

Fight Cancer News

Newsletter of the Fight Cancer Foundation

2008 in Review

An Eventful Year

As we embark on another busy year at the Fight Cancer Foundation and Bone Marrow Donor Institute, it is worth taking pause to reflect on our achievements during the past year.

At BMDI Rotary House, we celebrated five years of providing a 'home away from home' for patients and their families in need of accommodation close to major Melbourne hospitals. BMDI Rotary House has been one of the most rewarding projects we have undertaken since our inception in 1989 and has provided many, many families with a place to live during their time of greatest need.

During the year there were some new fundraising initiatives, the Red Silks Luncheon, a new fundraiser held at Mornington Racing Club in February, the Fight Cancer Walks, and the successful Pin & Win Promotion, held by the Melbourne Racing Club during Spring Racing Carnival at Caulfield.

The Red Ball, as always, was a fantastic success having raised a record amount. Comments from most guests were the same – it was an amazing evening with fantastic décor, food, wine and entertainment. Special thanks go to our wonderful patrons Deborra-lee Furness and Hugh Jackman, who worked incredibly hard to make it a great success.

We continued to support the Bone Marrow Research Laboratories, under the supervision of Professor Stephen Jane. Professor Jane and his team of researchers never cease to amaze us with

their enthusiasm and great inroads into finding a cure for leukaemia, thalassaemia and other cancers of the blood.

We were pleased to announce that we have formed a new partnership with Professor Greg Rice and his team at the Baker Research Institute. Professor Rice and his team are working on the development of an early detection test for ovarian cancer. Often this disease is called the "silent killer" due to its lack of early symptoms. With the development of this test we are hopeful of saving the lives of hundreds of Australian women and tens of thousands of women worldwide, each year.

Another key development during the year was the opening of the Fight Cancer Foundation House in Hobart. This facility provides accommodation for up to twenty patients and carers per night and is within walking distance of The Royal Hobart Hospital.

We could not continue our work without the assistance of our supporters, branches, corporate sponsors, wonderful volunteers and last but not least, our executive staff who are the backbone of this organisation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I thank you all for your incredible dedication to helping us achieve our vision of "Giving Hope and Saving Lives".



Eric Wright
Managing Director



Eric Wright
Managing Director

upcoming events

Business Networking Luncheon by the Lipstick Club – invitations coming in the mail

Expect significant insights into the world economic situation and how it will effect you and your business.

To register your interest: Call Jaime on (03) 9342 7888.

VOLUNTEER!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We need experience in computer processing, general office skills and a willingness to assist at various functions and events. Become a Fight Cancer Volunteer – call our volunteer co-ordinator **Jessica** on: **(03) 9342 8646**

Or email: jessica.moulday@fightcancer.org.au

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Branch Fundraisers

Launch of Cancer Connect Program



Fight Cancer Foundation™

Giving hope. Saving lives.

The marketing arm of the Bone Marrow Donor Institute

New Sydney Branch's First Fundraiser

Zed Holman, Chairman of our new Fight Cancer Sydney Branch, held her first fundraiser on a quiet, sunny morning on the 21st of November. Eighteen local mums gathered at her home in Terrey Hills, to participate in the Fight Cancer Group Exercise Circuit Training Class.

It was created as a 45 minute Group Exercise Class guaranteed to make everyone feel good, but the participants moved ever so tentatively towards their position in the circuit. Then, the music started and hit some high notes and so did the girls' energy levels! Everyone participated in skipping, lifting weights,

boxing, lunges, but mostly lots of laughs and glowing faces at the end of it all.

Everyone wanted to know more about the work of the Fight Cancer Foundation and Zed gave a brief summary of the work of the Foundation. We welcome Zed on board and look forward to more of her innovative fundraising ideas in the future.

