

the CARER

www.leukaemia.org.au

About us

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

We invest millions of dollars in the work of Australia's leading researchers to develop better treatments and cures and provide free services to support patients and their families.

We receive no ongoing government funding. We rely on the generosity of the community and corporate sector to further our Vision to Cure and Mission to Care.

LIGHT THE NIGHT WITH LOVE, LIFE AND HOPE THIS SEPTEMBER



The Leukaemia Foundation's *Light the Night* event will be bigger and brighter this year and some changes will make it easier for us to support the 40,000 Australian families facing the challenges of leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders today.

We're calling on you to get together with your families, friends and work colleagues and again gather with us at twilight at events across the country. This year, however, we will be shining beautiful new lanterns! The colours will remain the same:

- Shine a gold 'Love Light' to remember a loved one
- Shine a white 'Life Light' to reflect on your life with blood cancer
- Shine a blue 'Hope Light' to give hope and support to others.

As night falls, the lanterns will glow more brightly and we will again hear inspiring stories before the special moment arrives – a gentle scenic walk to *Light the Night*.

In addition to our new lanterns, another change is a \$20 registration fee rather than asking everyone to try to raise \$100. Patients and their immediate families can waive this fee. All children 12 and under can shine a lantern for free and do not need to be registered. Everyone will receive entry, live entertainment, and a beautiful lantern to keep. By sending kits to only those who also want to fundraise, we will save money and put it to better use.

There is also good news for people living in regional and remote areas who want to take part locally. We have developed a kit to help those who want to organise a *Light the Night* community event in their town. Alternatively, people can order lantern packs and sell these to family, friends and local businesses in their area.

Finally, a big community gathering creates a stronger sense of support so we have developed a new advertising campaign to help attract more people, particularly those who don't already have a personal connection to the blood cancers. We're appealing to everyone who likes getting involved and helping others to be an 'angel' and register to *Light the Night*.

So join us this September, because if we all come together we can create a brighter future.

Register at www.lightthenight.org.au or 1800 500 088.

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1800 620 420
www.leukaemia.org.au

BOOKS HELP CHILDREN FACING BLOOD CANCER

The Leukaemia Foundation has reproduced two special children's books to help make the diagnosis of a blood cancer and likely treatment paths easier to understand for young children.

Originally created by CLIC Sargent in the UK for children aged 4-7, *Joe has Leukaemia* and *Tom has Lymphoma* follow the stories of two typically active young boys from diagnosis through treatment for their diseases. The books are written in simple language, using terminology and bright imagery that young children can relate to. They have been produced

to help children who are diagnosed with blood cancer, as well as their siblings whose lives are also turned upside down when a brother or sister becomes unwell.

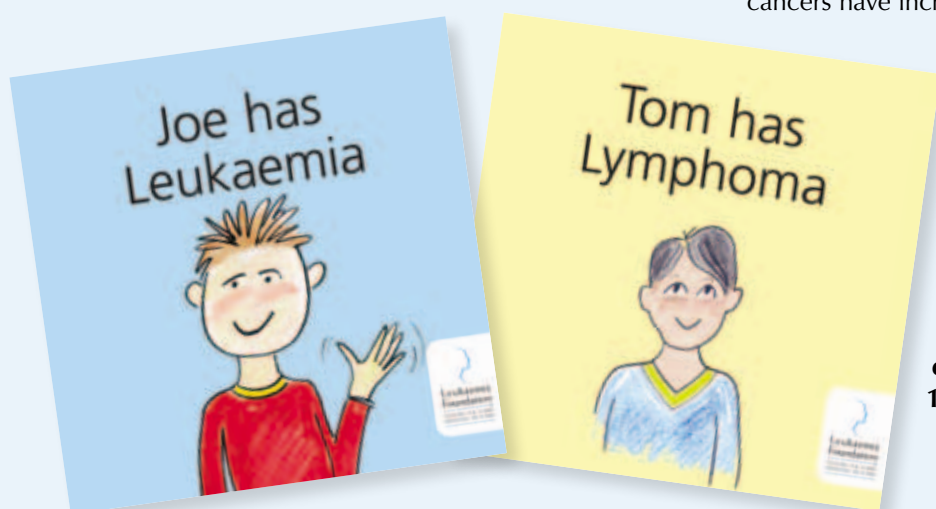
The Leukaemia Foundation has reproduced the books in Australia with the generous support of global specialty pharmaceutical and medication delivery company, Hospira.

