

Priceless



**Clifford
Craig**
Medical
Research Trust

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

Dr Clifford Craig Inducted into the Hall of Fame

Dr Clifford Craig's impressive contribution to Launceston's medical community has been recognised at this year's Australia Day awards, which saw his induction into the Launceston City Council's Hall of Fame. Mayor Albert van Zetten said "Dr Craig, who died in 1986, had been instrumental in ensuring the success of the Launceston General Hospital as a regional medical and teaching centre".

It was obviously a proud achievement for the family, Dr Clifford Craig's daughter Jane was in attendance as the Hall of Fame presentation was accepted by his son, Warren Craig who came from Victoria to accept the award on behalf of his family.

Previous recipients include the first Editor of the Examiner, John West; Dame Marjorie Parker; Samuel Sutton and Alexander Lithgow.

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust was strongly represented at the various Australia Day Awards. Trust Director, Mr Ken Bassett, received a Citizen Award for his outstanding service for more than 25 years to numerous community groups in a voluntary capacity. Alec Purves, Chairman of Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust Dorset Branch, was recognised with an OAM for his contribution to the Australian aquaculture industry as the founder of Tasmania's first commercial aquaculture venture, Sevrup Industries. Sandra French, volunteer on our North West Committee, received an Order of Australia Member for her service to local government.



Warren Craig receives the Hall of Fame presentation from The Governor of Tasmania, Peter Underwood, and Mayor of Launceston, Albert Van Zetten

Dr Clifford Craig (1896 – 1986)

1896	Born Box Hill, son of Walter J Craig (doctor)
1919 – 1924	Studied Medicine at the University of Melbourne
1926	Appointed Surgeon-Superintendent Launceston General Hospital
1932 – 1941	Honorary Surgeon Launceston General Hospital
1951	Resigned as Director of Surgery, giving up surgical practice due to a soap allergy affecting his hands
1953 – 1966	President Medical Council of Tasmania
1956	Appointed to Board of Management Launceston General Hospital
1961	Honorary Consultant Radiologist Launceston General Hospital
1963	President National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)
1971 – 1973	President Australian Cancer Society
1977	Retired from medical practice
1986	Dr Clifford Craig died 5 September

CLIFFORD CRAIG
MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST

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Research Update: Immune Cells in a Sick Environment



Assoc Prof Dominic Geraghty with Bachelor of Biomedical Science Honours Candidate, Yvette Shegog and Dr Murray Adams

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a debilitating and eventually fatal disorder unless a successful transplant can be performed. In addition to problems with blood pressure control, the immune system, which fights infection, is severely impaired in CKD patients.

A project funded by the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust is investigating a hypothesis, which if proved correct, could improve the immune function of people with CKD. The study is being undertaken by Assoc Prof Dominic Geraghty, Dr Murray Adams, Prof Rob Fassett, Assoc Prof Jeff Coombes and Bachelor of Biomedical Science Honours Candidate, Yvette Shegog.

The aim of the proposed study is to investigate whether a novel protein (TRPV1), that causes cells to die, may be responsible for impaired immune cell function and reduced immune cell numbers in CKD. To do this, 120 participants will be involved in the study whereby immune cells will be obtained from three groups: - (a) volunteers without CKD, (b) CKD patients not yet requiring dialysis and (c) CKD patients on dialysis.

If altered TRPV1 levels are found to contribute to impaired immune function in CKD patients, it may be possible to use medicines to block the action of TRPV1 and improve the quality of life of these chronically ill people.

An additional benefit from the study is that it further strengthens the ongoing research collaboration between the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust, the University of Tasmania and the Launceston General Hospital through the Renal Unit and the Pathology Department.

Meet the Dorset Friends

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust is extremely fortunate to have passionate support groups who generously work throughout the year to raise much needed funds for our medical research activities.

One such group is the Dorset branch which was formed in 1992 as a founding member of the Trust. The original chairman of the Dorset branch was Stewart Ferguson, who helped establish a committee to start fundraising throughout the North East Tasmania district.

The Dorset branch continues to be very active in 2010 and has an enthusiastic committee under the chairmanship of Alec Purves. They have already held two events this year: the Annual Art Show at Bridport in early January which featured artists who were born and bred in the Dorset municipality, and a very successful Cocktail Party at Cafe Rahra, Bridport in early February.

Anyone who is interested in joining one of our support groups in Dorset, Launceston, Devonport or Burnie please contact the Trust office.



The hardworking Dorset committee with board members Dr Morris and Ken Bassett

Thank You BBQ Sponsors

A big thank you to the sponsors of our January barbeque promotion, Australia's Biggest Barbeque.



