

Fight Cancer News

Newsletter of the Fight Cancer Foundation



Christmas Message from the Managing Director

2011 has been an exciting and challenging year which has seen Fight Cancer Foundation embark on a new patient and carer accommodation centre in Albury-Wodonga which will open in 2012.

This purpose built centre, designed to provide comfortable and affordable accommodation for patients and their carers from southern NSW and north-eastern Victoria, has gained tremendous local support from the local Rotary, Lions and Zonta Clubs.

The total cost of the project is \$5.5 million and we have received a grant of \$1.5 million from the Federal Government and \$750,000 from the New South Wales State Government and \$1,190,000 has been raised thus far from the local community. But we still have a way to go to reach our target.

Fight Cancer Foundation's other two accommodation centres, BMDI Rotary House in North Melbourne and John Opie House in Hobart both provide safe and affordable, accommodation for patients and their families.

The North Melbourne house has provided a 'home away from home' for more than 58 long term stay cancer patients and their families, while the John Opie House Hobart has in 2011 alone, housed 300 patients and carers from across Tasmania, interstate and overseas.

The BMDI Cord Blood Bank has banked its 10,000th cord and released 400 cords for life-saving transplants for patients unable to be matched with a suitable bone marrow donor, a milestone and reminder that every cord blood unit, offers a second chance of life for a patient awaiting a transplant.

More than 180,000 Australian donors are registered on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, linked to the international registry, providing access to 10 million potential donors.

Our 2011 fundraisers - the Moorilla Breakfast in Hobart, Diner Rouge at Bistro Thierry in Melbourne, the Paspaley Cocktail Party in Sydney and our signature event The Red Ball were outstanding successes and we

thank everyone involved for their support.

Footy Colours Day is our major national event and attracted hundreds of thousands of participants from around the country.

We could not continue our work without the dedication of our Patrons, Ambassadors, volunteer board members and associate board members, office staff, corporate supporters and the selfless volunteers who are fundamental to our success. We thank each and every one of them.

Thanks also to our regular financial donors who continue to support our work, for without you, we could not achieve our vision of giving hope and saving lives of those living with cancer.

On behalf of the Foundation I would like to wish you a very safe and Happy Festive Season.

*Eric Wright,
Managing Director*

Christmas Cards 2011

The Fight Cancer Foundation's 2011 Christmas Cards are available for purchase through www.fightcancer.org.au and at selected charity Christmas card shops listed on our website.

For more information, please contact Maria Russell on 03 9342 7888.



Fight Cancer Foundation[™]
Giving hope. Saving lives.

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The 19th Annual Red Ball – Le Bal du Rouge au Cirque

It was a night of dare-devil thrills and excitement as the 19th Annual Red Ball joined the Circus. The Big Top was transformed into a glittering five-star arena at Burnley Oval in Richmond for La Bal du Rouge au Cirque.

With Fight Cancer Foundation Patron Deborra-lee Furness and Channel 7's Peter Mitchell hosting, the signature event was a huge success with the support of sponsors Foxtel, Chanel 7, Paspaley, The Hour Glass and Lojac.



The Silvers Circus troupe provided spectacular entertainment; guests danced to the best dance band in town – Discorama and enjoyed a magnificent feast prepared by the Atlantic Group.

Sincere thanks to the brilliant team at Trumpet Events, the Red Ball Committee, our tireless volunteers and our guests for their generosity in supporting the Live and Silent Auctions, Raffle and Pledge.



Upgrade for our North Melbourne Accommodation Centre

BMDI Rotary House, now in its eighth year of operation has been in need of 'TLC', and after a huge fundraising effort, has been totally recarpeted and replacement furniture is on the way.

BMDI Rotary House provides a caring and supportive environment for families who have a family member being treated at one of Melbourne's hospitals for a life-threatening illness.

The three floors and 13 apartments enable families to live as normal a life as possible under enormously difficult circumstances allowing them to concentrate on the welfare of their ill family member.

Our vision, to provide cancer patients and their families with a caring and supportive sanctuary and assist with better health outcomes, will continue as we work towards providing more affordable accommodation centres throughout Australia close to major treatment hospitals.