On average, an Australian child under the age of 14 is diagnosed with blood cancer every 36 hours.

Since the 1980s, survival rates for children with blood cancers have increased significantly.

Whereas from 1982–1986 survival rates were only 59 per cent, today more than 85 per cent of children with blood cancer will survive beyond 10 years. The Leukaemia Foundation funds vital research programs into better treatments and cures, including for children, committing over \$20 million since 2005.

For a free copy of *Joe has Leukaemia* or *Tom has Lymphoma*, please call 1800 620 420.



FLAGSHIP EVENT TAKES INDUSTRY ACCOLADE

The Leukaemia Foundation's flagship fundraising event, *World's Greatest Shave*, has come out on top at this year's Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) National Awards for Excellence.

The national event took out first place in its applicable Special Events Campaign category.

Since 1998, *World's Greatest Shave* has raised almost \$120 million. Last year the event hit a record-breaking \$15 million for the first time.

"Winning this award shows that it's not just the money that makes *World's Greatest Shave* such a success," said Peter Cox, CEO of the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia.

"We're proud to be recognised by our peers for best practice in planning an event, doing it well and embracing the latest technology to make the event more efficient.

"We're not only one of the top fundraising events in Australia we work hard to keep the costs among the lowest of any charity event, which means more of the dollars raised help people with blood cancer."

Turn to page 4 for a wrap up of *World's Greatest Shave* 2011.



TOP 10 FINISH FOR TRANSPARENT REPORTING

The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia's commitment to transparent reporting has been recognised recently with a top 10 ranking in the 2010 PwC Transparency Awards.

The awards have been running in Australia since 2008 and recognise improvement in the quality and transparency of reporting in the Australian not-for-profit sector.

"We are delighted to finish among the top 10 Australian charities in the PwC Transparency Awards in the \$5 million to \$20 million category for 2010," said Peter Cox, Leukaemia Foundation of Australia CEO.

"The Leukaemia Foundation's Vision to Cure and Mission to Care embodies the community's desire to improve life for people with blood cancer and related blood disorders and we are committed to effective stewardship of the resources available to us to achieve this."

Rick Millen, PwC Corporate Responsibility Partner, said transparent reporting by not-for-profit organisations had moved from being considered a PR exercise, to an important part of the reporting process in an increasingly competitive sector.

SAMMIE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL AROUND HER

At only 18 years-old, Sammie Steadman from Western Australia had seen more than 22 doctors in the six months prior to her diagnosis with stage four Hodgkins lymphoma – two days before Christmas last year.

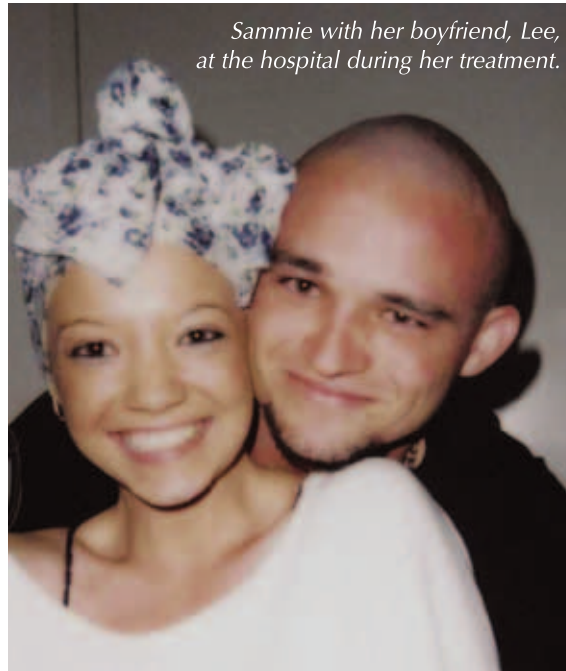
“It was basically just a relief to know that no, the symptoms were not in my head, there was a proper medical reason behind it - as scary as that reason was,” Sammie says.

Following her diagnosis, Sammie and her parents were immediately flown from their regional home town of Karratha to Perth, where Sammie started treatment that same day. Her younger brother and older sister arrived two days later so that the family could be together for Christmas in the hospital.

“It was scary, but so rushed that I didn’t have much time to comprehend it,” Sammie says about her initial diagnosis. “I didn’t believe that I had cancer, so I didn’t expect to need to stay in Perth for long and hence packed a small bag of clothes.

