

Priceless



**Clifford
Craig**
Medical
Research Trust

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

A Moment with Our First Executive Officer

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust was established in 1992 and in May of that year Toni Maloney commenced as the first paid employee of this new organisation, which over the next 18 years would develop into the highly regarded medical research institution that serves Northern Tasmania today.

Toni, Tasmanian Secretary of the Year in 1978, was identified by her employer and then CEO of the Launceston General Hospital and Northern Regional Health Board, Greg Bussell, as an ideal candidate to lead the Trust in its initial years and fortunately the Board agreed. "I was based on the 5th floor of the old LGH and we virtually started with nothing. Our first computer was donated by local business Computerland," Toni said.

She recalls that it was a period of her life which she found both exciting and hard work. "In order for the Trust to be given the green light to proceed we needed to attract committed funds of \$1 million within three months. We had some very dedicated supporters, including Dr John Morris, Roelf Vos, Ros O'Connor and Anne O'Byrne, who worked tirelessly to encourage business and community groups to commit to a financial pledge over five years. Monthly dinners were held in the LGH cafeteria whereby potential supporters were invited to attend. Once we had established an operating fund our initial research project was related to lung cancer and conducted by Dr Zahid Ansari".

Whilst the Trust is now a highly recognised Northern Tasmanian organisation, a lot of work was initially dedicated to establishing public



Toni Maloney, the first Executive Officer of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust

understanding and enthusiasm for a medical research facility in the local community. Toni and her team of volunteers would travel throughout the region talking to numerous community groups and service clubs, of which many are still supporters today. Toni said "We were fortunate to have very good support from Launceston public relations consultant, Neville Sice, who helped with our communications and he also helped design our logo".

Toni was Executive Officer for nearly three years until her retirement, however she has maintained her involvement with the Trust through the various support groups, including the Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig.

Current CEO Peter Milne added that Toni has been a wonderful contributor to the Trust and she, and husband Gerard, continue to be passionate supporters of our activities.

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MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST

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Research Week Presentations



Researchers David Koh, Steve Tristram and Dr Murray Adams with Trust CEO Peter Milne

Medical Research Week was celebrated across Australia from 3-11 June with a series of events and educational conferences and seminars.

As part of the activities the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust organised for three of their funded researchers to present their work to the weekly Grand Round Lecture for medical, nursing and allied health staff at the Launceston General Hospital. The three speakers were Dr Murray Adams, Steve Tristram and David Koh.

Murray Adams spoke about his interesting research with Dr Al Khalafallah into how the major blood clotting pathway is affected in Lupus patients. This research is jointly funded by Clifford Craig and the Lupus Association of Tasmania.

Steve Tristram presented his research into the mechanisms of antibiotic resistance. Steve has received a number of Clifford Craig grants to support this exciting and relevant research.

David Koh is an intensive care nurse and studying for a PhD on a scholarship that is partly funded by the Trust. He is researching issues of bacterial colonisation in catheters that are placed into veins to deliver fluids and drugs.

John Morris Society

Making a bequest to the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust is a wonderful way to ensure that your contribution to the community continues to benefit future generations. Should you wish to make provision in your Will or if you have already done so, the Trust would love to hear from you so that you can be acknowledged in ways that you feel appropriate.

The *John Morris Society*, named in honour of our inaugural Chairman Dr John Morris, was established to enable us to acknowledge this very special group of people who have acted in a like-minded manner by naming the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust in their Will.

We like to say "thank you" to our JMS Members by holding three luncheons per year, which are sponsored and no cost to members. We invite a guest speaker to ensure they are an interesting and fun occasion.

Please contact our CEO Peter Milne if you would like further information about leaving a bequest to the Trust.



New Corporate Supporter

The good work of the Trust has received some welcome corporate support from Peppers Calstock at Deloraine.

A magnificent boutique accommodation retreat which also provides corporate facilities, Peppers Calstock have provided a 12 month commitment of support to the Trust and the Save the Tassie Devil Fund. This will include 10% commission for accommodation, conferences, functions or weddings nominating the Trust as the recipient of the donation.

Thank you Peppers Calstock.



