

Fight Cancer News

Newsletter of the Fight Cancer Foundation

Hilltop – Open to help those in need



Just over one year since construction broke ground, Hilltop, the Albury Wodonga Accommodation Centre, has opened for patients and their carers in Albury, NSW.

Located adjacent to Albury Hospital, the 20 room facility for patients, carers and families is providing high quality, affordable, short and long term housing for those from the surrounding region.

The purpose built accommodation centre has been a very successful partnership between the Fight Cancer Foundation, Rotary Club of Albury North, Lion's Club District 201V6 and Zonta Club of Albury Wodonga.

Hilltop's standard of accommodation is outstanding...



Together we have raised in excess of the \$5 million required to complete this first stage of the project.

Generous grants from the New South Wales Department of Health, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, and sponsorship from the Cancer Council of New South Wales and Essential Energy have ensured the project has moved forward. Enormous support was also received from the surrounding communities, service clubs and private donors. A genuine, positive difference is now being made to the lives of patients and carers.

Every week for the past few months Stan has been travelling 400 kilometres from his farm to Albury for cancer treatment then making the journey home the same day. He and his wife, Julie, are now thrilled to be able to overnight at Hilltop. "We are very, very happy to be able to stay the night at Hilltop before heading back home, making a difficult trip much more bearable. Everyone here is friendly. The place is beautiful. It has everything we need. We can't thank you enough."

Gerry and his wife, Hendy, were vacationing at Falls Creek when he collapsed with a stroke. He was rushed to Albury Base Hospital in critical condition. Hendy moved into Hilltop. Their daughter, Liane, travelled from

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Fight Cancer Foundation™
Giving hope. Saving lives.

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- Tour de Cure 2013

Breakfast for Hope

The 7th annual Fight Cancer Foundation Breakfast for Hope was again an outstanding success. Held at Tasmania's premier venue – MONA, the breakfast raised much needed funds to benefit the Foundation's Hobart accommodation facility, John Opie House.

Hosted by ABC presenter, Peter Gee, guests were entertained by a funny and heart warming interview with reality TV star and celebrity fashion entrepreneur Brynne Edelsten. Guests sipped Moorilla Estate sparkling wine and breakfasted on the delicious creations from MONA'S kitchen.

The funds raised will provide additional support to patients and carers by creating emergency packs for those who arrive sometimes in a crisis situation with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. We will also be able to update some of the basic fittings in the guest rooms and communal areas to make staying at John Opie House that little bit more comfortable and more like 'home'.



John Opie House Manager, Sam Kanizay and Brynne Edelsten

Liz, a current resident has been staying at John Opie House for over six weeks whilst caring for her critically ill husband. She has expressed her ongoing gratitude towards the Fight Cancer Foundation and John Opie House. "Your understanding and compassion has been truly unreal, I can't believe it. Thank you so much. You have made everything so much easier...being able to stay here at the House has been a God send, I don't know what I would have done without you".

Special thanks go to Brynne, Peter, MONA and our Gold Sponsor, Southern Cross Media for their generous support.

You can help the Fight Cancer Foundation with ongoing support of patients, their carers and families by making a DONATION. Please go to www.fightcancer.org.au and select DONATE.

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Melbourne to be with her parents. Several anxious days passed before Gerry started improving. "We are so grateful for this place (Hilltop)," said Liane. "My mother was obviously very distraught and didn't know where to stay. We are so lucky to be next door to the hospital and Dad is so relieved that Mum is in a safe and comfortable place. We brought him over here in a wheelchair for a look and he couldn't believe how beautiful it is. We couldn't want for anything more. Every morning we open the curtains and the view is calming. The rooms are beautiful. It is a haven of peace."

You can help support this important community project by making an on-line credit card donation to the Albury Wodonga Accommodation Centre.

DONATE TODAY by visiting <http://www.fightcancer.org.au> and select DONATE.

Honouring Fay Duncan



Fay's work has been tireless

Congratulations to Fight Cancer Foundation's President and Chairman Fay Duncan. Fay has been recognised by the prestigious Columbia University Medical Center in New York, for her outstanding dedication to improving the lives of patients with leukaemia and other blood cancers.

Fay, a founding member of the Fight Cancer Foundation, has worked tirelessly for the past 23 years, raising funds and awareness of our vital work. Fay was part of the team that established the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and the BMDI Cord Blood Bank that today provide children and adults with a second chance of life, through bone marrow and cord blood transplants.

Fay has also been committed to improving the support available to people living with cancer, through the Fight Cancer Foundation's Back on Track program and accommodation centres. Under Fay's able chairmanship, the Fight Cancer Foundation will continue its mission to "Give hope and Save lives".

Babic Family's \$10,000 Ex-Ellen-t Donation

Ellen DeGeneres met the Babic family at her one and only Melbourne show on March 26, when Daniel Babic became a finalist in a graffiti competition.