“Boy was I silly – six months later and I still haven’t been home.”

Sammie says that moving from the country to the city for treatment has been difficult for her family, not only financially, but emotionally as well. Her Dad has had to stay



Sammie with her boyfriend, Lee, at the hospital during her treatment.

“From the minute I was diagnosed, it felt like they put their arms around me and my family and helped us in any way they could,” she said.

in Karratha for work to “keep the money coming in” to help cover medical expenses, but flies down to visit when he can.

The Leukaemia Foundation has provided Sammie and her family with education about her disease, and emotional support from diagnosis and throughout her treatment.

“From the minute I was diagnosed, it felt like they put their arms around me and my family and helped us in any way they could,” she said.

“It’s pretty hard going from being a carefree 18 year-old studying at uni, to a patient who has lost their hair, eyebrows, tan and is just hanging on to the last remaining eyelash,” she said.

With everything that Sammie has been through, she still remains positive and an inspiration to all those around her. She is currently going through more intense

treatment, which has some devastating side-effects, but she is managing to see the best of the situation. After her treatment, she is hoping to return to university to study physiotherapy.

“I have learned from this experience just how caring and compassionate people can be and this is something I will always treasure,” Sammie says. “The worst thing that has come from the experience is the knowledge that in order to save my life I might not be able to have children in the future. But at least I have a future,” she said.

Journaling an important coping tool for Sammie

Since being misdiagnosed multiple times over and being brushed off as a “fashion conscious young girl” who cared too much about her weight, Sammie wants to work with the Leukaemia Foundation to help other young people facing a blood cancer diagnosis.

She keeps a journal that she hopes will help other young adults like her.

She shares here a few of her honest and confronting entries:



I never saw it coming, though now that I think about all the symptoms that I had, it was kind of obvious that something was very wrong..”

I still can't believe it, I feel like this is all just a misdiagnosis, and am semi waiting for the doctor to come and see me and say that they have got the biopsy wrong, and that we can go home..”

Today I have hit struggle town hard. My head, throat and body are aching like I've been beaten up after running a marathon, and I feel like I'm going to faint. This is going to be a fun night, I can tell..”



\$14 MILLION RAISED BY BRAVE AUSTRALIANS

From Facebook fans and iPhone apps, to tweets and vod-casts – this year’s *World’s Greatest Shave* stamped its mark on the virtual world, and raised more than \$14 million for the Leukaemia Foundation.

A brand new *World’s Greatest Shave* iPhone app was launched this year – one of the first Australian fundraising events to have one – and proved a hit with thousands of users. The app was linked directly to the online fundraising page of participants, making it easier for them to track their fundraising and get instant donations.

In the world of social media, we had more than 18,600 fans ‘like’ our dedicated *World’s Greatest Shave* Facebook page.

A range of celebrities from swimmers and AFL footballers, to TV master chefs and personal trainers, also threw their respective weights behind the event, posting video messages of support on our *World’s Greatest Shave* web page and on YouTube.

“This year’s event coincided with the devastating Queensland floods and, soon afterwards, horrific earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan. It is true to say that we weren’t sure what impact this would have on our fundraising target,” said Peter Cox, Leukaemia Foundation of Australia CEO.

“While we fell just short of our \$15 million target, Australians have once again proved that their hearts can extend to generously support needs on different levels at once. In a climate where demand for public financial support has been at an unprecedented level, we’re immensely grateful for the way in which people have still dug deep.



Even the children at Gumtree Cottage Child Care Centre coloured their locks.

“Whether you shaved or coloured your hair, supported our publicity campaigns or, gave a donation – we thank you.”

Since 1998, *World’s Greatest Shave* has raised almost \$120 million, and support for our biggest source of income has never been more important.

The money raised is used to fund our free services to support patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders. It will also help fund blood cancer research to find better treatments and cures.

To view the top state fundraisers this year, see photos from the event and check out our celebrity video messages, go to worldsgreatestshave.com.

TOP 30 FUNDRAISERS CONTRIBUTE \$1.5 MILLION

Among this year’s top 30 fundraisers for *World’s Greatest Shave* are well-known companies and teams of family and friends. Together, they contributed almost

\$1.5 million to the overall total. Our congratulations go to all who were brave and shaved, coloured or clipped this year!