Youth in Philanthropy Program supports School Children with cancer



The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy program provides local Melbourne schools with the opportunity of gaining insight and understanding into community health and welfare programs run by charitable organisations.

Fight Cancer Foundation has received \$10,000 for Fight Cancer Back on Track and sincerely thanks the LMCF and the Youth in Philanthropy program for their support for young students living with cancer.

Students and teachers from University High present their cheque to Sophia Elliott – Director, Marketing & Development

Footy Colours Day

Footy Colours Day – always the first Friday in September - attracted hundreds of thousands of participants from schools and companies around Australia. Supporters from NRL, AFL, Rugby Union and Soccer joined in to wear their favourite footy colours, host a fun event and help make a difference.

The mining community from NSW, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia tried to outdo each other by raising the most funds in the Second Annual Footy Colours Day Mining Challenge.

Funds raised from Footy Colours Day support the Fight Cancer Back on Track program which assists young primary and secondary school students living with cancer to stay in touch with their schools and friends during treatment and recovery.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making the 18th Annual Footy Colours Day such a huge success.



K2RQ Alliance staff, NSW



Koorringal Public School students Riley, Aiden, Zachary & Desi-Anne (above) and

Lachlan Mitchell
Melbourne Rebels Rugby Club
with students from
Caroline Springs College,
Springside



Holly, Zara & Ryan
(left)

All showing their colours
(Picture: Oscar Coleman.
Daily Advertiser)

Mark the date now for Footy Colours Day 2012 – Friday 7 September 2012

Freemasons Grant to Fight Cancer Foundation

Fight Cancer Foundation thanks the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation which has provided a \$10,000 grant to the BMDI Cord Blood Bank which will fund equipment to process the cord blood of babies pre-diagnosed with a congenital heart abnormality. The process being investigated involves collecting the cord blood from these babies and injecting the collected stem cells into the heart during open-heart surgery performed at three days of age to assist with rapid cardiac repair.

Eric Wright, Managing Director – Fight Cancer Foundation, accepts the cheque from Bruce Bartrop (centre) – Trustee, Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation while transplant recipient Tim Etechells looks on.



Sydney Launch of Back on Track Fundraising Campaign

The Fight Cancer Foundation launched the Back on Track 2012 fundraising campaign in Sydney in September with a cocktail party at Paspaley Pearling Company's stunning showroom in George Street, with special guest and Patron Hugh Jackman.



Hugh Jackman & Fight Cancer Ambassador Mark Beretta enjoy drawing the Paspaley Raffle

MC and Fight Cancer Foundation ambassador, Channel 7's Mark Beretta, together with Hugh Jackman highlighted the importance of the Back on Track program. Hugh interviewed two children currently participating in Back on Track who explained how they kept in touch with their schools, teachers and friends through the Children's Hospital, Westmead, during treatment and recovery.



Hugh with Michael Cody, another Back on Track student



Hugh interviews Sophie Bucknell, a Back on Track student

Paspaley is a long term supporter of Fight Cancer Foundation and we sincerely thank Nick and Marilynne Paspaley and Justine Cummins for their assistance.



Foundation Director Sophia Elliott, Michael Crocker – Sydney Rabbitohs, Cameron Harris, Managing Director, Vranken-Pommery & Tony Hancy, Director, Fight Cancer Foundation

We also appreciate the support of the Channel 7 Sunrise program with Melissa Doyle and Natalie Barr attending, our Sydney support group, Paspaley Pearling for hosting the evening and donating a main auction item, Prancing Horse and Carlei Wines, Vranken-Pommery for the champagne, our guests who supported this event, including Foxtel and St George Bank Foundation and the delightful Chamber Musical Group from Conservatory High.

Don't forget your Fight Cancer Foundation Christmas Cards... www.fightcancer.org.au



Back on Track Update

Shea was just 13 years old when he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia and required urgent treatment at the Royal Children's Hospital.

The family's lives were turned upside down - they had to leave Tasmania, their jobs, their home and Shea had to leave school in Year 7 – they faced many overwhelming and daunting challenges.

