

# Newsletter

## Volume 13 – April 2014

[www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz](http://www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz)



ST GEORGE'S  
CANCER INSTITUTE

### Greetings

It's newsletter time again! Can't say I am looking forward to winter, as we hardly seem to have had a summer.



We had a great 'Hot Night Out Grand Finale' on Saturday 15 March 2014. 475 people attended to be greeted by an amazing décor (thanks to Clausens and the Theming sub-

committee), great entertainment provided by our band Special Edition, delectable food supplied by Hans (Executive Chef) and the St George's Hospital Food Services team and, thanks to the generosity of individuals and companies, an incredible selection of auction items donated for our live, mobile and table auctions.



With the assistance of our auctioneers (Jim Davis and Chris Kennedy), our very capable young helpers on the mobile boards, and great 'gentle persuasion' by the Committee members to encourage guests to bid on the table auction items, together with several generous donations received on the night, **we raised \$138,744.**

The organising committee, supported by Dawn Hinton and Tamara Bowers, put in many hours of work, which obviously paid off with the funds raised and the feedback we have received since the event. The night wouldn't have been as successful without the contributions made by our sponsors, suppliers, and companies providing product and services at, in some cases, significantly discounted rates – thank you for your support. Thanks also to our volunteers on the night who assisted with bar and food service and our sales table teams. All in all, a brilliant night and lots of fun!



The stereotactic body equipment is in place and you can read an update later in the newsletter.

We continue to show groups through the Cancer Care Centre. If you are a member of a group who would like to visit the Centre please contact me on 021 662 195 or Dawn Hinton on 375 6013 or 027 432 3371.

I hope you have a 'bug free' and hopefully mild winter.

**Cilla Glasson**  
Chair, Cancer Institute Trustees Limited and  
Fundraising Committee

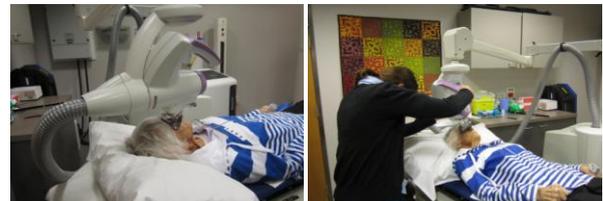
### Update on Stereotactic Treatment Programme

We have now purchased the **Elekta BodyFIX™** system as a first step in the introduction of our body stereotactic programme. Two staff have had the opportunity to attend a workshop in Australia and the team will continue to work through the quality procedures, technique development and documentation as we work towards the introduction of this service.



### Update on Superficial X-ray Treatment

We continue to provide this service to both public and private patients as the only provider in Christchurch. Superficial X-ray treatment is often used to treat skin cancers in areas that may be difficult for surgery eg eyelid. Below is a picture of a patient receiving treatment at the Centre. It only takes a couple of minutes and is a painless procedure. Treatments are usually given five days a week for between 2 and 6 weeks.



### Treatment Support Grants

The St George's Cancer Institute has provided assistance to 43 patients (total of \$132,142) in the last financial year (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014). The purpose of the Treatment Support Grant is to enable patients who might not otherwise be able to access timely or appropriate cancer treatment to receive their treatment at the St George's Cancer Care Centre.

The Institute has also recently received a generous donation from a grateful patient specifically targeted for patients requiring lymphoedema physiotherapy treatments. The donor was so impressed with the care she received from Mary Thomson, Lymphoedema Physiotherapist, that she wanted other patients, who could not afford this service, to receive the benefit of the specialised treatment.

### Psychosocial Services

Kathryn and Michelle, Clinical Psychologists continue to provide free assistance to patients and their families. Consultations and support to the value of \$105,579 has been provided and paid for by the St George's Cancer Institute in the last financial year.

**Staff Profile: Susan Sycamore,  
Chemotherapy Nurse**



Susan joined the St George's Cancer Care Centre in November 2013. Previously she worked as a practice nurse. She is really enjoying the change and challenges of working in the Cancer Care Centre. Susan says "the nursing team here are amazing and supportive" and she finds her new role truly rewarding.

**Redevelopment Update**

The site of the old heritage building is where two new buildings will be built in the near future. One will be a new atrium and will include the reception, admitting area and replacement chapel.

The other building will house two new treatment bunkers for our radiation treatment machines (linear accelerators).



The earthquakes unfortunately did more damage to the treatment bunkers than many people realise. They are safe however we do need to build new bunkers in the short term to mitigate risk that could result from more significant events.

Since January 2014, work started on a ground improvement/strengthening programme called deep soil mixing (DSM). The aim is to create a more uniform density of the soil underground and is achieved by drilling twelve meters into the ground and pumping grout (a cement based product) under pressure into the soil. The grout spreads through the soil and solidifies and creates structure. This work will be completed by the end of April.

Higgs Construction Limited has been awarded the contract to build Stage 1a (atrium building) and Stage 1b (the new bunkers). Subject to the appropriate building consents etc being obtained, work on site should commence in May 2014. It is anticipated that the buildings and connective corridors will be completed and ready for occupation by August 2015.

The significant task will then start to relocate the linear accelerators into the new building. This time may be a great opportunity to upgrade the linear accelerators so that they are capable of delivering cranial stereotactic services.

We look forward the opportunities the new building will offer.

**St George's Cancer Institute Newsletters**

We trust you find the regular updates on the St George's Cancer Care Centre and the fundraising activities of the St George's Cancer Institute interesting.

As previously advised, in an effort to reduce printing costs and improve distribution, you can receive future newsletters via email. **We may already have your email address in our database, however until you give us permission to send newsletters via email, we are legally unable to do so. We encourage you to add your name to our email distribution list - please advise details:**

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in the St George's Cancer Care Centre and your support of the St George's Cancer Institute.

If you no longer wish to receive future newsletters, please tick (✓) the box and advise your name.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return in the enclosed self addressed envelope or email dawn.hinton@stgeorges.org.nz advising you wish to be removed from the database. Thank you.

**DONATION CARD**

To support the St George's Cancer Institute, 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