1	Woolworths	NSW
2	BHP Billiton	QLD
3	Worsley Alumina	WA
4	ESS	WA
5	Ahrens Group	SA
6	Atlas Iron	WA
7	Rio Tinto	WA
8	National Australia Bank	NSW
9	Honeysuckle Business District	NSW
10	Westpac Group	NSW
11	Team Adem	QLD
12	Belinda Kerr	NSW
13	WesTrac WA	WA
14	Mark Fogarty	NSW
15	Bechtel Mining and Metals	QLD

16	Peabody	QLD
17	Fortescue Metals Group	WA
18	RP Data	NSW
19	Xstrata	QLD
20	Doing it for Swartzky	QLD
21	Curtin University	WA
22	Air-Met Scientific	VIC
23	Meekatharra Gold	WA
24	Remembering Trev!	WA
25	St Bernard’s College	VIC
26	Macquarie Bank	NSW
27	Bunnings	VIC
28	Thiess	QLD
29	Jacqui Ryan	VIC
30	ACT Rural Fire Service	ACT



LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED

In National Volunteer Week recently the Leukaemia Foundation recognised and thanked the 661 registered volunteers who are the backbone of our organisation and contributed over 55,000 hours to our important work last financial year.

Australian volunteers are essential to the not-for-profit sector and our wonderful volunteers generously donate their time and energy to helping others and supporting our Vision to Cure and Mission to Care by:

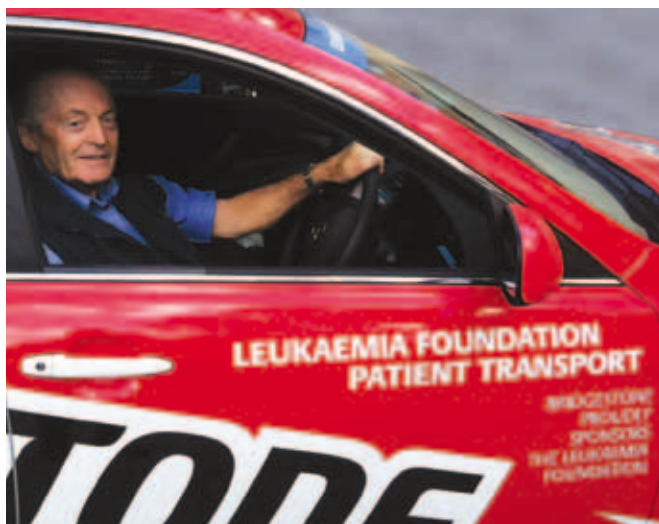
- Driving patients to and from treatment centres
- Providing administration assistance
- Maintaining our accommodation centres
- Raising awareness in local communities about the needs of patients with a blood cancer
- Raising much-needed funds to continue our important work.

One such volunteer is Ebbe Nielson, who has been volunteering for the Foundation for almost 11 years as a volunteer driver. Week after week he drives patients to their treatment and returns them safely home, always with a smile.

But Ebbe's reason for volunteering is poignant. In 2000, his wife was diagnosed with malignant melanoma and he would drive his wife to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital around three times a week to have treatment. Unfortunately Ebbe's wife would not survive her illness, but the experience prompted Ebbe to want to help others in similar situations.

"I think volunteering is very important. A lot of people don't have the finances for taxis so this service really helps," Ebbe said.

"I have referred a few friends to become drivers for the Leukaemia Foundation and would recommend it to anyone who has retired. Not only does it help kill the time but it feels great to help other human beings instead of just sitting at home and watching TV."



Ebbe Nielson has been a volunteer driver for the Leukaemia Foundation for 11 years.

CALLING ON ALL LIGHT THE NIGHT VOLUNTEERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Since the first pilot event in 2008, volunteers have been integral to the success of *Light the Night* events.

We will need a large number of volunteers again this year in these areas:

- Processing registrations, answering enquiries
- Merchandise selling
- Taking donations and general cash handling
- Track marshalling
- Assisting with team photos
- Welcoming attendees
- Selling or assistance with food and drink
- General site maintenance/cleanliness
- Parking marshals
- General crowd control

To volunteer to help with *Light the Night* in your state, please call us on 1800 500 088.



Above: Happy volunteers at Light the Night 2010. Can you help this year at an event in your state?