For more information on the Fight Cancer Sydney Branch or if you would like to fundraise for us, or set up a Fight Cancer Branch in your area, please call Sophia Elliott on 03 9342 7888

Heathcote Branch Walks to Fight Cancer

On a very warm Sunday 19th October, 97 brave people put on their walking boots and participated in the gruelling 48.7kms Fight Cancer Walk, following the historic "Old O'Keefe Trail", from Bendigo to Heathcote. The Walk commenced at 6.00am from Lake

Weeroona in Bendigo. Over one third of the walkers completed the whole distance arriving in Heathcote, hot and weary but very pleased with their efforts.

They were welcomed with cool drinks, a great BBQ cooked by the branch volunteers and a wonderful spread of homemade cakes. Heathcote schoolgirl, Monique, raised an amazing \$400 plus, for the cause. Fight Cancer Foundation Managing Director, Eric Wright and Director of Marketing, Sophia Elliott attended the walk and each participant was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts.

Congratulations to Sandra Slatter and her great team of volunteers for raising over \$4,000.



Barbara Clement, Branch Secretary, presents Monique with her certificate

A Lasting Legacy...

One of our wonderful early volunteers in the office was Joy, who often came in, to answer the phones and to help out wherever she was needed. She was a very energetic and dedicated lady. Sadly, Joy passed away recently, but she left a wonderful and lasting legacy, in the form of a substantial bequest to BMDI. Without the generosity of people like Joy, many of our important programs simply would not happen.

If leaving a bequest to the Fight Cancer Foundation interests you, please call us on 03 9342 7888 for further information.

Gelclair – a soothing treatment for Mucositis...

Mucositis is a very painful condition of mouth and throat ulcers, caused by the chemotherapy treatment given to cancer patients. There is now a very simple treatment available to help relieve this problem. Gelclair is an oral mouthwash providing soothing comfort and long lasting relief. Purchase Gelclair from our website www.fightcancer.org.au or by calling (03) 9342 7888.

BMDI Joins Forces to Support Transplant Patients

The Bone Marrow Donor Institute has joined forces with the Cancer Council of Victoria, Myeloma Foundation and Leukaemia Foundation, to launch a new support program. This joint initiative will recruit volunteers who have had a bone marrow transplant, to be part of the Cancer Connect Telephone Support Group Program.

This critical support service offers one-to-one telephone support to people affected by cancer from specially trained volunteers, who have been through a similar experience.

The Cancer Connect Program was launched at the Cancer Council of Victoria offices in November and we are proud to be associated in this very important initiative.

Run a Fight Cancer Walk to Help Kids With Cancer

You can run a Fight Cancer Walk in your town or suburb and help raise money for the Fight Cancer Back on Track Program.

Thousands of Australian children are battling cancer or other life threatening illnesses. They are often away from school for two years or longer.

Back on Track works with these children to ensure they are given every opportunity to reach their full potential.

This program not only reconnects children to their school, teachers and peers, but also helps them cope with the emotional, social and physical aspects of their illness. Please help us give them hope and a chance for a brighter future.

For information, call Sophia Elliott on (03) 9342 8647, or visit the walk's website www.fightcancerwalk.com.au



Fight Cancer Foundation House Opens in Hobart

In an important initiative for the people of Tasmania and a watershed occasion for the Fight Cancer Foundation, we proudly opened the Fight Cancer Foundation House in Hobart, in November last year.

The concept for this house was conceived during David Boon's 'Walk for Hope' in 2004. David and his wife Pip walked from Melbourne to Hobart, supported by a large crew of volunteers and their many friends, who walked with them along their journey. Through their wonderful and steadfast determination, they raised an incredible \$500,000 plus for the Fight Cancer Foundation, then known as the Bone Marrow Donor Institute.

On the final day of that triumphant walk, they were joined by Tasmanian cancer survivor Annette Kanizay. Annette, along with her family, were the first residents at BMDI Rotary House in Melbourne, when she was required to come to Melbourne for life-saving treatment. Even as this walk was coming to its climax, the pervading sense of achievement, combined with a 'now, do more' attitude, clearly caused the creative juices to flow



An historic building is re-vitalised and given a truly noble purpose in Tasmania's capital city.

and the Fight Cancer Foundation Hobart Branch, was born, formed by Pip Boon, her friend Jan Clark and Annette Kanizay.

