



**Clifford
Craig**
Medical
Research Trust

Priceless



THE NEWS BULLETIN FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE CLIFFORD CRAIG MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST



Introducing Peter Milne as new Trust CEO



Peter Milne

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust is delighted to welcome Mr Peter Milne to the key position of Chief Executive Officer.

Chair of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust, Associate Professor Don McTaggart has announced Peter Milne as new CEO, following an extensive recruitment process earlier this year.

"We are optimistic and excited about the future for our

organisation and what we can achieve for the people of our community. Peter is a proven performer and recognised identity in Northern Tasmania for his work at Southern Cross Television and local community organisations".

"Peter comes to us from a media and marketing background - commencing his career at 7EX in 1976 followed by 21 years at Southern Cross Television culminating in a senior management role as Group Marketing Manager (Tasmania, Darwin and Central Australia)", Assoc Prof Don McTaggart said.

Peter has hit the ground running and has already commenced the process of developing relationships with our committees, individual supporters and research team.

"I am truly excited about this wonderful opportunity to lead one of Northern Tasmania's favourite charities because I know that the Trust is an important part of our social fabric and is unique. I've always had a strong sense of community and enjoy working as part of a team to help our people have a better life. That's what the Clifford Craig is all about", Peter said.

"The most important part of this transition for me is my passion for moving from the corporate world into a genuinely community-based organisation where my work will directly benefit the LGH and the people of the Northern Tasmanian community."

On behalf of the board, Assoc Prof Don McTaggart thanked outgoing CEO Michael Ferguson for two years of positive leadership and wished him well for the future.

"We are a bit sad that Michael is leaving us and accept that the time has come for him to pursue his passion for public office. All of us are most thankful for the strengthened financial and social position he has achieved for the Trust in just two years which is the result of many positive changes he has initiated and wish him success in his new pursuits", Assoc Prof McTaggart said.

Peter Milne took up the new post this month and looks forward to meeting all our supporters and business partners.

CLIFFORD CRAIG
MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST

PO Box 1963
Launceston
Tasmania 7250
T 03 6348 7010
F 03 6348 7905

E enquiries@cliffordcraig.org.au
www.cliffordcraig.org.au



Proudly assisting the Clifford
Craig Medical Research Trust

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For the Diary

Dorset Branch Annual Art Exhibition

This annual art exhibition is a favourite for locals and summer holiday makers alike. Featuring selected artists of the Dorset Municipality who were born, raised or now live in the area, including: John Gibb, Janet Cairns, Leonie Duff, Fay Ralph and Jenny Pixley. Craftsmen's work featuring pottery and woodwork. Hon Sue Napier will officially open the exhibition on 28 December at 2pm - entry for this event \$5.00

When: Monday 28 December to Saturday 2 January
Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm each day (closing 3pm Sat 2/1)
Venue: CWA Hall
Cost: Gold coin donation

Molliebanks open garden

When: January 9th and 10th 2010
Where: "Molliebanks" 619 Deviot Road, Deviot
Cost: \$6 entry (children free) with complimentary refreshments.
Time: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm both days
Phone: 6394 7363

Launceston Professional Breakfast Series

Especially for city professionals our breakfast series aims to inspire and help you perform at your peak. Advance notice of dates for 2010: 11 February, 8 April, 10 June, 12 August, 14 October and 9 December.

John Morris Society

The dates for JMS members' luncheons in 2010 are: 16 March, 20 July and 23 November. The John Morris Society is exclusively for supporters who have remembered the Trust in their Will. For more information, please contact the Trust office.



Lupus, lupins and the cabbage patch...

Molliebanks open garden with a special story

Lupus is a treatable, ongoing auto-immune illness which in some people can cause spontaneous blood clots which can lead to stroke, blindness, pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis. Avoiding a blood clot while pregnant is an extra challenge for female patients due to increased risk of miscarriage - and we are delighted to report that a friend of the Trust Mrs Sylvie Wylie, her husband John and son Caleb were joined by little Elspeth who was born in April this year.

Sylvie gives credit to her "wonderful haematologist" Assoc Prof Al Khalafallah who is based at the LGH and is a key member of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust research team. Together with Dr Murray Adams, one of Dr Al's current research topics is figuring out the blood clotting pathway in lupus. Discovering and sharing this new knowledge will assist doctors locally and around the world to manage this condition which will potentially help many people with this life-threatening form of lupus.