We're all about you

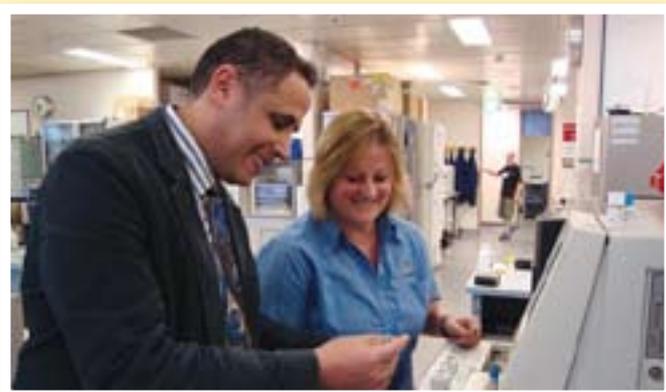


Prestigious Publication for Pregnancy Research

A study funded by the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust has recently been published in the prestigious *Journal of Internal Medicine*. The study was conducted at the Launceston General Hospital by Consultant Haematologist Associate Professor Al Khalafallah and Head of the Obstetrics Department, Dr Amanda Dennis, where they studied the important issue of how best to treat anaemia in pregnancy.

Over a two year period, 2654 pregnant women were screened and approximately 20% were found to have an iron deficiency. The trial then recruited 200 iron deficient pregnant women who were assigned to receive two different treatments of either iron tablets or an intravenous infusion of iron, plus iron tablets.

Measures of iron status just prior to delivery were significantly higher (improved) in those who received the single additional dose of intravenous iron. Oral iron alone did improve haemoglobin but many still had poor iron stores. The addition of intravenous iron provided a much greater benefit as the haemoglobin levels were higher and the iron stores were significantly improved.



Assoc Prof Al Khalafallah and research nurse Dawn Richardson

Considered the largest study worldwide to address the issue of iron deficiency during pregnancy, it highlighted a common health issue which affects both pregnant and non-pregnant populations and is often overlooked by health professionals. Furthermore, it offers a simple and effective solution to an often chronic and debilitating condition.

This research will certainly open doors for other researchers to design further trials that specifically address the efficiency and safety profile of different iron preparations in pregnant and non-pregnant women.

Art Exhibition Raises Funds for Research



Margaret Moore and Janet Knowles view the Exhibition

The Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig recently held a successful Art Exhibition to raise funds for medical research.

Held in the foyer of the WB Booth Centre at the Launceston General Hospital, the Exhibition ran for a week during May and displayed 36 pieces of work by local artists in a variety of mediums including acrylic, pastel, watercolour, oils and pencil. A steady flow of visitors to the hospital viewed the exhibition which created much interest amongst staff, patients and the general public.

The Art Exhibition was opened by the Chairman of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust, Associate Professor Don McTaggart, at a Cocktail Party which was attended by approximately 100 people. A special feature of the opening of the exhibition was the unveiling of a portrait of Dr Clifford Craig by Evandale artist Elizabeth Florence. The portrait was unveiled by Dr Craig's daughter, Jane.

The Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig are a volunteer group who organise a range of fundraising activities during the year.

Generosity from George Town

The George Town community has been very supportive of the Trust in recent months with two generous gifts being provided to support our medical research activities.

The Lions Club of George Town conducted a Country Music Concert at the George Town Memorial Hall on 8th April and the proceeds were generously donated by the Club. Secretary Dorothy Sweet said the concert was a success and the Lions Club was delighted to contribute the proceeds to fund medical research into Alzheimer's Disease following an earlier talk to the Club by Associate Professor George Razay.

In another display of generosity from the George Town community, three special ladies have donated the earnings from their unique fundraising activity. Annette Bryan, Shirley Mills and Lorraine Widdowson collect aluminium cans from the roadside during their daily walks and sell the aluminium in order to donate the proceeds to local charities.

The three ladies began collecting several years ago and have turned their daily exercise activity into a most worthy activity for the community.

They recently cashed in several trailer loads of crushed aluminium cans which were collected over a 2 1/2 year period and donated \$1300 to the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust.

