

Fight Cancer News

Newsletter of the Fight Cancer Foundation

Bone Marrow Research Laboratories Discovery

The Fight Cancer Foundation's funding of the Bone Marrow Research Laboratories (BMRL) has contributed towards groundbreaking research in the fight against cancer.

White blood cells known as T-cells play a key role in protecting our body against infection and disease. However in cancers such as T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (T-ALL), the build-up of abnormal T-cells can be deadly.

T-ALL is a common childhood leukaemia with approximately 50 new cases diagnosed in Australia each year. Adults also contract T-ALL, and the majority succumb to resistant or relapsed disease. A/Prof David Curtis and Dr Matthew McCormack and their dedicated research team at the BMRL, have recently identified the cells responsible for the development and relapse of T-ALL.

"The stem cell-like properties of the cells identified suggest that these cells may survive traditional therapy and be responsible for relapsed disease following treatment" Dr McCormack said: "The cellular origins of this leukaemia are not well understood. Our discovery that these cells are similar to normal stem cells explains why they are capable of surviving for long periods. It also explains why they are remarkably resistant to treatment."

A/Prof Curtis, said: "The identification of these cells provides an important target for the development and testing of new treatments for patients with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia."

The team will now focus on novel treatments capable of targeting these cells that may lead to clinical trials within the next five years. Funding from the Fight Cancer Foundation was integral to this research.



Pictured Above: A/Prof David Curtis and Dr Matthew McCormack

Celebrating National Volunteering Week, 10-16 May



Jennie Noonan, Michele Rossiter (BMDI Rotary House Manager) and John Noonan

As we approach National Volunteering Week, it is the perfect time to acknowledge and thank our volunteers for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the work of the Fight Cancer Foundation.

Our volunteers bring a diverse range of skills, life experience and insight to our organisation. They are an integral part of the Fight Cancer Foundation family and work tirelessly with our staff to ensure we continue to make a difference in the communities we serve.

Some of our volunteers have been inspired to 'give something back' to our organisation because of the care and support they received at our accommodation centre, BMDI Rotary House. Recently, two former residents returned to the House on a 'mission'. Jennie and John Noonan of Deniliquin volunteered to act as relief caretakers for two weeks, and they took this opportunity to "spring clean" the House from top to bottom – a wonderful gift to our residents and to the Foundation.

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Fight Cancer Foundation™
Giving hope. Saving lives.

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Accommodation Centre for Albury-Wodonga

The Fight Cancer Foundation received a \$1.5m grant from the Federal Government in April for the development of a 20 unit, motel style accommodation centre to be located next to the Albury Hospital. Rotary, Lions and Zonta Clubs in the Albury/Wodonga region and outlying towns will work with the Foundation to raise the additional funding required to complete this project. Patients and their families travelling from regional Victoria/NSW requiring treatment at the Albury Hospital will benefit from this new affordable 'home away from home'.

Fight Cancer Breakfast for Hope

The annual Breakfast for Hope was held in Hobart on 19 March at the beautiful Moorilla Estate Winery. The breakfast was organised by the Hobart Support Group – Pip Boon, Jan Clark and Annette Kanizay and featured special guest speaker Nick Riewoldt, Captain of the St Kilda Football Club. The breakfast raises funds for the Fight Cancer Foundation House – Hobart, which provides quality affordable accommodation for patients and carers attending Hobart's hospitals.

Celebrating National Volunteering Week, 10-16 May

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We have a number of volunteers who have been with us since the charity began 20 years ago, and it is always sad for us when they decide to retire. Margaret Oliver joined the Leukaemia Family Support Group twenty years ago. Maureen Foster has been a member for the last four years. Both have played a vital role in our Foundation. We are grateful for their invaluable contribution and wish them well.

We acknowledge and thank all of our volunteers for their hard work, dedication and support. They are the lifeblood of the Foundation!

Interested in Volunteering? Please contact Elizabeth Velevska (Volunteer Co-ordinator) on 03 9342 7888.

FIGHT CANCER FOUNDATION EVENTS



Sophia Elliott & Eric Wright (Fight Cancer Foundation) and Ms Christine Nixon, APM (centre)

The next lunch will be held on Friday 2 July, to book please call 03 9342 7888

Latte Golf – Professional Golf Clinics for Women

Our Latte Golf clinics commenced in February 2010 and we acknowledge and thank Mark Stephens (pictured below) for his exceptional coaching and on-going support of this program.

Latte Golf provides an easy, affordable, first step into the wonderful world of golf. If you are interested in learning how to play golf in a friendly, relaxed environment, then Latte Golf clinics are for you!

Proceeds from Latte Golf support Ovcare, the Fight Cancer Foundation's initiative in ovarian cancer research and test development.