SA VOLUNTEERS HONoured FOR YEARS OF SERVICE



The commitment and enthusiasm of some of the Leukaemia Foundation's longest serving volunteers in South Australia was recognised recently.

More than 120 people attended the special ceremony and delicious high tea, where the Hon Ian Hunter MLC and Leukaemia Foundation of Australia CEO, Peter Cox, handed out awards for five and 10 years of service.

To find out more about volunteering opportunities with us, phone 1800 620 420.



Above: The Foundation's Patient Transport Program would not be possible without our team of dedicated volunteers.

Left: Peter Cox and the Hon Ian Hunter MLC present volunteer Margaret Bridgland with her award for 10 years of service.

BLUE SKIES OVER THE GREENS FOR GOLF DAY

Ninety six players in 24 teams converged on South Australia's Kooyonga Golf Club recently, all in the name of good sportsmanship and a good cause for the Leukaemia Foundation's annual Golf Day.

After days of rain showers, a pleasant sunny day for the event gave participants a chance to enjoy a day off work and test their swings – and raise more than \$15,000 in the process.

Most players rounded out the day at a dinner in the clubhouse, where an auction of donated prizes also raised thousands of dollars.

The Leukaemia Foundation is grateful to its major sponsor, Bridgestone Australia Ltd, for providing the hats worn by competitors on the day. The event was also kindly supported by VIP Home Services, Seeley International, Ace-it Couriers, FR Law, PRS Conveyancing and Envestra.



Attilio Cavuoto (right) and Tony Jongue – all set to hit the greens.

Funds raised from the event will go towards the Foundation's new Patient Accommodation Village in Adelaide.



TASMANIA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS SHINING

From organising a bus to Hobart's *Light the Night* event and recruiting participants for the U.G.L.Y. Bartender of the Year competition, to delivering Leukaemia Foundation merchandise packs to local businesses – no task is too great for Launceston's recently formed *Friends of the Foundation* group.

The aptly named Northern Lights group is enthusiastically headed up by local John Jongeling, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in July 2002, underwent treatment and relapsed at the end of 2004. John is currently in remission however and "doing quite well".

"It's good fun. We have a lot of good times," John says. "There is lots of moral support and morale building - we always have good discussions. It is very rewarding to help spread the word about the Leukaemia Foundation."

As a blood cancer survivor, John says that being involved with a *Friends of the Foundation* group is a proactive way for men, in particular, to come to grips with their experience.

"Not a lot of men are comfortable talking about their blood cancer experience and this is a good avenue to do so," he says.



John Jongeling (back, right) and the Northern Lights group are always on the go helping the Leukaemia Foundation.

The Northern Lights group meets once a month at the Launceston Blood Cancer Information and Support Forum at the Leukaemia Foundation office. The group's next project is organising a trivia night in the near future, with the support of local businesses who are donating prizes.

To find out more about joining or forming a *Friends of the Foundation* group in your local area, please call 1800 620 420.

DAUGHTER'S CANCER EXPERIENCE INSPIRES KAY

For the past five years, Kay Bennett has been a familiar and welcomed face with the Leukaemia Foundation in Tasmania.

Kay's daughter and mother of three, Lee Veitch, was a successful career woman looking forward to a well deserved holiday in Queensland when she started experiencing an unusual heartbeat.

Lee visited the doctor after returning from Queensland and the doctor sent her for blood tests. The next day she was undergoing treatment for acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APML) in hospital.

Whilst undergoing treatment, Lee attended several Leukaemia Foundation education sessions with a work colleague who had just been diagnosed with lymphoma. Our support services co-ordinator in Hobart, Jane Anderson, also visited Lee in hospital and provided her with information and support.

Fortunately, Lee made a full recovery and returned to work three months after her treatment.

Still motivated today by her daughter's experience, Kay says she gets great pleasure in being able to support others going through their blood cancer journeys.



Kay Bennett (pictured back, right) is a familiar face at the Leukaemia Foundation in Tasmania.

Kay helps set up at education sessions and seminars and has volunteered at major events. She is also very interested to learn more about the various forms of blood cancers.

The Leukaemia Foundation Tasmania is extremely grateful to Kay for her fantastic support over the years.



SUE THANKFUL FOR AUSTRALIA'S HIGH HEALTH INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Sue Hurt, a chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) survivor from Western Australia, joined 137 patient representatives from 48 countries at the international *New Horizons in Treating Cancer* conference, held in Amsterdam recently.

