



North Shore
Heart Research
Foundation



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sydney Foundations farewell staunch advocate

North Shore Heart Research Foundation and Sydney Eisteddfod say goodbye to their staunch advocate, Turramurra resident John Allison AM, who passed away on 21 January, aged 82.

Since 1987 John Allison AM served as a volunteer fundraiser, Director, Chairman and Patron of the North Shore Heart Research Foundation. In 1995 he was appointed a Life Governor for his contribution to heart research and education about heart disease.

Professor Stephen Hunyor, Foundation Director, cardiologist, and researcher at the Royal North Shore Hospital, said that John Allison's passion for the Foundation was tantamount to a call to arms for the community.

'The difference John made for researchers and heart research at the Royal North Shore Hospital is beyond words; his legacy will be remembered for generations to come,' said Professor Hunyor

'John's staunch advocacy for what we do and education about heart disease inspired strong financial support from the community and businesses.'

With John's help North Shore Heart Research Foundation has invested over \$15 million into research to prevent and treat heart disease.

One outcome has been helping to reduce the mortality rate of heart attack patients admitted to Royal North Shore and North Shore Private hospitals from 30% to 2%, contributing to new international standards for best practice.

John Allison's philanthropic vision extended to the performing arts and education.

Since 1996 he had significantly contributed to Sydney Eisteddfod, financially and as Governor, Director, Chairman and Emeritus Chairman. While at the helm of this major cultural organisation, he steered the McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge through a financially cautious but artistically exciting period. After appointing R. John Lamble AO as his successor in 2004 he continued to contribute to the competition as a member of the Board.

In the early days of his involvement with the competition, John realised the value of the existing piano scholarship was no longer sufficient to help a promising musician study overseas and he doubled the prize money.

'As a lover of classical music, John took particular interest in the piano division. It would be impossible to count the young performers whom he encouraged to greater heights with his passionate eloquence', said Sydney Eisteddfod Chief Executive Officer Piroozi Desai,

The prestigious John Allison Sydney Eisteddfod Piano Scholarship began in 1996 and remains a highlight of the McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge program.

In 2001 John Allison AM was made a member of the Order of Australia for his service to the community and to the insurance and reinsurance industries.

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For more information

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