

# Newsletter

## Volume 3 – December 2009



### Introduction

We are getting closer to opening our fabulous new centre, which will be changing cancer treatment in the South Island.

Donations are still coming in, but we are in need of more help to enable us to reach our target, and with the end of the financial year not far off, there is an opportunity to get a third of your donation back.

There has been an incredible amount of hard work going on, including a successful function in Blenheim thanks to Jilly Taylor attracting 100 people along to Wither Hills for an information presentation.

Twenty friends of mine made Christmas Crackers in the St George's Hospital Conference Room to sell at the Culverden Fete, whilst others grew vegetable plants. We raised, on a wet and muddy day, close to \$3,000. Another couple held a dinner party and charged \$100 per head. A fun way to fundraise!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2010. We will keep in touch re progress.

**Cilla Glasson**  
**Chair, Fundraising Committee**

### An update on the new Cancer Care Centre Building

Tony Hunter, St George's Hospital Chief Executive Officer says "the Cancer Care Centre building is now about one month away from completion. Many trades are working simultaneously completing their portion of the internal fitout. The site works and exterior landscaping is well advanced and like the interior is due to be completed over the next 2-3 weeks.

Having watched many projects on site come to fruition I am always amazed at how much work appears to be needed in the final weeks before completion but miraculously the seemingly impossible always happens".



### Update on monies raised

We are slowly, but steadily moving towards our target, with \$2.8 million donated by private individuals; and \$1,070,000 received from Trusts and Foundations. Altogether we have raised a total of \$4.250 million, but it is obvious we still very much need your help too.

With the end of the current financial year almost in sight, we are happy to receive post-dated cheques from you. We are also happy to receive your donations in a series of post-dated cheques if that suits you better.

There is a donation form at the end of this Newsletter.

### Information Functions held

Starting with two functions in Christchurch at the end of 2008, we then took the "Show on the Road". Cilla Glasson held a function in Wanaka, and from there we have visited Ashburton, Queenstown, North Canterbury, and Blenheim – the most successful being in Blenheim.

The two dedicated oncologists, Chris Wynne and Chris Atkinson, have a serious (and sometimes frightening) message to deliver. That they can do this and still bring a smile to our lips is a measure of their commitment to their work.

In Blenheim afterwards we held an auction, which with the help of the local auctioneer from Bayley's Real Estate proved to be an ideal balance of fun and laughter. We had some wonderful items donated and thanks to the generosity of those who gave and those who bought, we raised \$4,100.

A very special thank you to all those who worked so tirelessly with Cilla to make these functions a success; and a very special thank you to those who have given.

Also a request to those of you who attended these functions, to consider making a donation before the end of this financial year.

We are planning to visit Nelson and the West Coast in 2010.

### Radiation treatment service update

Viv Ali (Radiation Therapist Clinical Manager) and Gary Ng (Business Manager) are currently interviewing for administration staff. David McKay (Principal Physicist) is currently advertising for another Physicist for a planned March 2010 commencement of duties. Two Radiation Therapists, Kathryn Neilson and Kelly Dunne, started on Monday 23 November and will spend most of there time developing protocols and guidelines for planning of the radiation treatment ahead of our clinical "go live".

The remainder of the radiation therapists will start mid-February 2010. They will have training on all the new systems for 4 weeks leading up to the "go live" date of Monday 29 March 2010. There are more Radiation Therapists available to start as needed dependant on the growth in patient numbers. Also commencing in early February will be radiation oncology referrals and clinics will begin with treatments planned from the end of March 2010.

## Culverden Fete

Whilst the weather was fairly brutal, the crowds still came with the Kathmandu label to the fore in the dress code, finished off with Wellies! (The hot soup stand must have been the busiest!). The St George's Cancer Institute was grateful to be given the booth free of charge as a donation from the organisers of the fete. A special thank you, to you all.

The booth looked festive, and green, thanks to the generosity of those who worked hard, to make the Christmas crackers, occasion cards, and to grow and pot up hundreds of plants.

Special thanks too, to Valda Bell, Jill Wilson, Marene Hunter, Cilla Glasson, 2 of her friends Georgie Springford and Kaz Matson, Greg Brooks and Jacqui MacFarlane who braved the weather and the mud to spend the day working on the stand.

That these people were willing to give their time is indicative of the commitment and enthusiasm for this project by those associated with St George's Hospital - and their families.

In spite of the weather, a great day out!



## Chemotherapy Service Update

Due to construction delays and Christmas just around the corner, the Chemotherapy Service will now move into the new Cancer Care Centre at 131 Leinster Road on Monday 18 January 2010.

A second nurse, Cathy Farquhar, starts with us on Monday 07 December 2009 to assist Bronwyn with the growing medical Oncology/Chemotherapy practise and the move to our new Chemotherapy suite.

At the same time, planning for our extended medical oncology and planned radiation oncology clinics will begin.

## St George's Hospital Website

The St George's Hospital website is now live [www.stgeorges.org.nz](http://www.stgeorges.org.nz). Visit, and under linked websites learn more about St George's Cancer Institute, and St George's Cancer Care Centre.

**St George's Cancer Care Institute wishes to thank and acknowledge the Trusts and Foundations who are supporting this venture.**



**The Farina Thompson Charitable Trust**



## DONATION CARD

To support St George's Cancer Care Centre, please fill out the form, including your cheque or credit card details, and post to: **St George's Cancer Institute, Private Bag 4737, Christchurch 8140.**

I will be paying by (tick appropriate)

Visa  MasterCard  Cheque  Internet Banking

Card no \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount NZ\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Internet banking to St George's Cancer Institute, Account no 06-0801-0643073-00

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr/Mrs/Miss/other \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**A receipt quoting the St George's Cancer Institute number CC26864 will be posted to the above address.**

The Trust is registered under the Charities Act 2005 No CC26864

Thank you