Now Sylvie's parents Colleen and George Wylie are opening up their garden on 9 and 10 January as part of the open garden scheme and have pledged all net proceeds will be donated to the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust.

Molliebanks is a modern, park-like garden in a commanding, one hectare setting. It features a lovely blend of natives and exotics; lawns graced with attractive trees, bordered by generous beds of bulbs; perennials and choice shrubs; large vegetable garden; road frontage fringed in Grevilleas, Proteas, Kangaroo Paws and Acacias. Full details are on this page.

Message from Michael



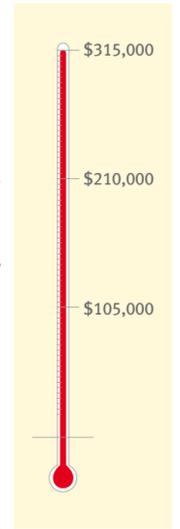
It is with some considerable sadness, together with plenty of satisfaction, that I leave the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust after two years as CEO. I have been so proud to have filled this role and to have enjoyed the wonderful support for my many initiatives and changes from the board led by Don McTaggart, our dedicated office team of Lisa Waters and Nataasha Jamieson and our countless supporters.

It is time to move on and I'm looking forward to pursuing my next challenge but look forward to staying in touch and maintaining my strong support for this wonderful organisation which I regard as a "Northern Treasure" - in whatever capacity I am able.

Highlights during my time have included the establishment of our largest-ever investment in medical research, reconfiguring our administration to be as cost-efficient as possible, building our public profile and being able to play a small role in the community response that saved the life of a special 4 year old girl called Sophie. It gives me particular pleasure to also say that, thanks to so many wonderful supporters, we have met our extraordinary appeal target of \$315,000 over three years to fund our treatable dementia study which is likely to reward our hopes for a better life for so many.

I know that all our loyal supporters will join my enthusiastic welcome to our new CEO, Peter Milne. We are all confident Peter will do a tremendous job and help navigate the Trust to the even brighter future it deserves on behalf of us all - building on the foundations laid by Toni Maloney, Phil Baker and myself. Good luck mate!

Thank you and God bless.
Michael Ferguson



Thank you to George Merridew and Don Hempton

The Trust says "thank you" and best wishes to Dr George Merridew and Dr Don Hempton who have completed their time on the board and both pledging their ongoing support for our mission.

Dr Merridew has served as a board member since 2005 and was recently elected as President of the Royal Flying Doctor Service - Tasmanian Section. Dr Hempton has served as a director since 2007 (in addition to an earlier directorship from 1994-97) and has also assisted the Trust greatly through his tireless effort as Chairman of the Launceston Friends committee.

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust continues to be successful because it is firmly grounded in the community and is supported by the efforts of many volunteers who serve on the board, our committees, regional branches and support groups.



The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust has modernised and updated its website with a focus on making more information available to the user with less mouse clicks and less searching.

Take a look at www.cliffordcraig.org.au to find out more about current news, upcoming events, past and current research projects. In the future it will even be possible to get more detail on research findings, published papers, images and videos.

Importantly, the site allows for a safe, secure facility for our supporters to make online donations.

We thank www.multimediaaction.com for giving us a website which exceeds our expectations and helps us to spread the word about our mission and focus on community-based medical research.

Yes, I would like to help the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust

- I would like to make a one-off donation of \$ _____
- I would like to have monthly donations of \$ _____ deducted from my credit card.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Please complete the following details:

Title/s: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other _____
 Given Name/s: _____
 Surname: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ Postcode: _____
 Telephone: () _____
 Email: _____

Please accept my donation/s in the form of:

- Cash Cheque/Money Order*

*Payable to the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust

OR Please debit my:

Visa Mastercard
 Credit Card No.: _____
 Expiry Date: / _____
 Name on card: _____
 Signature: _____

Please send me information on remembering the Trust in my Will.

Please send me information on making an annual gift using your courtesy reminder service.

Please apply my gift to the North West Medical Research Fund.

Thank you for your support.

Please post to:
CLIFFORD CRAIG
MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST
PO Box 1963
Launceston
Tasmania 7250



2010 Medical Research Program in Northern Tasmania unveiled

Undergraduate medical student awarded research grant for the first time.

