



**SIR david martin**  
**FOUNDATION**  
 helping young people in crisis

# Impact

## A celebration of courage

On 17 December 2020 we were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the 2020 Triple Care Farm graduates.

While COVID forced the ceremony online, the love, pride and admiration for these young people certainly still shone through.

During the ceremony, Sir David Martin Foundation Board Chair, Captain Will Martin acknowledged the resilience of the young people who completed the withdrawal and residential rehabilitation programs in 2020.

“We know you’ve had to fight through a lot this year... illness, addiction, your insecurities and uncertainties, not to mention a global pandemic,” said Will.

“But fought through you have... and you’ve done so with perseverance, commitment and most of all you’ve done it with courage.



Board Chair Will Martin and Lady Martin OAM, giving messages of congratulations as part of Graduation 2020.



“Just by turning up at Triple Care Farm you have shown more courage than most of us have to find in our lifetime... and it’s this courage that will now help you overcome any barrier or blockage that gets in the way of your future success.”

Graduates also received heartfelt video messages from Lady Martin and Mission Australia’s CEO James Toomey, with Triple Care Farm staff members addressing each student with personalised messages of support.

Area Manager Gabriella Holmes highlighted the students’ “audacity, boldness and true grit” in choosing to change their lives.

“Your sturdy determination has written your story of change. This year like no

other, you have continually chosen change. You chose the more difficult path; you chose to show courage and to fight for your best life. That choice, that audacity and grit is what we celebrate today. Everything is different now. But for you, the change you chose is the difference and we are very proud of you.”

You can watch the full video ceremony via our website or scan this QR code on your mobile device.



# Thanks Mike Crowley



Retiring Board Chair Mike Crowley

**Towards the end of 2020 we fondly celebrated retiring Board Chair Mike Crowley, who has made an outstanding contribution to our Foundation's growth and ongoing capacity to support vulnerable young Australians in crisis.**

During his 10-year board tenure (the past six as Chair), Mr Crowley played a pivotal role in strengthening the Foundation's philanthropic partnership with Mission Australia's Triple Care Farm. Notably, this includes the commissioning of David Martin Place – NSW's first purpose built youth

residential withdrawal facility, which officially opened in 2017.

Captain Will Martin RAN (Rtd), a current board member and son of Sir David Martin and Lady (Suzanne) Martin, succeeds Mr Crowley as Board Chair.

Will paid tribute to Mr Crowley's contribution to the Board, saying that his business acumen, steady leadership and commitment to helping young people have been invaluable.

"Mike's influence on the culture of this organisation has been quite palpable," said Will.

"His personal values, particularly around humility, open mindedness, generosity and empathy resonate across the organisation and are felt by all – from the Board of Governors, staff and all the way to the young people at Triple Care Farm."

Mike and his wife Chrissie continue to be valued supporters of the Foundation and we sincerely thank them for their commitment and help over so many years.



## Bright start to 2021

As 2021 kicks off there's plenty of positivity at Triple Care Farm. Lots of Summer rain has been good for the gardens, and is keeping both the grounds staff and student gardeners very busy – especially in the veggie patch! The past 12 months saw many COVID-enforced operational changes at the farm. It's a testament to staff that they adapted so effectively and continued to offer a safe place for change throughout this challenging time. As of February 2021, we are pleased to report that student intake restrictions are easing and will move back towards pre-COVID capacity, as long as it stays safe to do so. Staff are delivering the programs in a COVID-appropriate way, prioritising the safety and wellbeing of the young people at all times. There is lots of excitement brewing about the upcoming introduction of specialised youth Yoga classes, and a newly donated pool table was a recent welcome addition for students in Tea Tree House.

# A father's story

**At the 2020 Graduation Ceremony we heard from a parent, who reflected on his daughter's recovery. This is an excerpt from his story...**

Our daughter was a great kid, but she got mixed up with a bad and disturbed group of people at about the age of 17. No matter how much as parents we tried, we just couldn't get through to her.

We could see the writing on the wall. She was badly affected by drugs, moody and unable to have a conversation without it turning into a screaming match. This went on for quite a while.

