



MARY POTTER *matters*

~
EDITION 2, 2025

You gave Noel's family a farewell concert they'll never forget

Noel's lifelong gift of music and song didn't stop when he came into Mary Potter Hospice. You made sure that he could perform for his beloved family one last time.

Noel was an adored father to eight children and loved Pop to his grandchildren and great-grandkids. He had a beautiful voice and sang all his life – fronting the big band on the Semaphore Rotunda, and singing at weddings, funerals and his beloved Sacred Heart Church at Semaphore.

In retirement, as one half of 'The End Brothers' duo, Noel continued to entertain and bring joy to the elderly at aged care homes and other functions. He particularly loved the Christmas concerts.



Continued over the page

He had even recorded a CD some years ago, where all sale proceeds went to St Vincent de Paul. Noel's daughters, Mary and Libbi, told us: "It was a family joke how Dad always had that CD going full blast in his car, and he'd be loudly singing along. We'd hear him coming long before he arrived!"

Noel's favourites were songs of faith. His faith meant everything to him. When he came to Mary Potter, he was able to live out that faith by regularly attending Mass in the Hospice and Calvary chapels.

Mary said, "Dad was in the Hospice for seven weeks. And he loved it. It sounds strange to say that. But he had been getting worse at home. He was trying to pretend he was ok. He wasn't."



"He looked and felt so much better in the Hospice because he was so well-cared-for. Not only medically, but emotionally and spiritually. His needs were respected. He had massages, pedicures and art therapy. He could go to church. He was immersed in an environment where he could be happy and comfortable. And he loved the company of the nurses who would pop in for a chat."

"It was clear that being in the Hospice was about doing things that made you happy. And they found out quickly that Dad loved music. We were then able to bring in Dad's keyboard for him to play in his room. How amazing. Where else could this have happened but at Mary Potter?"

A week before he died, Noel said he would love to do a concert for his family and for others in the Hospice.

And you are the reason that we could make Noel's wish happen.

Mel from the Foundation organised Jim, a guitarist from the band 'The Borderers', to come in and accompany Noel.

The stage was set with fairy lights and quilt backdrop – and Noel's large family, nurses, patients and visitors, were all invited to hear his beautiful voice ring out, as he sang and played his keyboard, with Jim on the guitar.

Libbi and Mary told us what it meant to them – and to Noel:

"He still had a strong singing voice, and it was very emotional. Some of us would step away to cry. We knew what it meant to Dad singing one last time for his family. He didn't want it to end, and how wonderful that the Foundation could get someone like Jim to accompany him."

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Thanks to you, we then arranged a special afternoon tea in the garden courtyard for Noel, his family and friends.

Libbi said, “We just did not expect what was done for us. An incredible spread, with colourful macarons, cakes, sandwiches and soft drinks for everyone.”

“And Dad was glowing, alive with happiness. My vision of him smiling in the sun, surrounded by family, is something I will never forget. He had just had a few happy hours doing what he loved most: playing music, singing and telling really bad jokes!”

“What a blessing he was able to do that right up to the end.

We know he couldn’t have done that anywhere else.

And we will always be so grateful to you for giving Dad that.”



 **Thank you**

You gave Noel’s family the chance to hear his beautiful voice one last time – a concert and celebration that will live in their memories forever. Thank you so much.

Proceeds from our Walk for Love make special events like Noel’s concert possible. Register or donate to the Walk today (see Page 5) and help us bring compassionate moments of joy to other patients in our care.



Heart-warming stories from the frontline

These reflections on the healing gift of music shine a light on the impact your support has on our frontline.



Ilona

Harpist –
Mary Potter Hospice

“I love playing harp in the Hospice. It’s such a gift to be able to bring some joy and calm to patients and their families. Sometimes I’ve had patients ask me to move closer to their door so they can hear better. One patient said to me recently, ‘Thank you, your music has really helped take my mind off things’. A family member told me, ‘Listening

to you play has helped to keep me calm. It’s been a tough morning for us, and your music has really helped’. Patients almost always express thanks and gratitude. In turn I feel very grateful that the Foundation’s donors support bringing this gentle music to the Hospice.”



Amanda

Leisure & Activities
Coordinator –
Calvary Health
Care, Kingswood

“We had the absolute pleasure of hosting a very special and intimate concert for our own accomplished pianist, a resident here at Calvary Kingswood. World-renowned classical musicians, Slava & Sharon Grigoryan, played guitar and cello at a candlelit birthday concert for our lovely resident and her family. Seeing the smile on this lady’s face was priceless as she listened intently to the music. It filled our corridors, so other residents and staff were also treated to the beautiful performance.

