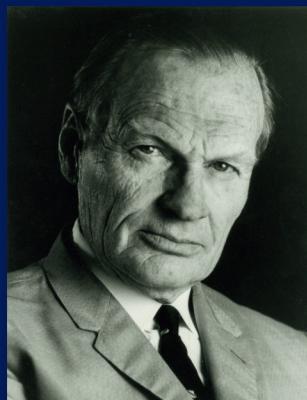




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# RMH Neurosurgery Celebrating 80 Years

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2025  
The Langham Melbourne





# A message from the Director

## WELCOME

Welcome to the celebration of 80 years of RMH Neurosurgery. I first considered marking this anniversary after I attended the 100th Anniversary of the Division of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto in 2024. The opportunity to look back with fondness (and terror), look around with camaraderie and look forward with excitement (and terror) was amazing. It is important that we document where we have come from, to make sense of our present and to guide our future progress.

I thank Andrew Davidson and James Dimou for organising the program and events and for all the speakers and attendees. I hope we have crafted a program that is both interesting and fun – and will establish the foundation for future celebrations. I hope you enjoy some nostalgia, renew old friendships and make some new ones. It is an honour to lead the Department for this milestone and every day.

I think particularly of those who are not joining us, either in time or space. We will honour those now gone. There are hundreds of people all over the world who could not come this time – we'll see them at the 85th! Their fingerprints (and footprints) are all over the program and RMH Neurosurgery.



**PROF KATE DRUMMOND AM**

# Program of events

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8:00am **Registration**

Session 1 **Chair: James Dimou & Sarah Cain**

8:30am **Acknowledgement of Country**  
Andrew Davidson

8:40am **Official Welcome**  
Kate Drummond

8:50am **Neurosurgery at RMH - now and in the future**  
Shelly Dolan

9:10am **The origins of Neurosurgery at RMH**  
Andrew Davidson

9:30am **Collaboration – Neurosurgery & Neurology at RMH**  
Stephen Davis

9:50am **Acknowledgements - in memorial**  
Bhadu Kavar

10:00am **Morning tea**

Session 2 **Chair: James King & Alex Adamides**

10:30am **Personal reflections on RMH Neurosurgery 1970s–90s**  
Jeffrey Rosenfeld

10:50am **Technology and Neurosurgery**  
Phil Cardamone

11:10am **Neurosurgery Nursing at RMH**  
Sheree Milloy

11:30am **Panel discussion: Neurosurgery training has changed**  
Chair: Andrew Davidson, Panel: Nick Vrodis, Patrick Lo, Tanya Yuen, Leon Lai, Sarah Cain, Ben Hunn

12:00pm **Lunch**

Session 3 **Chair: Mohammed Awad & Tanya Yuen**

1:00pm **History of Neuro-Oncology at RMH**  
James Dimou

1:20pm **History of Skull Base Surgery at RMH**  
James King

1:40pm **History of Cerebrovascular Surgery at RMH**  
John Laidlaw

2:00pm **Panel discussion: Neurosurgery is a team sport**  
Chair: Andrew Morokoff, Panel: Steven Bush, Rob Briggs, Jim Whittle, Brad Hockey

2:30pm **Afternoon tea**

Session 4 **Chair: Andrew Davidson & Lachlan Evans**

3:00pm **International Collaborators & video messages**  
Kate Drummond

3:30pm **RMH Neurosurgery in 2045**  
Mohammed Awad

3:50pm **Neurosurgery Quiz**  
Kate Drummond

4:20pm **Official close**  
Kate Drummond

6:30pm **Dinner** Arc One Gallery @ Cumulus Inc

Introduction  
Kate Drummond  
My life in Neurosurgery  
Andrew Morokoff



# History

1945 Establishment under direction of R.S. Hooper  
Specialised department of Neurosurgery established at The Royal Melbourne Hospital

1956 J.B. Curtis appointed second Director  
J.B. Curtis was one of the first to introduce cerebral angiography, using a carotid puncture technique

1975 D. Brownbill appointed third Director  
Longest serving Director of Neurosurgery

1984 Brain tumour research program established  
First focused on development of photodynamic therapy for glioma

1992 World-renowned Head of Department  
Professor Andrew Kaye AM appointed Director of Neurosurgery

1993 Fellowship program  
Introduction of Senior Fellow posts for overseas neurosurgeons to join The Royal Melbourne Hospital

1994 Journal of Clinical Neuroscience  
Establishment of the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience, the official journal for major Australasian and Asian neuroscience societies

2004 First Controversies in Neurosurgery conference  
Biennial meeting, now the largest in Australia, and host to countless stellar international guests