While in Melbourne, Annette had bitter-sweet, profoundly first-hand experience of just how much difference warm and friendly residential support can make for an up-rooted cancer patient and family. As a result, choosing the new branch's first project was easy; raising additional funds to establish an accommodation centre for Tasmanian patients and their carers, when they are required to come to Hobart for overnight or extended medical treatment. With initiative that is now seen as typical of the group, they proceeded to raise in excess of \$70,000 by running two "Breakfast for Hope" functions at Moorilla Estate. This ultimately provided the seed capital to make Hobart's own "home away from home" haven, a reality.

Housed in an historic, 158 year old building (1850), 'Fight Cancer Foundation House' can provide accommodation for up to twenty patients and their carers, per night. The House has two communal lounge areas and a spacious kitchen and dining area where guests can relax, cook their meals and mingle. Well equipped with electronic diversions to occupy minds both young and old, the warm and



Jan Clark, Annette Kanizay, John Opie AM, Pip Boon and the Hon. Lara Giddings, Deputy Premier of Tasmania

Continued over...

Fight Cancer Foundation House Hobart



Once a cellar, now a wonderful communal area

welcoming atmosphere is designed to give an often much needed boost, to all who stay.

The Deputy Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Lara Giddings, was generous in her praise for our efforts, when she officially opened the building with our President, John Opie AM.

All our supporters in Hobart, particularly David Boon, Jan Clarke, Pip Boon and Annette Kanizay, should be truly proud that their fundraising efforts over several years, have now resulted in this magnificent facility. It will provide much needed, quality, low cost accommodation to the people of Tasmania, for many years to come. We are very grateful to

David Boon for his generosity of spirit in undertaking the mammoth task of the "Boonie's Walk for Hope" for without that initiative we would not have a Fight Cancer Branch in Hobart and we would not have been able to offer the people of Tasmania the lasting legacy of Fight Cancer Foundation House.

their support during the carnival. Thanks also to the Glen Eira Rotarians for their outstanding sales technique and to all the corporate and individual volunteers for their efforts.

Finally, it takes a certain kind of person to volunteer at the races, facing a barrage of punters pouring through the gates at high speed intent on securing prime position on the turf to place their first bet. But that's exactly what we found in our 'super salesman' Tony Wolfe. Tony volunteered for three race days selling an amazing 628 pins and was our number one salesman across all event days!

Our outstanding volunteers helped us raise in excess of \$17,000 to support children battling cancer. Back on Track gives every child the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

Pin & Win Success

The Fight Cancer Foundation was extremely fortunate to be chosen as the charity of choice, by the Melbourne Racing Club for their Spring Racing Carnival Pin & Win Promotion.

Over 80 volunteers participated and worked hard to sell Pin & Win badges to raise funds to support our Fight Cancer Back on Track program.

Volunteers battled the infamous Melbourne weather which ranged from freezing cold, wet and windy to the sweltering heat of Caulfield Cup Day.

Special thanks go to the Melbourne Racing Club and their wonderful staff for



Salesman Extraordinaire – Tony Wolfe

A Touch of Red Art Competition Winner

A staunch supporter of the Foundation, the Black Sphere Fine Art Gallery, in Swan Street Richmond, held it's annual "Touch of Red" art competition in early September.

Each year, artists are asked to produce a piece of artwork, painting or photographic art, featuring a "Touch of Red" theme.

The 2008 exhibition was won by Peter Garnick, who then generously donated his piece to the Fight Cancer Foundation.

His wonderful photograph of the foundations of the Royal Women's Hospital was stunning and was auctioned off at the 2008 Red Ball, our annual signature event. We thank Mila and Alexander Grigoriev, gallery owners for their continued support and generosity.



Gallery owners, guests and Foundation staff and partners, celebrating with dinner after the competition judging.