The generous corporate support of Harvey Norman, IGA Supermarkets, Southern Cross Television, Woolworths and The Examiner Newspaper was certainly appreciated and ensured a successful fundraiser.

All the registrants for Australia's Biggest BBQ were placed into a draw for a magnificent Beefeater BBQ from Harvey Norman and the lucky winner was the East Devonport Fellowship Group.

This was just the second year of the BBQ promotion and we are hoping that it will steadily grow in popularity each year. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Medical Students Given the Opportunity to Undertake Research

Evolving and growing as a research trust, whilst maintaining the vision and ethos of our Founding Members is an integral key to the success of the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust. Attracting specialist clinicians and supporting the Launceston General Hospital as a teaching hospital, whilst providing the opportunity for effective medical research in Northern Tasmania, were the main ingredients that led to the establishment of this organisation in 1992.

We are proud to announce an initiative which is both a step forward and a reinforcement of our foundation. Our provision of a \$5,000 grant to the Launceston Clinical School has enabled two promising young medical students to undertake an Honours Program within the Launceston General Hospital. The Honours Program, which is taken between the medical student's 3rd and 4th year, enables students to graduate with a research qualification (Bachelor of Medical Science) in addition to the basic medical degree, whilst instilling and nurturing a desire for research.

Carli Armstrong and Jessica Kawa are the successful recipients of our \$5000 grant and are currently taking one year from their medical studies at the University of Tasmania in Hobart to join us in our research centre. Carli and Jessica are assisting in establishing a Tasmanian Branch of the National Genetic Heart Registry. Our Chairman, Professor Don McTaggart, Cardiologist, is overseeing the project and Dr Kath Ogden, from the Launceston Clinical School and General Practitioner, is supervising on a day to day basis. A requirement of the Honours Program is that students identify a clinical question that needs answering so Carli and Jessica have each designed a cardiology

research proposal, based around and complimenting their collecting of data for the National Genetic Heart Registry.

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust, the Launceston Clinical School and the University of Tasmania

School of Medicine are encouraging research among medical students studying in Launceston through this initiative. Jessica and Carli will have the opportunity to complete their final two years at the Launceston Clinical School where they will have access to further research opportunities.

Dr Kath Ogden notes *The Launceston Clinical School has a strong philosophy of promoting research activity amongst its students and the honours program is one way that we are able to do this. In addition we have students who are willing to be involved in research to a lesser extent while continuing their medical studies. We already have a number of students working with Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust funded researchers and hope to continue to expand these opportunities in the future. Collaboration between CCMRT, LGH and the University of Tasmania can only serve to increase research capacity in Northern Tasmania by integrating research, clinical and educational capability.*



Carli Armstrong and Jessica Kawa discuss the project with Dr Kath Ogden, from the Launceston Clinical School

Tasmanian Researchers on the World Stage

Two of our leading Northern Tasmanian researchers have been invited to present their work at major international conferences.

Associate Professors George Razay and Shan Rajendra are both undertaking potentially ground-breaking research projects which are being funded by the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust. Well recognised for his research into treatable dementia, Associate Professor George Razay will be presenting his work at the 2010 World Congress of Internal Medicine in Melbourne.

Associate Professor Shan Rajendra, who is undertaking research into oesophageal cancer, has been asked to speak at the 2010 Asia Pacific Digestive Week in Kuala Lumpur where he will also share a session with Professor Prateek Sharma, from the United States, who is recognised internationally for his research interests in upper gastrointestinal diseases.



Australian Open Garden Scheme

One of the great things about working for a charity is experiencing the generosity of our local community. This generosity arises in a variety of ways through donations, bequests, volunteer committees, support at functions/ events and fundraising initiatives.

In recent months we have benefited from two families who have held an open garden to raise funds for the Trust.

With a band of enthusiastic helpers, in less than favourable weather, Heather and Charles Eleveld opened their beautiful 1.5 hectare garden near Grindlewald, "Brae-meer", to the public. The chance to marvel at their magnificent garden was also enriched with the opportunity to enjoy some home-made morning or afternoon tea.

Heather and Charles organised sponsorship from local businesses and rallied friends and family resulting in a successful fundraiser and an enjoyable day for all involved. Heather presented the Trust with a cheque close to \$3,000 to be directed towards cancer research.

A fabulous effort!

As featured in our September Newsletter, George and Colleen Wylie also opened up their garden, "Molliebanks", for a weekend in January this year. They provided complimentary refreshments and allowed guests to enjoy their modern, one hectare, park like garden in Deviot Road and also raised a welcome donation for medical research.



