



# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

### All members and friends invited

**Date:** TUESDAY MARCH 20th 2007  
**Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Venue:** The Cancer Council of Tasmania Offices, 184 Collins Street Hobart.

**Agenda:**  
Apologies  
Confirmation of previous AGM minutes  
Election of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer & Committee for 2007 (Nomination form included in Newsletter)  
General Business

### OFFICE BEARERS

President Leigh Saltmarsh  
Vice President Norm Deane  
Secretary Deirdre Tuck  
Treasurer Scott Thomson

Committee  
D. Asten, G. Woods, A. Piaszczyk, A. Ogilvie,  
S. Wright, K. Marsden, I. Napier  
Executive Officer Graeme Petterd

Telephone 1300 728 533

### THE PRESIDENT'S BIT

2006 has come & gone. To many of us it is just a blur. From the Foundation's point of view it was a good year. We provided over \$87,000 to researchers, professional development scholarships, medical equipment and patient support. This would not have occurred without the generous support of our members, business houses and the general public. Recent events have seen our profile increased in the community giving us a positive outlook for the future. Our AGM will be held at 7.30pm on 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Cancer Council in Hobart. Our

Annual Report will be presented and I invite as many of you as possible to attend. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting or by request from our Executive Officer. Ph 1300 728 533. Thank you for your continued support.

Leigh Saltmarsh **President**

### CHRISTMAS 2006 RAFFLE

Our raffle has been run and won. The winners were-

- 1st Prize Gaye Smith of New Norfolk,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Haillee & Nicola Rose Bridgewater,
- 3rd Prize Ellen Noye Carlton Beach.

We sold our compliment of 7,000 tickets and raised over \$14,400. **Thank you** to Mike Reid and his wife Marie for donating the Cubby House. We also acknowledge everyone who donated prizes, sponsorship and their valuable time to sell tickets. As well as monetary value we gain much positive publicity from the raffle so we planning to do it again this year.

### RESEARCH GRANTS 2007

Research Grants for 2007 were announced in conjunction with the Cancer Council of Tasmania Grants Presentations in Hobart in February 07.

The DCLF awarded two Research Grants at the function. \$25,000 to Dr Adele Holloway and \$25,000 to Dr Jo Dickinson, both of the Menzies Research Institute, University of Tasmania

### Nominations form David Collins Leukaemia Foundation Office Bearers 2007

I.....wish to nominate for the office of  
.....for 2007

Signed .....

Proposed.....  
Seconder.....

Nominations should be received by The Secretary DCLF GPO Box 372 Hobart 7001 by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Dr Adele Holloway will continue her research entitled "Investigating the role of the RUNX1 protein in the regulation of gene expression in myeloid cells". This is the third year we have supported this important research and a report on results to date will be published in our Annual Report for 2006.

The Research Grant awarded to Dr Jo Dickinson of the Menzies Research Institute for research is entitled "Investigating the genetics of familial haematological cancers in Tasmania". Funding for this research is a combined project being supported by the Cancer Council of Tasmania \$35,000 and ourselves \$25,000. We congratulate both recipients and their researchers and we look forward to hearing of their progress in due course.

An inspection of their work for interested members has been arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone who wishes to be part of the group should contact Graeme Petterd phone 62782811 by 1<sup>st</sup> May.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS - JANUARY 2007

We are pleased to announce another three PDA Scholarships for Nursing and Allied Medical Staff in Tasmania.

The successful Applicants are

Mr Simon French, Registered Nurse Royal Hobart Hospital. Awarded \$1,500 to assist with costs associated with travel, accommodation, fees etc to attend Certificate of Cancer Nursing (Post Graduate) at The College of Nursing - Sydney NSW.

Miss Juanita Mayne, Registered Nurse Royal Hobart Hospital. Awarded \$1,500 to assist with costs associated with travel, accommodation, fees etc to attend Certificate of Cancer Nursing (Post Graduate) at The College of Nursing – Sydney NSW.

Ms Catherine Wren Hospital Scientist (Cytogenetics) Royal Hobart Hospital. Awarded \$1,500 to assist with costs associated with travel, accommodation, fees etc to attend Master of Medical Science (Pathology) course at Charles Sturt University Adelaide SA.

We congratulate our successful applicants and wish them well with their studies

## Tasmanian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research Study

The **Menzies Research Institute** is seeking to identify Tasmanian families with multiple individuals affected with leukaemia, lymphoma and other blood disorders.

These diseases affect individuals of all ages and may be triggered by a combination of environmental and inherited (genetic) risk factors. It is not yet clear which factors are most important, or why, but it is very likely that if the cause(s) of these diseases were more clearly known, better treatments could be designed to fight them.

The Menzies Research Institute is recruiting individuals who have been diagnosed at some time with a range of leukaemias, lymphomas and other blood disorders. These include all leukaemias, Hodgkins and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, Myeloma, Polycythaemia Rubra Vera, Myelodysplastic disorders, Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinaemia and Aplastic Anaemia to name a few!

We are also recruiting their family members **who do not have** these diseases and we are interested in you even if your affected family member is deceased.

The study has been approved by the Tasmanian Health and Medical Human Research Ethics Committee, the Director of Public Health and the Tasmanian Cancer Registry. All information collected for our study is treated confidentially.

To date, we have identified several families of interest with multiple cases of blood disorders. We ask individuals to fill out as much as they can about their family tree and our genealogist then identifies the extended family. Some Tasmanian families can be traced back to the 1800's, resulting in extended families that probably don't realise they have other relatives with similar disorders. Some people have been quite surprised to find they are part of such a large family!

Participation in our study therefore involves answering questions about your family members and family history of disease in addition to donating a blood or saliva sample for DNA analysis. The participation of the Tasmanian community in our research is important for its success and we do appreciate the contribution of our study participants.

If you have been diagnosed with one of the above listed diseases and/or you have a family history of one or more of these diseases and you would like to know more about our research we would like to invite you to contact us so that we can send you further information on the study.

**Please call (Mrs) Ceri Flowers on 6226 7754 on Tues/Wed if you would like further information.**

The Investigators of this study are Clinical Professor Ray Lowenthal, University of Tasmania, Director of Medical Oncology, Royal Hobart Hospital, Professor Simon Foote, Director of the Menzies Research Institute, Dr Jo Dickinson, Acting Head of Genetics Unit, Menzies Research Institute,

Dr Katherine Marsden, Director of Pathology, Royal Hobart Hospital and Dr Jim Stankovich and Dr Melanie Bahlo from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.