

Fight Cancer News

Newsletter of the Fight Cancer Foundation

Nancy's Story

As the Fight Cancer Foundation moves into its third decade of helping cancer patients and their families, we take the time to look back to our very first project, the establishment of a bone marrow donor registry and how it impacted on one special woman.

At age 25, Nancy was living in England when she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. She returned home to Australia to break the news to her family. She needed a bone marrow transplant. No family member was compatible and a search of the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry also failed to find a suitable donor. The search was broadened to the international registries and after an anxious wait of several months, Nancy and her family were overjoyed when they received the news that a match had been found on the German registry. A nurse from the Royal Melbourne Hospital was sent to receive the bone marrow. Within hours of it arriving in Melbourne, Nancy was receiving the precious life-saving bone marrow from her German donor.

Nancy recovered and two years after her transplant, she was permitted to make initial contact through the registry with her donor in Germany. A year later, they exchanged letters, and kept in touch by email. Nancy learned that Werner, who lives in a small village outside Heidelberg, had registered to be a donor during an appeal in 2000 spearheaded by the mother of a 30 year old woman who required a bone marrow transplant to save her life. Sadly a match was not found for her, but Werner proved to be the perfect match for Nancy.

In April this year, Nancy and Werner decided to meet. She was invited to spend the Easter holidays with Werner and his family. It was an emotionally charged moment when Nancy and Werner met. She was overwhelmed with gratitude to the man who had given her a second chance of life and Werner was proud and thankful that he was able to help. She was welcomed into their home as a long lost relation.

On the last day of her visit, while taking a walk through Werner's small village, they found themselves in the old village cemetery. As they stood admiring the spring blossoms, a woman walked past them pushing her bicycle... Werner pointed to the woman and told Nancy that she was the mother who had spearheaded the donor drive in 2000. Did she want to meet her? Nancy said yes and Werner ran after the woman and brought her over to meet Nancy. The woman embraced Nancy. She had lost her daughter but here in her arms was another woman's daughter who had been given that precious gift of a second chance of life. Up until that moment, the woman hadn't realised the effect her efforts to save her own daughter's life had had. When the woman learned that Nancy was from Australia she was overwhelmed. She told Nancy and Werner that as her daughter lay dying, her last words to her mother were that she was swimming in the Great Barrier Reef and she felt so well and happy.



Nancy and Werner in Heidelberg, April 2010

Nancy is very grateful to have been touched by the lives of these two people.

"I never thought possible that my own personal experience with cancer would touch the lives of complete strangers and bring them some happiness."

Twenty years ago 'Giving Hope and Saving Lives' became the mission statement of the founders of the Fight Cancer Foundation. This small group of concerned parents with children living with cancer, made the impossible happen – the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry became a reality. Today with more than 170,000 potential donors, the Registry is one of the largest in the world, part of a worldwide network of bone marrow donor registries and has given more than 2000 people a second chance of life.

By making a donation to the Fight Cancer Foundation you are supporting our work in the fight against cancer.

Fight Cancer Foundation™
Giving hope. Saving lives.

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The 18th Annual Red Ball – Masquerade

The 18th Annual Red Ball 2010 'An Evening of Masquerade', held on Saturday 4th September in the Palladium Ballroom at Crown, was an evening to remember.

Sincere thanks to our sponsors, Foxtel, Paspaley, Seven Network, Six Senses Hideaway and The Hour Glass and to supporting companies Carlei Wines, Crown, Microhire and to our incomparable hosts Sigrid Thornton and Paul O'Brien. Your support has assisted us in making the 2010 Red Ball another fabulous success.

Trumpet Events along with the production company, Microhire, and table stylists, Style by Nature created an opulent atmosphere which was echoed in the fabulous masks and elegant evening wear of the guests. The room, swathed in red

velvet from ceiling to floor and the soft glow of the candle light from the table candelabras created a romantic ambience.

The entertainment was superb, from the opening number featuring a beautiful solo from Nicole Wallace, the sensational performance from Ziggy Clements, Matthew McFarlane, Gemma-Ashley Kaplan and Laura Tipoki, culminating with Simon Vowels as Frank-N-Furter and the Rocky Horror dancers performing the Time Warp. The audience was on their feet dancing along with Jason Law's 200 strong dancers. Madeline Perrone put on a high energy show preparing the guests to dance the rest of the evening away to the funky sounds of Discorama.