Now in its ninth year, the conference provided patient advocate leaders with an opportunity for three days of learning, companionship and the chance to share experiences across international borders in highly interactive sessions.

One of the standout observations that Sue made over the three day conference was the way in which "fundraising and social entrepreneurship is very much part of Australian culture", but is not necessarily found in many other countries.

"We have access to a local GP, pharmacists in nearly every suburb, a rebate and pension system, CML Registers in every state, and funding and management of drugs through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and we take all this for granted," said Sue.



Sue Hurt returned from an international CML conference feeling confident that Australia's blood cancer specialists and researchers are "punching above their weight".

"I came back full of confidence that our Australian team of CML specialists and researchers is punching above their weight in global CML knowledge, as do our federal and state medical policies and public and private hospital systems."

Compared to other countries represented at the conference, Sue observed Australia's superiority in areas of medical and research discoveries in blood cancers, and in support services initiatives such as the Talk Blood Cancer website, telephone conferencing and emotional support, all offered by the Leukaemia Foundation.

Sue's attendance at the conference was organised by the Leukaemia Foundation and sponsored by Novartis Oncology.

"Thank you to the Leukaemia Foundation for the opportunity to share, contribute, listen, interact,

ask questions, make new friends and contacts at this conference and for providing a platform so I can advocate for critical medical research on behalf of those of us in Australia and New Zealand with CML," said Sue.

FOUNDATION STAFF ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES

Each day the Leukaemia Foundation comes face to face with Australians living with blood cancer who benefit from receiving blood and blood products during their treatment. We support people through diagnosis, treatment and recovery with education, accommodation and transport, but recently the Foundation's WA team decided to take this commitment even further.

The Red Cross Blood Service's donormobile spent a day based at the Foundation's Perth office, where staff rolled up their sleeves to help save lives and encouraged workers at neighbouring businesses to do the same.

Each week 21,000 blood donations are needed to help many people including those with cancer, people undergoing surgery, heart disease patients, premature babies and mums-to-be. One in three people will need blood in their life. Currently though, only one in 30 donate.

"We are proud to support the Blood Service," said Carolyn Turner, the Leukaemia Foundation's General Manager – WA. "Blood is one of those things that we just expect to be there for us, but only a very small proportion of people donate.



Leukaemia Foundation General Manager – WA, Carolyn Turner, and other Foundation staff donated blood recently when the Red Cross Blood Service visited the Perth office.

"The Foundation had more than 30 people give blood on the day and it was great to see so many people generously giving something back to the community."

CORPORATE PARTNERS BACK LIGHT THE NIGHT LONG-TERM

The future is bright for the Leukaemia Foundation's newest and most inspiring fundraising event, *Light the Night*, thanks to generous sponsorship commitments worth a combined \$1 million by two of our dedicated corporate partners.

Principal Partner of *Light the Night*, Bridgestone Australia Ltd, recently announced their commitment for the next five years to the event, further cementing the relationship between the tyre dealer network and its sole charity, the Leukaemia Foundation.

Additional vital support will come by way of a sponsorship worth at least \$250,000 over three years thanks to South Australian air-conditioning manufacturer, Seeley International, which was a foundation partner of the pilot *Light the Night* event in Adelaide in 2008.

"We are absolutely delighted in the decisions by Bridgestone Australia Ltd. and Seeley International to partner with *Light the Night*," said Peter Cox, CEO of the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia.

"The support of the corporate sector to the not-for-profit sector is well known, but it could be tempting in less certain economic times, for companies to adopt a more cautious philanthropic effort.

"We welcome and appreciate the continuing generosity of these loyal corporate partners, who share a deep understanding of the Leukaemia Foundation's important work and a desire to contribute to community wellbeing."

Mr Nobu Mieno, Group Chairman & Managing Director, Bridgestone Australia Ltd Group said that Bridgestone's corporate sponsorship funds and activities aimed to raise the level of awareness of the Leukaemia Foundation throughout the community and encourage other businesses who may also consider entering a similar sponsorship arrangement to advance the great work the Leukaemia Foundation has achieved to date.

"*Light the Night* is a great way to raise the level of awareness in the community and amongst businesses and also provides a great means to raise money which will assist the Foundation to achieve its Vision to Cure and Mission to Care," he said.

"Our commitment over the next five years of being the Principal Partner of *Light the Night* makes everyone at Bridgestone very proud."