We can’t thank The Mary Potter Foundation enough for organizing this and bringing the Grigoryans to Kingswood. It will forever be a special memory for this lady and her family. What a beautiful gift to celebrate her birthday.”



Raelen

Patient Services
Officer, GenesisCare
– Kimberley House

“On International Jazz Day, we had a lovely surprise in Kimberley House. While patients were having their chemotherapy treatments, The Mary Potter Foundation had arranged for Tasha & Jake, a jazz duo, to come in and play for everyone in the cancer centre.

It was so unexpected and such a pleasant distraction. It lifted the spirits of patients receiving their treatment, patients waiting for their appointments, and family members accompanying them. And our staff loved it too! Music is an amazing and beneficial therapy. Thanks so much to the Foundation’s donors for making this happen. It brought such a smile to everyone’s faces.”

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Walk for Love

Registrations are now open!

Join us in May to honour the life, courage and memories of someone you love and miss, and help us bring compassionate care and loving support to palliative patients and their families.

Whether you are remembering your loved one, giving back for the care that special person received, or simply want to support the work of the Foundation – everyone can be part of Walk for Love.

To register, donate and find out more, please visit walkforlove.org.au or scan the QR code on this page. If you have any questions, or are unable to register online, please call us on 08 8239 0119.

Ashlee

2025 WALK FOR LOVE AMBASSADOR

“My beautiful mum Belinda was in Mary Potter Hospice for the final seven weeks of her life where she (and our whole family) received the most wonderful care.

I first attended Walk for Love in 2022. I really wanted to honour Mum’s life and do some fundraising to pay the care forward to other patients and families. The Walk was incredibly moving. No stone was left unturned. You felt the warmth and unspoken connection from everyone around you. It was a lovely atmosphere and a great place for us to reunite and remember Mum.”



ATTEND IN PERSON

Sunday 25 May 2025
8am, 9am, 10am & 11am
Carclew | 11 Jeffcott St,
North Adelaide 5006

DO YOUR OWN

Choose a time and
location to suit you,
sometime in May 2025

WALK FOR ME

A student from
St Peter’s College will
Walk on your behalf



Come along and experience the Walk for Love for yourself.
We would love to see you there!

The 2025 Walk for Love
is proudly sponsored by



HOW TO *Get involved*

WALK FOR LOVE BARTON'S BAKEHOUSE

Do you love to bake? We are seeking donations of home-made cakes, biscuits, slices etc to be sold at the Walk for Love cake stall. We would love your help! For more details, please contact Mel on 08 8239 0119 or mel.hond@marypotter.org.au



CARING HEARTS GRIEF GROUP MEETINGS

Meetings are held monthly in Connery House at Calvary North Adelaide Hospital | 2nd Tuesday of each month
10am – 12 noon | Next meetings: 8 April, 13 May and 10 June

Open to any immediate family member who has lost a loved one at Calvary SA.

To RSVP, please email your name and phone number to reception@marypotter.org.au or call 08 8239 0119. For more details, including upcoming dates, marypotter.org.au/caring-hearts

SAVE THE DATE BARTON'S CREW 2025 EVENTS

HIGH TEA | Sunday 27 July 2025 | The Lakes Hotel | \$65 pp

To register your interest in Barton's Crew events (formerly Air Barb's Crew), contact Juliann on juliann.andriani@gmail.com or 0407 394 334, or alternatively the Foundation on 08 8239 0119.

CATHOLIC MASS | MEMORIAL SERVICE & MASS

Thursday 8 May | 1:30pm Ecumenical Service

PLEASE NOTE: Due to repairs following a recent fire in the Chapel of the Maternal Heart at Calvary, this service will be relocated to another church. Please contact Pastoral Care directly on 08 8239 9285 for further details.

Wednesday 5 November | 12pm Mass

Thursday 13 November | 1:30pm Ecumenical Service

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OUR MISSION

Inspiring people to share our belief that caring for people at the end of their lives is an honour and a privilege and to work with us to support living every day, every hour.



The Mary Potter
Foundation Inc

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rear of Calvary
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Business Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9am to 5pm,
and Friday 9am to 4pm



ORGANISATIONAL
MEMBER
CODE COMPLIANT

A member of the Professional Body
for Australian Fundraising



A registered charity with the
Australian Charities and
Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)