The Foundation is very grateful to the generous people and businesses who



donated the unique and exciting live and silent auction items.

We would like to extend special thanks to the Red Ball Committee for the months of preparation, and the generous volunteers who worked tirelessly prior, during and after the event. Their dedication and support were crucial to the success of the ball.

If you would like to be included on the Red Ball 2011 invitation list, please contact the Foundation on 03 9342 7888.

To view more photos of the 18th Annual Red Ball, go to www.redball.com.au



Sigrid Thornton unmasked

Queen's Birthday Honours – Avis Macphee AM

Congratulations to Avis Macphee AM on her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. Avis, a medical scientist, received the award for service to community health particularly as a supporter of research into the treatment and management of breast cancer. A breast cancer survivor herself, Avis has been associated with the Fight Cancer Foundation since 1995 when she



established the BMDI Breast Cancer Support Group to provide information and support to women with breast cancer.

Over the years, Avis has been an invaluable support to many women undergoing breast cancer treatment and those in recovery. Her compassion, wealth of knowledge and time spent with women living with the disease, has given her a unique insight into both the medical and emotional needs of breast cancer patients.

Avis is a member of the boards of several charitable and research institutions. In recognition of her commitment to breast cancer research, Avis has accepted an invitation to become a Member of the prestigious Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

For more information on the BMDI Breast Cancer Support Group, please call 03 9342 7888.

Accommodation Centres – Helping Those in Need, John Opie House

Since the opening of the first accommodation centre in 2003 – BMDI Rotary House, the Foundation has strived to help relieve some of the burdens faced by patients and carers by providing them with safe, comfortable, low cost accommodation whilst they are undergoing hospital treatment.

In 2008, the Foundation, with support from the Tasmanian government, opened John Opie House, named in memory of our founding President and Chairman, John Opie AM. The House is a low cost, quality, accommodation centre for patients and carers attending Hobart's hospitals. Since opening, more than 360 people have stayed in the House. Andrea and Kurt Carey made the House their refuge in their time of need.

Andrea and Kurt live in Ulverstone, more than three hours from Hobart. Andrea was 26 weeks pregnant with

their first child when her pregnancy became compromised and she was airlifted from Burnie Hospital to the Royal Hobart Hospital to give birth to their baby prematurely. Baby Tiana weighed only 900g and was immediately taken to the neonatal intensive care unit. Having no family or friends in Hobart, and wanting to be close to their baby, the Careys moved into John Opie House. The House provided Andrea and Kurt with a comfortable, affordable and friendly place to live whilst Tiana faced her own struggle to survive. Tiana's progress was steady and after seven weeks in hospital, she was ready to go home.

"Without the house we would have found it extremely difficult financially for me to stay in Hobart and be so close to Tiana. We believe that the time I spent with her in the early weeks certainly



Kurt and Andrea with Tiana

helped with her progress. The House was my 'home way from home' for just over seven weeks. Sam (House Manager) was fantastic in making sure that my needs were met whilst in the House."

Today, at nine months, Tiana is doing extremely well and growing quickly. Her doctors and her doting parents are thrilled with her progress.

For more information about Fight Cancer Foundation accommodation centres, please call 03 9342 7888.

2010 Fight Cancer Foundation Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Barbara Speldewinde, who is the 2010 Fight Cancer Foundation Volunteer of the Year.

Barb's association with the Foundation began in the BMDI Recycle Shop (Geelong) in 2000, after her son-in-law, Andrew, was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia and subsequently received a lifesaving bone marrow transplant. Grateful for the treatment Andrew received, Barb wanted to give 'something' back, and felt volunteering for the Foundation was the perfect way for her to help others. Soon after, Barb discovered a box of donation tins in the shop and so began her personal goal to raise as much money as she could for the Foundation. Due to her tireless efforts, more than 100 shops in and around Geelong display a Foundation donation tin and as a result, have raised tens of thousands of dollars.

Barb, a vivacious and compassionate woman, has worn several hats while volunteering for Fight Cancer



Eric Wright Managing Director, Barb Speldewinde Volunteer of the Year and Fay Duncan Vice President

Foundation, including Secretary, then President of the Geelong Branch. In 2008 Barb stepped in as temporary manager of the BMDI (now Fight Cancer Foundation) Recycle Shop in Geelong and in 2009 was appointed permanent manager of the shop. Under her management the shop has undergone a facelift, making the shop a stylish place to shop and a friendly place for volunteers to work. Barb sources items of

preloved clothing and bric-a-brac from far and wide, to give shoppers a fantastic array of items.