This is the second such contribution from Annette, Shirley and Lorraine as they donated their aluminium earnings to the Trust in 2008.



The enterprising Cans for Cancer ladies present CEO Peter Milne with funds raised from aluminium recycling.

Blackout Doesn't Dampen Success

The recent Rainbow Ball in Burnie didn't let a power blackout impact on the success of the annual event for the North West Medical Research Fund.

Despite being cut short by two hours, the charity ball still raised more than \$40,000 with the main auction being held in semi darkness with emergency lighting.

Event Chairman Peter Mancell said the unexpected evacuation of the venue was disappointing but everyone remained in good humour and showed wonderful understanding.

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 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.

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



Message from the Chief Executive Officer



The onset of winter has well and truly arrived in Tasmania with much colder weather and less daylight. However I can assure you the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust has not gone into hibernation due to the change of seasons.

We currently have 18 active research projects consisting of studies into respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, lung infections, Barrett's oesophagus and anaemia in pregnancy. Among these are the five new projects which commenced this year: diagnosis of treatable dementia, the effect of chilli intake on plasma glucose, insulin and vascular function in type 2 diabetics, seasonal balance variances on older Tasmanians, and our first ever KPMG Student Project which is studying possible identity shifts in the immune system which could be used for early diagnosis of Barrett's oesophagus.

At the present time our Scientific and Research Committee is working through the many medical research grant applications we have received for funding in 2011. This is always a difficult process as the number of applications for quality research projects will regularly exceed the funding limitations of the annual grant round. The closing date for applications occurred in early June and the successful recipients will be announced in November.

It has been a busy and exciting period for our small administration team whereby Nataasha Jamieson and her husband Richard welcomed a new son Finlay in early April. Our executive assistant Lisa Waters has ensured the smooth running of our office during Nataasha's maternity leave and we have certainly appreciated her dedication and loyalty.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all those who have kindly supported our recent fundraising activities. We are extremely grateful for the donations we receive as we rely heavily on the generosity of the community to fund our research projects and continue the on-going vision to provide a quality medical research institution which focuses on the health needs of the people of our region.

Peter Milne

For the Diary

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: August 12, October 14 and December 9.

Devonport Friends of Clifford Craig – Garage Sale

When: Saturday 24th July 2010
Where: 1 Greenway Avenue, Devonport
Time: 7:30 am – 1:00 pm
Enquiries: 6424 5187

Clifford Craig Spring Ball

When: Friday 15th October 2010
Where: Hotel Grand Chancellor

John Morris Society

The dates for our JMS Members' Luncheons are 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.

Run For Your Heart

When: Sunday 5th September 2010

Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig Melbourne Cup Luncheon

When: Tuesday 2nd November 2010

Corporate Supporters

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust would like to thank the following companies for their recent generous corporate donations or support.

Fullers Bookshop
Phil Hughes Office Supplies
KPMG
Finance Brokers of Tasmania
WHK Garrotts
Southern Cross Television
Examiner Newspaper
at+m integrated marketing
Peak Computers
Tamar Valley Rose Shop
Andrew Cameron Accounting
Hotel Grand Chancellor
Store It Safe
Winflo Curtains

Peter Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has been established by the Division of Surgery at the Launceston General Hospital to honour the memory of Professor Peter Hewitt, who was an eminent and highly respected surgeon until his passing in 2008.

The *Peter Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Fund* will be administered by the Trust and is intended to ultimately provide support for either a current or former under graduate student or resident medical officer of the Launceston General Hospital and Launceston Clinical School to undertake elective studies at a centre for major trauma.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund can find further information on our website www.cliffordcraig.org.au

Last Chance to Purchase

Time is running out for anyone wishing to purchase the 2010-2011 *Tasmania Entertainment Book* from the Trust office.

The *Entertainment Book* is a local restaurant and activity guide providing hundreds of 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the best restaurants, cafés, attractions, theatres and accommodation.

Better still, it only costs \$55, with \$11 from each book sold going to the Trust.

For more information on what's offered in the book and how you can purchase your copy please visit our website www.cliffordcraig.org.au or contact the Trust office.