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust has announced its 2010 research programme – consisting of four exciting projects with realistic prospects for increasing knowledge and improving the treatment of disease. The three new projects are being fully funded by the Trust to the value of \$47,323 and add to the \$315,000 recently announced for Assoc Prof Razay's research into treatable dementia.

The funding was announced by the Trust's chairman, Associate Professor Don McTaggart, following a rigorous assessment and selection process.

"In light of our record investment in research into treatable dementia, it is wonderful to be able to support even more new initiatives which involve very important illnesses. We know that we are investing in research which is well designed, incredibly cost-effective and will directly target diseases which make up a large share of Australia's disease burden", Assoc Prof McTaggart said.



The new research programme will look for answers to some important medical mysteries relating to many diseases, including: diabetes, Barrett's oesophagus and falls due to unsteady balance.

In an innovation for Launceston, for the first time the Trust has awarded \$8,800 for a Tasmanian undergraduate medical student (Zhen Sheng Lim, 6th year medical student) under the instruction of chief investigator Assoc Prof Shan Rajendra. The aim is to support students who have an interest in following their research interests. This project has been generously sponsored by KPMG Launceston.

Donors to the Trust can be assured that their contribution has made possible important investigations which would not otherwise have happened and which reinforce Northern Tasmania's strong reputation for world-class medical research.

Our mission, which is superbly supported by our community, is to ensure that Northern Tasmanians receive all the benefits of modern medical research - and we are achieving that - thanks to the generosity of our many supporters who themselves deserve the credit for our many achievements.

Volunteer effort and community goodwill: the lifeblood of a healthy charitable organisation

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust continues to be successful because it is firmly grounded in the community and is supported by the efforts of many volunteers who serve on the board, our committees, regional branches and support groups.

The board is comprised as follows:

Assoc Prof Don McTaggart	- Chairman
Dr John Morris	- Vice Chairman
Mr Tom O'Meara	- Vice Chairman
Mrs Jill Dearing	- Company Secretary
Mr Geoff Arnott	- Director
Prof Madeleine Ball	- Director
Mr Ken Bassett	- Director
Mr John Lord	- Director
Mr Michael Roberts	- Director
Mr Ian Routley	- Director

The Trust has a special support network which keeps us close to the local community – all of which are always ready to welcome new members. These groups may be reached by contacting their respective chairmen care of the Trust office:

Launceston Friends –	AGM held in December
Dorset Branch –	Chairman Mr Alec Purves; Vice chairman Ms Jenny Sattler
Devonport Branch –	Chairman Miss Merle Wells; Secretary Mrs Marlene Chequer
North West Medical Research Fund –	Chairman Mr Peter Mancell
B4X, our Baby Boomers' Group –	Convenor Mr Grant Pryor
John Morris Society, our bequest society –	Chairman Dr Mike Monsour

These questions demand answers!

Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust's 2010 Research Program

- **How prevalent is treatable dementia and can a reliable new diagnostic test be developed?**

Associate Professor George Razay and his research team at the Launceston General Hospital will investigate the prevalence and early diagnosis of a treatable form of dementia – normal pressure hydrocephalus.

Importantly, this 3-year research project aims to develop better methods for diagnosing the condition through the assessment and treatment of 400 older Tasmanians with memory problems.

The total cost of this research is \$315,000 over three years.
- **Does the beneficial effect of chilli extend to diabetes?**

The incidence of type-2 diabetes is increasing in Australia, and Tasmania has a particularly high prevalence. Previous research has shown that chilli, a commonly used spice, helps in improving blood glucose as well as insulin levels in generally healthy humans.

Professor Madeleine Ball aims to extend this work in type-2 diabetics to assess if the beneficial effects of chilli are also present or perhaps enhanced in type-2 diabetics. The cost of this research is \$19,543.
- **Does balance vary with the seasons in older Tasmanians and what are the influences and effects?**

Marie-Louise Bird will undertake a research project that aims to determine (a) if there are seasonal variations in balance which may contribute to the increased fall rates that have been observed during winter and (b) the association of physical activity and vitamin D levels to balance measurements. The cost of this research is \$18,980.
- **The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust has awarded its first-ever undergraduate student research grant for research to be undertaken by Launceston Clinical Student Mr Zhen Sheng Lim under the oversight of Chief Investigator Associate Professor Shan Rajendra.**

This project could possibly identify shifts in the immune system (Human Leucocyte Antigen HLA expression) that can be used as an early surveillance marker for malignant changes from Barrett's oesophagus to Barrett's dysplasia to Barrett's cancer.