The Chairman and founder of Seeley International, Frank Seeley AM, said that he had been inspired by the concept of the very first *Light the Night* event and wanted to continue be a vital part of it.

"This event is so inspiring and it has become an important source of funds to help combat blood cancers, as well as raising the public's awareness.

"Seeley International and its wonderful national dealer team simply love it!" he said.



The team from Bridgestone Australia proudly lead the way at Light the Night 2010.



We "simply love it!", says Frank Seeley (front, centre) of Light the Night. Pictured here are some of the Seeley International team at last year's event.

This year, more than 11,500 Australians are expected to be diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood disorder, equivalent to 31 people each day. In 2010, *Light the Night* helped to raise over \$1.5 million for research and to provide free services to support patients and their families.

INVITATIONS OPEN FOR SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS

The Leukaemia Foundation is delighted to invite expressions of interest for its Senior Research Fellowship for 2012.

The Senior Research Fellowship is the most prestigious of the Leukaemia Foundation's personal awards available through its National Research Program. The opportunity is valued at \$1 million over five years and will be awarded to an outstanding young researcher who will be expected to establish an innovative new program of research in blood cancer or related blood disorders in an Australian institution.

The inaugural Senior Research Fellowship was first awarded in 2010 in honour of the late former Leukaemia Foundation of Australia, CEO, Phillip Desbrow. Phillip's achievements were significant and included establishing the Leukaemia Foundation Research Unit at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and significantly developing patient and family support infrastructure.



Dr Carl Walkley, from St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, was the recipient of the inaugural Senior Research Fellowship in 2010.

Dr Carl Walkley (pictured) at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne was the recipient of the Senior Research Fellowship.

Dr Walkley impressed the Leukaemia Foundation with the exceptional calibre of his research proposal, his international research and the publication of his work in the world's most acclaimed scientific journals. His research will investigate the relationship between blood cells and non-blood cells in bone marrow and seeks to understand how these interactions contribute to the development of blood diseases, specifically myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and myeloproliferative disorders (MPD).

More information about the Senior Research Fellowship is available at www.leukaemia.org.au or by calling 1800 620 420.

TASMANIAN STUDY LOOKS AT GENETIC FACTORS

A Tasmanian research team has received a grant from the Leukaemia Foundation's National Research Program for a research project examining causative genes for blood cancers.

Senior Research Fellow, Dr Joanne Dickinson and her team from the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania are the successful grant recipients from Tasmania this year.

Dr Dickinson was awarded \$91,000 over a one-year period, for her research into blood cancer. Her work focuses on the genetic basis of blood cancers. This important work was recently published in the prestigious international journal *Blood*.

Dr Dickinson says that many blood cancers have a genetic basis to them that can be inherited from one generation to the next.

"This can cause these cancers to be more common in some families than others," she said. "We are trying to identify some of these inherited risk genes using large families from Tasmania.

"We have identified certain families where there is an increase in incidence of blood cancers. We propose this is due to a genetic predisposition that may subsequently give rise to malignancies in any blood cell type."



Dr Joanne Dickinson and her team from the Menzies Research Institute have received a \$91,000 grant from the Leukaemia Foundation.

Dr Dickinson said the funding from the Leukaemia Foundation would enable her team to make "significant progress" with their work, taking advantage of newly available gene technologies.

"These technologies can give us detailed information about gene function in these families. We are very grateful for the support of the Leukaemia Foundation," she said.

More information on the Foundation's National Research Program can be found at www.leukaemia.org.au.

WORLD LYMPHOMA AWARENESS DAY 2011

World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) will be observed again on 15 September this year in an international effort to raise vital awareness about lymphomas, cancers that affect the lymphatic system.

Did you know?

- More than 5000 Australians are expected to be diagnosed with a form of lymphoma this year – equivalent to 13 people every day.
- Lymphoma is a general term that includes 35 different subtypes of the disease that are divided into two main types: Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphomas.
- Lymphoma is the most common form of blood cancer and fifth most common cancer in Australia overall.

- Lymphoma is the third most common cancer in children under 14.
- In Australia, 90 per cent of lymphoma diagnoses will be non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
- Lymphomas are seen in all age groups but are more common in people aged 50+. The peak age for diagnosis of Hodgkin lymphoma is between 15 and 30 years.

To commemorate the day this year, the Leukaemia Foundation will hold a range of events and awareness raising activities.