Eventually we had the police at our door on a regular basis and we knew what path she was heading down and it wasn't good. It was a very worrying time for us.

## **It all came to a head when she was arrested.**

After six months in jail, she was court ordered to a drug rehabilitation home in Sydney. What a disaster! She was left alone, unsupervised with other girls who were openly using drugs.

She rang me, begging me to do something about it, to get her out of that place. After that her mum called Triple Care Farm to see if they could help. What a difference!

The staff listened to what we had to say, understood what we were going through and said they would take our daughter into the rehab program.

She would do courses, get back on track and be with people who genuinely cared for her.

I remember one phone call from her. She sounded so happy. **She screamed down the phone, I learnt to drive a tractor! I cried – I hadn't heard my baby speak in such a way for a long time.** That made me feel like we were slowly getting her back."

This was a heart-warming time. Over the next three months, the horrible life that she was living had left her. She was starting to become ours again."

She is now happy, in a full time job and back on track. She often says 'I will never go back to that life again'.

I'd like to thank the staff at Triple Care Farm for all their help – you people are a godsend. Without you, there's no way she would be where she is today.

Thank you!

To help young people in crisis, our family foundation needs consistent funding.

**Regular monthly giving allows us to plan for the future, knowing what funds will be available.**

Your gift can be small or large, but we appreciate it monthly even more.

Please call and speak to Jen on **(02) 9219 2002** or donate online.

**Donate today!**



[martinfoundation.org.au/donate-now](https://martinfoundation.org.au/donate-now)

# Thank you for supporting Hugo



Hugo with his artwork at Triple Care Farm

Thank you to all who supported our recent Christmas Appeal featuring Hugo, who bravely shared his story of addiction and recovery.

Hugo has now graduated from Triple Care Farm and is participating in our Aftercare program, whilst living back at home with his family. He hopes to re-engage with study this year, expanding on some of the vocational skills, including engine mechanics, that he started at the Farm.

A talented artist, Hugo's original artwork was featured on gift cards for the Appeal and on our Foundation's

Christmas message design.

We were delighted to pass onto Hugo so many handwritten messages of support and encouragement from donors just before Christmas. These messages truly reinforced our supporter community's genuine empathy for young people's recovery and wellbeing. Here's just a sample of some of messages Hugo received:

*"I congratulate for all you have achieved and admire your artwork so much"*

*"Hugo, you are an inspiration for other young people and I wish you all the best for your future."*

*"Keep going forward. Small steps lead to bigger ones."*

*"You are not alone"*

*"Keep up your painting; keep up your courage as you face the world again."*

*"Don't forget where you found peace and ask for help when you need it – we all need help from time to time."*

*"Keep up your good work and hard efforts when you leave the Farm. It will be absolutely worth it!"*

*"Good luck with achieving your goals and KEEP PAINTING!"*

## Life Membership for Lady Martin

Founding Governor of Sir David Martin Foundation, Lady (Suzanne) Martin OAM has been honoured for her outstanding service, philanthropic leadership and 30-year commitment to helping young people in crisis.

Lady Martin was presented with Lifetime Membership of Mission Australia by Chairman, Ken Dean, at the Annual General Meeting in November 2020. Congratulations Lady Martin!



## From our GM

It's been uplifting to witness young people's voices being heard so prominently in the early weeks of 2021. From the USA's first youth poet laureate, Amanda Gorman's words of hope at the recent Presidential Inauguration, to Australian of the Year Grace Tame's message of strength and courage, both have used their platforms to great effect.

Twenty-six year old Ms Tame has spoken publicly about the abuse and trauma she suffered as a teen and her subsequent drug use and self-harm. How powerful it is for young people in our community to hear a survivor say 'you are not alone; you can speak up; help is available and you can transform your life'!

To that end, our Foundation is in the process of establishing a youth advisory group to ensure that a strong youth voice guides and influences our work. I look forward to announcing further details in coming months.

