

April 3

On behalf of our family I'd really like thank everyone that has sent messages and cards to Lance over the past few weeks. These messages provide Lance with light and hope and we make sure these are passed onto Lance each day when Tony or Andrew visit.

We are very grateful for social media and emails as this has been the most effective way to keep people updated as we move towards more visitation restrictions at the Austin Hospital.

We know Lance has made lots of life long friends through family, work and special interests, from far and wide.

Advice from Lance's social worker, Alex is that Lance will be super busy over the next few weeks / months with Allied Health staff completing assessments that will assist him to develop a rehabilitation plan.

The Occupational Therapist will be supporting Lance to set up equipment and technology so that Lance has greater control over maintaining relationships and communication. We are just waiting for his personal iPad and notebook to be sent down from Robinvale.

We've also been told that Lance will be bombarded by the allied health meet and greet team and his social worker, Alex has reassured us that Lance will be not short of support over the next few weeks.

In the next few weeks and months, each of you will play an important role in keeping Lance's spirits up as he adjusts to his new way of life. By mid to late next week, Lance should have access to his iPad and notebook.

If you would like to send an email to Lance and don't currently have his email address, please send me a private message and I'll pass this on to you.

From late next week Lance should be able to enjoy the new challenge of using the adaptive equipment to respond to you.

On behalf of Lances family, thank you again for your care and concern.

April 8

Watch out! Lance has wheels and is mobile.

Also sporting a very cool short back and side haircut!

Lance wanted to share this video and pics to demonstrate his resilience and positive attitude!

We're all very proud of you and the new skills you're learning each day! 🙌🙌🙌



April 15

Where does the time go!

3 weeks post injury and Lance was outside Austin Hospital for some fresh air 🌬️ and some sun ☀️. It's unfortunate that the pandemic is impacting on these types of opportunities which are limited to 20 minutes.

There are days when Lance's oxygen levels are very low and he needs some support to increase the oxygen saturation.

There appears to be no significant hand / finger moments but as usual Lance is remaining optimistic this will improve.

Lance thanks those that have sent lovely messages and also to those people that call when Tony or Andrew are there so they can set the phone up for him.

Unfortunately the iPad and computer delivery is delayed with Australia Post and Easter holidays so hopefully he'll receive these very soon!

Stay positive and keep smiling 😊 🌬️ 🙏



April 18

Lance was on the move yesterday and thankful that he's improved enough to farewell Austin Hospital!

Just a couple of days short of 4 weeks since the accident and life on the "outside" is very different to when he was admitted.

Royal Talbot is a positive milestone in the recovery process! It's much quieter and spacious here. The grounds are large and the area full of whistling birds. It's a very peaceful and calming location.

Establishing some new routines will be the next step in developing some independence. More therapies and lots of hard work ahead!

Still no delivery of Lance's notebook or iPad but managing to make some phone calls to connect with some family and friends.

Thank you to all those people that continue to send messages and good wishes!

Tony always passes these on to Lance.

Stay positive and stay home 🙏🏠❤️🙏

April 25

Dinner time at Royal Talbot. Simple routines create opportunities for Lance to learn new ways of being independent. A wrist/hand strap with a fork or spoon attached provides a modification so Lance can build his independence at eating times. We all know how much Lance enjoys a good meal so this brings lots of motivation to master this new skill! 😊



From Bruce Phillips - April 23

Last evening, I received a phone call from Lance and I'm able to pass a little more news regarding his health and progress.

Lance has been transferred to the Royal Melbourne Hospital at Parkville, to undergo therapy to assist his rehabilitation – which he expects will take 4 – 6 months.

He is bed / chair bound, is able to speak and has some movement in his arms. However, he is not able to use his fingers and is therefore unable to operate his mobile phone.

The phone call, I received, was made with the assistance of a family member - at visiting time.

Because of the Hospital, covid 19, restrictions... only close family are able to visit patients, and only a couple at a time.

Lance did lack his usual verve and sounded a bit croaky / tired – but very determined to recover to whatever degree is possible – however long that may take.

Those interested in providing encouragement for Lance, could do so via his mobile phone and leaving a brief message (0407 103 424).

The volume of calls, and the logistics involved in responding, may prevent a response - but I'm certain that Lance will greatly appreciate your interest in his wellbeing.

Former workmate and good friend for 50 years.

Bruce Phillips
At Bendigo