Heather and Charles with their hardworking crew at the "Brae-meer" Open Garden

On behalf of the Trust and our dedicated research team, we would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to Charles and Heather and George and Colleen.

Annual Rainbow Ball

The North West Medical Research Fund's annual Rainbow Ball will be held on Saturday 22nd May, 2010 at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre.

This event is always a special evening which attracts a capacity crowd each year.

The North West Medical Research Fund was established to specifically raise funds for medical research projects that benefit the north west community.

Chairman Peter Mancell and committee are putting together an exciting event this year and for bookings contact Carla Townsend on 0427 999 696.

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.

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



This year marks the 18th year since the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust was founded in 1992. Since commencing as CEO in November last year I have taken the opportunity to research the history of the Trust and I simply marvel at the visionaries who established this wonderful organisation.

The original objectives for the Trust were to (a) raise funds for medical research into Northern Tasmanian health issues, (b) support our local hospital as a major teaching hospital, (c) forge strong bonds between the hospital, the community, and the northern campus of the University of Tasmania, and (d) provide funds to improve and develop the skills of our hospital staff.

All these objectives have since been met and in 2010 we can be proud that a community initiative has developed into the establishment of a quality medical research organisation that is unique in a regional community. Furthermore, there would be many regional hospitals across Australia who would welcome a Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust.

In 18 years we have attained some significant medical research achievements and I am pleased to report that our research program for 2010 is well and truly on track. We currently have 20 active projects underway which are looking for answers into many diseases of concern to our community. These include chronic kidney disease, diabetes, dementia, Barrett's dysplasia, cardiovascular disease, cystic fibrosis, middle age lung health and anaemia in pregnancy.

We are extremely proud that the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust can provide funding for medical research which, as you can see, supports the original benefits that our founders were seeking when they formed the Trust.

I look forward to ensuring this vision continues into the future.

Peter Milne

Entertainment Books Available

The 2010-2011 *Tasmania Entertainment Book* is now available as a valuable fundraiser through the Trust.

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.



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: 22 April, 10 June, 12 August, 14 October and 9 December.

Devonport Friends of Clifford Craig – Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

When: Friday 23rd April 2010
Where: Pinegrove Refreshment Lounge,
163 Steele Street, Devonport
Cost: \$10 per head
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Enquiries: 6424 5187

Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig – Art Exhibition

The Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig Art Show in the WD Booth Centre, Level 5, Launceston General Hospital, commencing with a Cocktail Party on Friday 14th May.

Cocktail Party

When: Friday 14th May 2010
Where: Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust,
WD Booth Centre, Level 5, LGH
Cost: Single \$15 Double \$25
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
RSVP: To Vicki Beresford – 6326 3318 by 10th May

Viewing

When: From 17th – 21st May 2010
Where: Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust,
WD Booth Centre, Level 5, LGH
Cost: Gold Coin Donation
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
Contact: Vicki Beresford – 6326 3318

Rainbow Ball, Burnie

The North West Research Fund's Annual Ball

When: Saturday 22nd May 2010
Where: Burnie Arts and Function Centre
Bookings: Carla on 0427 999 696

Dare Shott Lecture

Guest Speaker: Dr Helen Zorbas, Executive Director, National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre

When: Monday 21st June 2010
Where: Lecture Theatre, Level 2, Launceston General Hospital
Cost: Gold Coin Donation
Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
RSVP: To the Trust Office – 6348 7010

Neil Gollan Lecture

When: Tuesday 22nd June 2010
Time: 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig – Soup, Sandwich and Slice Luncheon

When: Thursday 17th June 2010
Where: Australian Italian Club, Prospect Vale
Cost: \$12.00 per head
Time: 12 noon for 12:30 pm
RSVP: To Vicki Beresford – 6326 3318

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 Sunday 5th September 2010

Professional Breakfast Series Attracts a Big Audience

A capacity audience began their day early on Thursday 4th March for the beginning of the 2010 Professional Breakfast Series.



The first function, sponsored by Women Tasmania, celebrated International Women's Day. The guest speaker was Southern Cross Nightly News presenter and former Miss Australia, Jo Palmer, who delivered an inspirational and personal account of her life and family which was warmly received by all those in attendance.

The next breakfast will be on **Thursday 22nd April** and features a guest speaker who was born with Cerebral Palsy but has not let adversity stand in his way. Sean Grima has a wonderful story to tell about his challenges and many achievements.

Make sure you secure your advance bookings by visiting our website at: www.cliffordcraig.org.au

The Breakfast Series is run by the Trust to provide our local business and community professionals with the opportunity to hear from a first class range of speakers including visiting authors and high achieving Tasmanians.