"Working for the Fight Cancer Foundation is a very rewarding experience, as is working with the wonderful women who volunteer their time each week for the cause."

The Fight Cancer Foundation is very grateful to Barb for her dedication, support and passion for the cause over the past decade.

Volunteers are crucial in assisting the Foundation in achieving our goals. There are many ways volunteers can support us whether it be in our office, branches, recycle shops, at fundraising events, or at the accommodation centres in Melbourne and Hobart.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Velevska on 03 9342 7888.

Looking Forward –

In early 2011, building is due to commence in Albury, NSW on the third Fight Cancer Foundation accommodation centre. The facility will service patients and carers from southern New South Wales and north-eastern Victoria attending hospitals in the Albury-Wodonga area.

More information on this exciting, new project will appear in the next issue of Fight Cancer News.

The Foundation welcomes support from all sectors of the community to deliver ongoing, crucial services to patients and their families. We invite you to join us in supporting our accommodation centres and all our projects. You can do this by becoming a Fight Cancer Foundation *Champion of Hope* and pledge a monthly amount of your choice – small or large – to enable us to continue to provide our services into the future.

To help, please contact the Foundation on 03 9342 7888 or complete the donation slip below.

Footy Colours Day 2010

The 17th national Fight Cancer Footy Colours Day attracted hundreds of thousands of participants from schools and companies across Australia in support of the ongoing fight against cancer. Supporters from all the football codes took up our challenge to help make a difference and save lives. They participated to make the 2010 Footy Colours Day a resounding success!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to you having more fun on Footy Colours Day, Friday 2nd September, 2011.

For more information on Footy Colours Day please visit www.footycoloursday.com.au

*Damjan Janevski and friends
(Go 'Pies!)*



Christmas Cards 2010

The Fight Cancer Foundation Christmas cards are available for purchase online at our website www.fightcancer.org.au, at selected charity card shops or through our office.

For more information please contact Maria on 03 9342 7888.

Save Thousands on your Home Loan – Help Fight Cancer

The Fight Cancer Foundation in association with Direct Link Finance, offers you the opportunity to get a great deal on your existing or new home loan whilst also raising money to support the Foundation.

"Having experienced first hand the devastation of having a child diagnosed with leukaemia, I have committed Direct Link Finance to helping organisations like the Fight Cancer Foundation to give hope and save lives. They truly make a difference to cancer patients and their families." Boyd Pinge – Director Direct Link Finance

You Save:

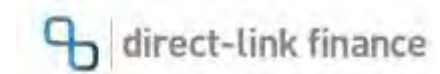
Direct Link Finance will help you to get a fantastic deal on your home loan, with discounted rates.

And Fight Cancer Foundation Gains...

Direct Link Finance will donate 50% of their commission to the Fight Cancer Foundation. This is at no cost to you.

If you, a family member or friend, is buying a first home, refinancing an existing property, building, or adding to your investment portfolio it makes sense to contact Direct Link Finance.

Call Boyd at Direct Link Finance for a **FREE loan comparison and mention the Fight Cancer Foundation.**
Ph. 1300 771 835
www.directlinkfinance.com.au



Yes, I will help the Fight Cancer Foundation

1. I am making a gift of:

\$35 \$56 \$77 \$250 Other \$

2. I want to support the Fight Cancer Foundation on a **regular basis** and become a **"Champion of Hope"**

\$10 a month (Bronze Sponsor) \$20 a month (Silver Sponsor) \$30 a month (Gold Sponsor) \$50 a month (Platinum Sponsor) Other \$

Payment details:

A cheque / money order is enclosed made payable to "Fight Cancer Foundation"

OR Please charge my gift / monthly pledge to VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone No Email

Card No Expiry /

I have left a bequest in my will to the Fight Cancer Foundation I'd like to speak to someone about leaving a bequest



Fight Cancer Foundation™
Giving hope. Saving lives.

Please return completed donation slip with payment to:

Fight Cancer Foundation
Locked Bag AAA
PO Carlton South Vic 3053

Credit card donations can also be made via the website: www.fightcancer.org.au or by calling: (03) 9342 7888 or faxing: (03) 9342 7842

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.