Four years ago, Daniel's dad, Ivan, was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia. While undergoing a double-cord blood transplant, the family was welcomed and accommodated for five months at the Fight Cancer Foundation's accommodation centre, BMDI Rotary House.

When Daniel became a finalist, the family was given VIP tickets to Ellen's show. While Daniel was behind stage working on graffiti paintings, he found himself chatting with Ellen's producers. He told them of his dad's former struggle with leukaemia and how it affected his family. When the paintings were brought out, Ellen invited the entire Babic family on-stage. She revealed that Daniel's painting had a \$10,000 prize written on the back and promptly handed him and his family a cheque.

In a spontaneous moment of generosity, the Babic family donated the money to the Fight Cancer Foundation.

"It was amazing!" said Daniel's mother Karen Babic. "Meeting Ellen, being on-stage, watching Daniel's painting, the \$10,000 gift – we were blown away. We just knew we wanted to donate it to Fight Cancer Foundation. We believe if you can help, you should help."

Fight Cancer Foundation Managing Director Eric Wright



Ellen DeGeneres and the Babic Family

said he was delighted with the generosity of the Babic family. "It's such a wonderful donation. They are a great family and we are delighted Ivan is now so well. We are also delighted that our accommodation centre was able to play a vital role in supporting the family."

The donation will be used to provide support services and programs to cancer patients and their families.

Please help the Foundation to provide a 'home away from home' for long and short term cancer patients and their families by making a DONATION today. Go to www.fightcancer.org.au and select DONATE.

Australia's seventh annual Tour de Cure



FCF Ambassador and keen cyclist Mark Beretta with Hilltop Manager Helen Murray

Tour de Cure raises funds annually to donate to cancer research, support and prevention projects and hosted a Community Celebration Dinner at each of the nine stop-overs donating \$5,000 to a local community cancer research, support or prevention project.

Australia's seventh annual Tour de Cure 'Signature Tour' left Adelaide on Friday 26th April. The Team of 90 rode more than 1,500km from Adelaide to Canberra, crossing three Australian states and one territory in 10 days.

Hilltop Manager Helen Murray was delighted to attend and accept the \$5000 cheque for Hilltop on Friday May 3 in Khancoban.

Fight Cancer Foundation Ambassador Mark Beretta participated and kept Australians posted each morning on Channel 7's 'Sunrise' with sports crosses from the tour.

Volunteers Wanted!

The Fight Cancer Foundation is looking for volunteers to assist us with a variety of tasks. If you can spare a few hours a week, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at elizabeth.velevska@fightcancer.org.au or ring 03 9342 7888.

Easter Breakfast at BMDI Rotary House

The Fight Cancer Foundation's accommodation centres are not just conveniently located rooms, but also an endeavour to offer ongoing support and friendship to patients and their families.

Foundation staff organise small functions throughout the year for the enjoyment of the residents e.g. celebrating Christmas, New Year, special birthdays, even Football finals! Easter was celebrated recently with the preparation by staff of a smorgasbord of breakfast treats. The residents, many of whom are in recovery from bone marrow transplants, were able to relax and enjoy the food and conversation.

Alicia, a bone marrow transplant patient, and her husband Mark were preparing to return to their home in Tasmania. Now in remission, she was very excited to talk of her plans but wanted to express her gratitude to the Foundation. "I feel great and I can't wait to get home.

I've been so lucky and Mark and I are so happy we were able to stay here at the House. It is so close to the hospital. We had everything we needed and felt really at home here. The staff has been so kind and helpful. We'll miss being here but we're ready to go home and get on with our lives." ■

Footy Colours Day Friday September 6 2013



Join the fight against cancer and support kids with cancer to get Back on Track. Schools and workplaces are gearing up for the Fight Cancer Foundation's annual fundraiser.

Friday 6 September is the day we invite all Australians to unite and wear their favourite team's colours and join in the fight against cancer by making a donation to the Fight Cancer Foundation.

AFL –NRL – Rugby Union –Soccer – It doesn't matter which code or team you support. Help us help children living with cancer. Show your true colours!

REGISTER NOW! www.footycoloursday.com.au

2013-14 Entertainment Books are Here!

Purchase an Entertainment Book through our website and part of the proceeds will assist to give hope and save lives.

www.fightcancer.org.au/shop.html



SAVE THE DATE!
Red Ball 2013
Saturday Oct. 19

www.redball.com.au

Hugh Jackman Red Ball 2012

Now in its 21st year, the **Red Ball** is arguably Melbourne's premier charity fundraising event. Plans are hush, hush but you can be sure it will be an unforgettable experience. Join us at Crown's Palladium Ballroom for a night of music, dancing, excellent food and wine, and some truly unique auction prizes. All funds raised enable the Foundation to continue its support of cancer patients and their families.

If you would like to be included on the guest list, please contact 03 9342 7888.



**Fight Cancer
Foundation™**

Giving hope. Saving lives.

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