For more information contact Judi Herschell on 03 9342 7888 or visit www.lattegolf.org

Red Silks Luncheon 2010



The Annual Red Silks Luncheon held on 19 March at Mornington Racecourse was a resounding success, raising funds to assist the Foundation with its lifesaving work. It was a special day with Celebrity MC, Tottie Goldsmith, and the talented Matt Hetherington performing with 'just the right note'. Roger Lemke, the Mornington Peninsula's 'singing auctioneer' encouraged spirited bidding during the Live Auction. The fashions in the room provided a bright note with some wonderful autumn outfits on show.

We thank the Organising Committee, the Mornington Racing Club, Guinot and The Good Guys Frankston for continued support, and look forward to Red Silks 2011.

OVATION...



*Pictured (left to right):
Ovcare Ambassador,
Rebecca Maddern,
Ovcare Program
Director, Prof Greg
Rice, The Governor of
Victoria, Prof David
de Kretser, AC, Fight
Cancer Foundation
President, Mr John
Barbour, Fight Cancer
Foundation Managing
Director, Mr Eric
Wright*

The second annual Ovation fundraising dinner was held on 12 March at the Palladium Ballroom at Crown in the presence of the Governor of Victoria and Mrs de Kretser. Hosted by our wonderful Ovcare Ambassador, Rebecca Maddern, and themed "la nuit de l'opera au cirque!", Ovation 2010 was an exciting and memorable evening.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank our Ovation sponsors, Crabtree & Evelyn Australia Pty Ltd, King River Estate, Crown, Staging Connections, Bruker, BHP Billiton, Genix Technology, Channel 7 and 7 News, K.W. Doggett, Jigsaw, and Simone Pérèle for their support of Ovation 2010.

Ovation is fast becoming an event not to be missed. It will be held again in March 2011 (www.ovation.org.au). With the continued support of all who participated, our ovarian cancer research and test development programs will continue.

Celebrating Life, 2010



Pictured: Nicole Wallace, Jason Law Dancers, Urban Cirque Performers

FUNDRAISING IN THE COMMUNITY



Pictured: Gayle Connor (School Principal), Noah, Nichelle

Celebrating "Silva" Citizenship with a Gold Coin Donation for the Foundation

Australia Day marks a very special day, particularly for the Silva family. Roshan Silva (Donor Liaison Officer) and his family arrived in Australia on 26 January 2006. The Silva family became Australian citizens on 26 January 2010, and in recognition of this special day and their desire to help others, Rosh's children, Noah, 8 and Nichelle, 6 organised a casual clothes day at their school, St. Dominic's Primary School. They raised \$350 to support the Fight Cancer Back on Track program, a program enabling primary and secondary students living with cancer to continue their education. Congratulations to the Silva family and many thanks to Noah and Nichelle for their support.

There are many ways you can help the Foundation make a difference. If you have a fundraising idea or are interested in helping our fight against cancer, please contact 03 9342 7888 or visit www.fightcancer.org.au.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR – events not to be missed!

Footy Colours Day – Friday, 3 September

Show your true colours and support the fight against cancer by wearing your favourite footy colours. Organise your mates, co-workers, family or school, encourage suppliers to join with you to participate in Footy Colours Day on Friday, 3 September (or any day that suits you!).

For more information and to register visit www.footycoloursday.com.au or call 03 9342 7888.

Red Ball 2010 – Saturday 4 September

Join us for the 18th Annual Red Ball – an evening of "MASQUERADE" at the Palladium Ballroom at Crown and support our fight against cancer.

For more info go to: www.redball.com.au or call 03 9342 7888.



Recycling Shop – Fashion Parade – Monday, 6 September

The annual BMDI Geelong Recycle Shop Fashion Parade is on at the Geelong West Bowling Club, Bowlers Road, Geelong West at 12 noon. Tickets are \$10. For more info, call 03 5229 2971 or visit the Shop at 203 Pakington Street, Geelong West.

2011 Entertainment Book available now...



Entertainment Books (Melb., Geelong, Hobart) – now available. To order, contact Maria Russell on 03 9342 7888.

PharmaOnline – Cash for a Cause

The Fight Cancer Foundation is registered with PharmaOnline's *Cash for a Cause* program. Customers who purchase from the PharmaOnline website can nominate the Foundation to receive 10% of the total of their pharmacy purchases.

Go to www.pharmaonline.com.au and nominate Fight Cancer Foundation as your preferred charity.

RoCan* Rides for Ovcare

The Murray-to-Moyne Cycle Relay is a 24 hour team event over a distance of 520 km. This is the 5th year RoCan have entered a team and the first year the team (of 8 cyclists and 5 crew) has included a female cyclist. RoCan ride in support of Ovcare and funds raised go into our ovarian cancer research and test development programs. The team rode

from Echuca to Port Fairy and have raised in excess of \$5,000 for Ovcare.

To learn more about supporting Ovcare and participating in this annual event please contact Judi Herschell on 03 9342 7888.

** Rotarians Against Ovarian Cancer – an initiative of the Rotary Club of Williamstown*