The cost of this research is \$8,800 funded by sponsorship from KPMG Launceston.





Earlier this year, enterprising and community-minded local couple Stuart Ralph and Julia Carey had an inspired idea to run a major fund-raising event in honour of Stuart's late father, Mr Simon Ralph. Sadly, Simon passed away in 2008 after being diagnosed with prostate cancer and is sorely missed by his loved ones.

Stuart and Julia worked hard to develop the idea into *Simon's Prostate Cancer Ball*, formed a volunteer committee and engaged the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust and the Cancer Council as the worthy recipients of the proceeds from the event. It was a wonderful, inspired night at the Albert Hall and featured both

Kevin Sheedy and Dr Harry Cooper who both made a huge impact on all present.

The Trust has applied the \$13,000 to its current research into prostate cancer, which is now nearing completion. Dr Jennifer Scott is working to determine the best ways to provide psychological support to Tasmanian men diagnosed with prostate cancer and their loved ones. This project is and will continue to benefit men and their families across the state.

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust was founded by people with conviction and concern just like Stuart and Julia. We are so incredibly grateful to them both and the organising committee for their dedication to the cause of medical research because it will help current and future generations of Tasmanians to live longer, happier lives. The Prostate Cancer research project is very important to us and the fundraising will greatly assist us in financing our goals in 2009."

Northern Tasmania's princess: One year on from major, life-saving surgery and Sophie is going strong!

Sophie Hart stole the hearts of many people and local community groups in Northern Tasmania just prior to Christmas in 2008 with news that Sophie required immediate brain surgery. A community appeal was launched by the family with the support of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust. One year on, and Sophie's family would like to report that she is now a happy, healthy and lively 5 year old who loves going to school! In her own words, Lisa Hart says:

Sophie Hart is a living miracle and her family wish to share their gratitude by sharing their joyful story that miracles do happen.

This time last year my family and I were faced with the reality that we needed a miracle. To save Sophie, we needed to raise \$55,000 in 4 days so that the only willing surgeon Dr Charlie Teo could operate to remove her brain tumour.

A community appeal was launched with the support of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust. Sophie's story stole the hearts of many individuals, businesses and community groups in Northern Tasmania. With generous donations and support Sophie received her life saving surgery on 27th Dec 2008.

One year on – I am now sure that Sophie is proof that miracles do happen. Not only did the needed funds appear within days, she has amazed medical specialists. Sophie has defied the odds to survive the major surgery without any lasting effects to her memory or intellect and has also shown unbelievable progress during her recovery. Sophie now is a happy 5-year-old who enjoys many activities – not least of which is going to school where she really enjoys interacting with the other children.

In fact I'm sure that Sophie's story is to remind us all to believe in the power of love, determination, courage and hope. Our deepest gratitude to you all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy, safe New Year.

Lisa Hart and Family.



There are many ways you can support Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust

Have you ever thought, "My gift won't make much difference"? If the answer is "yes", then let us pleasantly surprise you.

Your gift, however small or large, is important and valued by the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust.

There are many ways you can show your support for the Trust, which will allow us to invest much-needed funds for medical research here in our region.

- One-off donation to our research fund.
- Monthly donation by credit card payment.
- Promise to give a "recurring gift" through regular instalments (eg \$1,000 per year) using our courtesy reminder service.
- Special appeal, allowing large gifts to fund specific new projects.
- Giving to one of our designated funds: North West Medical Research Fund; cancer research; heart research; child health research; gerontology research; or kidney research.
- Your Bequest, allowing your gift to be provided for in your Will. At the Trust we handle gifts by bequest with special sensitivity and show our gratitude by offering complimentary membership to the *John Morris Society* which meets for occasional luncheons in Launceston.

Remember, because our work is recognised by the Commonwealth Government, your gift is fully tax deductible.

Please consider what gift you can make, return the reply form in the envelope provided and allow us to contact you to express our appreciation for your generosity.

Thank you.