Just as it is important to hear from young people, I feel it is equally important to hear from our supporters. Thank you to all who have participated in our Supporter Survey so far this year. Your responses will help inform our future strategies and efforts to offer safety, hope and opportunity to young people in crisis.

You can complete the survey online at <https://www.martinfoundation.org.au/supportersurvey/>

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Connealy".

Helen Connealy  
General Manager

# Rising to the challenge



We are constantly amazed at our loyal supporters' commitment to helping young people.

Meet John Wardman, Senior Private Client Adviser at Shaw and Partners in Sydney. A past Abseil for Youth participant, John recently decided to dive into Manly's famous 5km Cole Classic Swim in aid of young people in crisis. John signed up for the swim alongside some mates and family members, but decided to supercharge his challenge by raising funds for Sir David Martin Foundation at the same time.

We are so grateful for his fundraising

efforts (\$15K raised so far) with special thanks to Shaw and Partners Foundation for their matched giving of \$2,500 in support of John and his passion for our young people.

If, like John, you'd like to turn your passion into financial support – why not take a look at our community fundraising page at **[martinfoundationcommunity.org.au](http://martinfoundationcommunity.org.au)**

You can nominate your own challenge, big or small!

If you'd like to know more or have an idea you'd like to explore, please contact Andrew at **[a.eisenhauer@martinfoundation.org.au](mailto:a.eisenhauer@martinfoundation.org.au)**



We were delighted to see two of our Foundation's long-term donors, Mrs Janet Dorothy Kneeshaw and Dr Justin Playfair recognised for their achievements in the 2021 Australia Day Honours List.

Our heartfelt congratulations to both and we thank you for your invaluable support of young people in crisis.

Congratulations also to Professor Dan Lubman from Turning Point, who was featured in SBS Australia's excellent documentary series, Addicted Australia. Prof Lubman was honoured for significant service to medical education, research, treatment and policy in the field of addiction.

## Your support is changing lives

Watching students complete their treatment programs and return to a path of good health, education and employment demonstrates the impact that your support has on young lives.

Below is a message of thanks we received from a 2020 graduate\* of David Martin Place, who has recently recommenced her tertiary study.



*"I am so thankful to Triple Care Farm and David Martin Place for the experience in its entirety.*

*Not only has your service taught me the tools to save my life, but in addition has provided me with resources to assist me in my further studies.*

*I hope that one day I too will be able to make a difference in the world with my completed qualifications and change lives.*

*Thank you all so much for absolutely everything."*

*\*Name withheld for privacy purposes*

YOU'RE INVITED:

## Triple Care Farm Autumn Lunch

Join Philanthropy Manager, Anna Beaumont, as she hosts our upcoming Virtual Country Lunch event. Anna will introduce you to program staff and give insights into this best-practice facility that's been changing young lives for over 30 years.

**Date:** Thursday 11th March 2021

**Time:** 12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Location:** Online via Zoom – a link to join the event will be emailed upon RSVP

**RSVP:** Tuesday 9th March to Anna at [a.beaumont@martinfoundation.org.au](mailto:a.beaumont@martinfoundation.org.au) or register online at [martinfoundation.org.au](http://martinfoundation.org.au)



*I hope to  
see you there,  
Anna*

# SAVE THE DATE

## The Funding Network

### THURSDAY 17 JUNE

We're so excited to be working with The Funding Network on an upcoming crowdfunding experience. This will be a high energy, high impact event not to be missed! Stay tuned – more details to come.

Please contact:

[j.leahy@martinfoundation.org.au](mailto:j.leahy@martinfoundation.org.au) with expressions of interest.



## 30 years of helping young people in crisis



15 April 1933 – 10 August 1990

Rear Admiral Sir David Martin KCMG AO RAN, 34TH GOVERNOR OF NSW

## Help us continue his vision by leaving a gift in your Will

Contact Sir David's daughter,  
Anna on (02) 9219 2079 or  
[a.beaumont@martinfoundation.org.au](mailto:a.beaumont@martinfoundation.org.au)



[martinfoundation.org.au](http://martinfoundation.org.au)