

# Newsletter

## Volume 15 – March 2015

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



**ST GEORGE'S**  
CANCER INSTITUTE  
(Registered Charitable Trust)

### Greetings

March almost finished – where is the year going?

The Institute are actively fundraising this year to purchase an upgrade to enable stereotactic treatments for head and brain tumours. Planning is already underway to raise the funds for installation of the upgrade when the linear accelerators are relocated into the new bunkers from January 2016.

This upgrade will enable the linear accelerators to deliver a precise and a higher dose of radiation to tumours that would otherwise not be able to be treated.

Your continued support via donations enables the Cancer Institute to purchase technology improvements to provide greater opportunity for better cancer treatments and therefore keep up to date with the best equipment available is greatly appreciated.

A generous donor has made a number of donations tagged solely to assist cancer patients with physiotherapy for lymphoedema. This has been very gratefully received by patients with very successful outcomes.

The clinical psychology service, funded by the Cancer Institute, continues to be invaluable. All patients are offered an appointment within two weeks and there is no waiting list at present. The team consists of a senior clinical psychologist and a clinical psychologist.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and if you have any ideas of what else you would like included please let us know.

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.

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

### Five years on and proud of what we have achieved



The Cancer Care Centre has now been open for 5 years. During this time we have provided cancer treatment services, including oncologist consultations, chemotherapy, radiation treatment, physiotherapy, dietary and psychology consultations to over 3,500 patients.

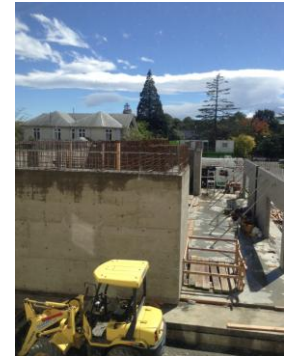
Over the next 5 years we will build on this and will continue to develop new services such as rehabilitation, stereotactic radiation treatments and delivery of more new chemotherapy regimes that are not always available through the public health system.



### Update on linear accelerator relocation

The earthquakes 4 years ago caused some damage in our radiation treatment area, such that we need to relocate our equipment. Luckily the damage was not bad enough to stop us using our facility in the meantime.

The rebuild is well underway and we are hoping to begin the relocation of our linear accelerators to their new home in November this year. During this process we will also be upgrading the equipment as part of our introduction of stereotactic radiation treatments.



### Fundraising event for the St George's Cancer Institute – 4 WD day out

About 40 vehicles took part in our 4WD trip on Sunday 29 March. Those of you who thought you might come but didn't, made the wrong choice! It was a very good trip. Some steep sections of track, both up and down, some gently rolling paddocks and a lengthy stretch of riverbed provided good variation. And there were sections of bush where the bell birds entertained us.

The weather was perfect and we had wonderful views of hills and mountains, and right over the Culverden basin. The riverbed also provided us with a great spot for lunch, provided by Blackwell Motors which was first class. One of the properties we crossed was, for a long time, owned by the Hiatt family who have a strong link to St George's Hospital. And it is interesting that a relation of the Hiatt's was on the trip.

I am very grateful to Blackwell Motors for their generosity of sponsorship and lunch, and to the landowners Jim Hartnell, Peter Allison, Graham Reed, and Richard Boyle for their cooperation and allowing us to use their properties. It is very pleasing to be able to add a few more dollars to the St George's Cancer Institute fundraising efforts.

**John Belcher**  
Organiser

### St George's Cancer Care Centre on world stage again

Our team have been asked to provide a training programme on VMAT advanced radiation planning techniques in Malaysia. Chris Wynne (Radiation Oncologist), David McKay (Principal Physicist) and Kathryn Neilson (RT Clinical Team Leader) will travel to Malaysia in April for a week to deliver this training. This is an exciting opportunity for our team and a great acknowledgement of the expertise we have in our Centre.

## Staff Profile

### Angela (Ange) Johnston, Booking Coordinator

Angela has been at the St George's Cancer Care Centre since we opened five years ago. Her main responsibilities involve coordinating the insurance approval and appointments for patients undergoing radiation treatment.



She also provides administrative support for our Clinical Nurse Manager, and coordinates our Nelson clinics.

Angela will often need to phone our patients several times to ensure everything is in place for them to start their treatment. This may involve liaising with the Cancer Society for accommodation and/or drivers and Oncology nurses in Nelson for our patients from that region.

Her desk is located around the corner behind reception but she makes the time to meet the patients when they do get here and I know they really appreciate putting a face to the name.

The key to the smooth running of our service always starts with a great administration team and we are fortunate to have Ange as part of that.

## GP education

We will be hosting a GP forum this year to educate and raise awareness about radiation treatment as an option for cancer patients. Whilst 1 in 2 patients diagnosed with cancer would benefit from radiation treatment of some kind only 1 in 3 actually receive it.



This awareness campaign is an initiative of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists – The Faculty of Radiation Oncology. More information can be found on their website.

## 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](mailto: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

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