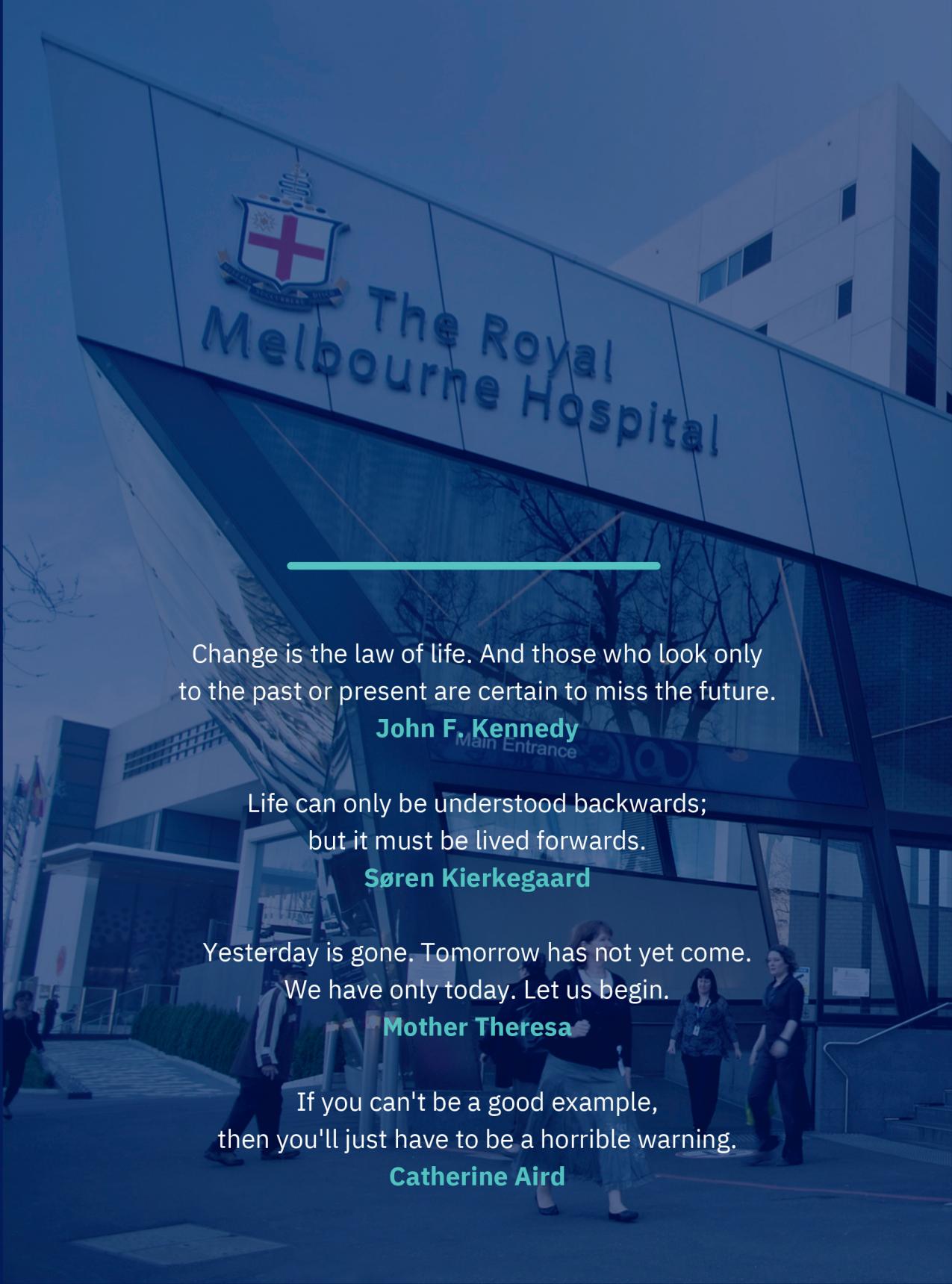
2011 Melbourne Brain Centre @ RMH established  
Premier translational research hub, bringing together experts in diverse aspects of neurosurgical disease

2015 New scanner for advanced surgery  
Intraoperative MRI scanner installed, enabling surgeons to image patients while undergoing surgery

2017 First female Head of Department  
Professor Kate Drummond AM appointed Director of Neurosurgery

2021 Australia's best research minds  
Proud research partner of The Brain Cancer Centre, established so that no lives are lost to brain cancer





# The Royal Melbourne Hospital

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Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

**John F. Kennedy**

Main Entrance

Life can only be understood backwards;  
but it must be lived forwards.

**Søren Kierkegaard**

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.  
We have only today. Let us begin.

**Mother Theresa**

If you can't be a good example,  
then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.

**Catherine Aird**

Thank you for celebrating this epic milestone with us

**RMH NEUROSURGERY 1945-2025**