain cancer survivor, said: *"We are overwhelmed by the support that The BrainChild Ball has received over the last four years from our community and corporate supporters. Childhood brain cancer has emerged as a key research challenge and we are so pleased to be able to support world-class researchers here in Perth providing much needed hope to families like Bonnie's."*

About The Pirate Ship Foundation

The Pirate Ship Foundation's fundraising is based on a range of innovative community based fund-raising events and activities. It supports research including the Brain Tumour Research Program at Telethon Kids Institute, helping to fund world-leading research teams led by Professor Terry Johns, Associate Professor Nick Gottardo and Dr Raelene Endersby.

The Brain Tumour Research Laboratory, which is co-headed by Clinical Associate Professor Gottardo and Dr Endersby, is a collaborative research team focused on improving treatments and outcomes for children with childhood brain cancer. The team is the largest of its kind in Australia, and includes dedicated research scientists, clinical oncologists and neurosurgeons.

The Pirate Ship Foundation brings together an extensive range of bold and innovative fund-raising efforts, supporters and community under one banner.

The Pirate Ship Foundation is aiming to build on the outstanding work and achievements of its past activities in holding a series of events and initiatives such as The Adventurers programs, primary school-based Pirate Day in May, Walk the Plank! and The BrainChild Ball.

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Notes to editors:

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FACTS ABOUT BRAIN CANCER and THE PIRATE SHIP FOUNDATION.

- Brain cancer **kills more children than any other disease in Australia**
- Brain tumours are the most common paediatric solid cancer, affecting 200 children in Australia each year.
- The Brain Tumour Research Program is a collaborative group of researchers at Telethon Kids Institute in Perth dedicated to improving our understanding of paediatric brain tumour biology and finding more effective treatments to improve survival rates and quality of life for patients.
- The Pirate Ship Foundation Limited operates various for-cause activities and events, including the BrainChild Ball, Walk the Plank!, The Adventurers and Pirate Day in May.
- The Foundation has contributed over \$7 million to research and collaboration into childhood brain cancer in WA.