To find out more go to www.leukaemia.org.au, email lymphoma@leukaemia.org.au, or call 1800 620 420.

NATIONAL MYELOMA SURVEY TO HELP ENHANCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Results from a nationwide survey of people living with myeloma will be assessed by the Leukaemia Foundation to better understand the issues faced by these people and to provide support services that are tailored to meet their specific needs.

Information from the survey, launched as part of National Myeloma Day activities recently, also will enable the Foundation to better advocate for improved health services for Australians with myeloma.

Myeloma incidence is growing at the fastest rate of all blood cancers in Australia but few Australians – only one in 12 – are aware of this incurable disease and its symptoms. Myeloma, also known as multiple myeloma, is a type of blood cancer and almost 1500 Australians are projected to be diagnosed with this incurable cancer in 2011 – equivalent to four people each day.

“Unlike other cancers, diagnosing myeloma can be difficult because people often mistake symptoms for ‘normal’ signs of getting older,” said Kaye Hose, National Myeloma Coordinator at the Leukaemia Foundation.

“Our message to everyone over 50 who has recurring or persistent infections, bone or joint pain and unexplained tiredness is to talk to their doctor.”

Eighty per cent of people diagnosed with myeloma are over the age of 60.

National Myeloma Day was initiated by the Leukaemia Foundation in 2010 to raise awareness of myeloma and bring patients together for education and support. This year the Foundation joined forces with the Myeloma Foundation of Australia to host a range of awareness raising activities and education events.



As highlighted in the March edition of Carer, WA's Brian Hardaker is proving that having myeloma need not stop him from pursuing the things he loves. Brian and his wife Chris began an epic journey earlier this year to circle Australia on their three-wheeled motorbike to inspire others with myeloma. Brian is pictured here during the couple's stop in Adelaide recently.

KATIE AWARDED FOR DRIVING LIGHT THE NIGHT

Katie Maxwell has been honoured by Broken Hill City Council for her outstanding efforts in helping to bring *Light the Night* to her community for the first time last year.

Katie, who has been a *Friends of the Foundation* member for more than five years, received the council's Community Volunteer Award (Events Category) during National Volunteers Week.

"We are all very pleased and proud of her," Katie's husband, Kevin, said.

Katie's own family have experienced the turmoil of a blood cancer diagnosis, with Katie's sister being diagnosed with leukaemia in 2007 and her mother also being diagnosed with a blood cancer, myeloma, soon afterwards.

Sadly, Katie's mother passed away. Exactly 10 weeks after that, Katie's sister Maria also passed away from blood cancer.

Through this whole experience, the Leukaemia Foundation was there to support Katie and her family.

"The Foundation was absolutely wonderful, showing so much support and compassion. I couldn't have got through it without them," Katie said.



Katie Maxwell at Light the Night in Broken Hill last year with her brother, Frank Zacnich.

Having her family affected by blood cancer in such a personal way was the driving force behind Katie's determination to make a difference in the Broken Hill community.

"I want to raise awareness and make a difference to our local families, in particular working hard to support the Leukaemia Foundation as they build their new Patient Accommodation Village (in Adelaide) for regional families to stay in."

RACE ON FOR EXCLUSIVE LONDON MARATHON SPOTS

Are you a running enthusiast who has always wanted to run in the London Marathon? We are giving you the chance to be part of the 2012 Virgin London Marathon next April while supporting people with blood cancer.

The marathon is sold out, but as a charity partner, we have 10 spots available. You will need to commit to raising \$14,000 or more, with \$10,000 going towards the Leukaemia Foundation's important work and the remainder covering your travel costs and insurance.

The run takes you along the River Thames, catching glimpses of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre before reaching the halfway

mark at the commanding Tower Bridge. It then moves eastwards towards Canary Wharf, past St Paul's Cathedral, and into the final leg of the race.

As the London Eye comes into view, you will see the sights of Big Ben and Westminster Abbey in the distance. Minutes later you will pass the finish line in front of Buckingham Palace with an enormous, proud smile.

There are only 10 spots available, so register now! For further information go to www.inspiredadventures.com.au/marathons/1f, or call Nadia on 1300 905 188.

The Carer welcomes feedback from our readers.

If you have a comment on a particular article or a suggestion for a story, please email stories@leukaemia.org.au or call 8273 3535.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Leukaemia Foundation

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