Seven years later, Shea is in remission, in his third year as an apprentice cabinet maker and living happily in country Victoria.

"I remember we just packed up and left home to come to Melbourne for my treatment," said Shea. "We had nowhere to stay until we were told about Fight Cancer Foundation and BMDI Rotary House in North Melbourne. I had 13 months of treatment, but we were all together as a family.

"I was told about the Back on Track program and I was able to finish Year 7 while I was sick. I was able to keep up with the work and keep in touch with my friends as well. I was very grateful for all the help we received".

By supporting the innovative Fight Cancer Back on Track program you will help provide continued education for students living with cancer, minimising the disruption that treatment and recovery has on their educational and social development. The program provides the best opportunity for the young students to continue to reach their full potential and take their rightful place in the community.

Make donations via the website www.fightcancer.org.au – click on the Donate button – or call 03 9342 7888.



2011 Volunteer of the Year Award



Moya Hughes, Fight Cancer Foundation Volunteer of the Year

The Fight Cancer Foundation congratulates its 2011 Volunteer of the Year - Mrs Moya Hughes, Manager of the Fight Cancer Foundation Drysdale Recycle Shop.

Moya has managed the shop for 14 years and has developed a great rapport with customers and other volunteers. She moved to Drysdale from Bendigo more than 16 years ago and shortly after lost her beloved husband Harry, to cancer.

'Once you've lost someone through cancer, you feel you want to give something back,' said Moya. "I've found friendship and comfort with the wonderful women who volunteer for the Foundation and I love chatting with customers. When you meet people whose troubles are worse than your own, it grounds you. It is very gratifying to know how the help you give others through your work is appreciated. I think I'm pretty lucky and enjoy what I do."

We appreciate Moya's dedication and valuable contribution.

Volunteers are an important part of Fight Cancer Foundation and we sincerely thank all our volunteers for their support in our branches, recycle shops, events, accommodation centres and our office.

If you would like to join our 'family' of volunteers and help make a difference, please contact us on 03 9342 7888.



Albury-Wodonga Carer Accommodation Centre Update

With Albury Base Hospital having been earmarked to become a major regional cancer centre, Fight Cancer Foundation identified the need for an affordable local accommodation centre.

Cancer patients often require months of hospitalisation and regular visits. With advances in treatments it is becoming more common for them to be treated in day clinics than be admitted to acute care beds. In country situations this presents patients with the need to either travel regularly or find local accommodation.

Preliminary earthworks on the site adjacent to the Albury Base Hospital have commenced. Major construction work will start early in 2012 and Stage 1, comprising 20 ensuite units, communal kitchens and lounge areas is expected to be completed later in the year.



In February 2011, together with the Rotary Club of Albury North, Zonta Club of Albury Wodonga and Lions District 201V6, Fight Cancer Foundation launched the Albury Wodonga Patient and Care Accommodation Centre Public Appeal.

Fight Cancer Foundation and the Cancer Council of NSW have entered into a collaborative agreement for the \$5.5 million project. The Cancer Council has contributed \$300,000 and staff will provide ongoing support, information, education and counselling services to patients and their families. The accommodation centre will be a vital piece of health infrastructure for the region and a hub of local cancer support.

Essential Energy, recognising the importance of this project to the region, has become a major sponsor - donating a 500kVa padmount transformer to support the future electricity needs of the centre.

Recent local events to support the project have included a Charity Preview of the hit movie Real Steel starring Fight Cancer Foundation Patron Hugh Jackman and Golf Day at the Commercial Club course.

To help us reach our goal of \$5.5 million for this vital community project, you can donate at www.fightcancer.org.au or call 03 9342 7888. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



Fight Cancer Foundation™
Giving hope. Saving lives.

Post: Locked Bag AAA, PO Carlton South VIC 3053

Location: Rotary Bone Marrow Research Centre, Royal Melbourne Hospital Campus

1d Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052 Australia

T: (03) 9342 7888 F: (03) 9342 7842

E: savealife@fightcancer.org.au W: www.fightcancer.org.au