Life can change in an instant

Christmas 2006 was unforgettable for the Rogers family of Townsville – but for all the wrong reasons.

The week leading up to Christmas was the usual flurry of excitement, until their three year old daughter, Kasey, woke with a swollen gland on her neck.

Subsequent blood tests done at their local GP’s office revealed some abnormalities and three days before Christmas, parents, Barrie and Karen, were on a plane to Brisbane with Kasey for more tests at Royal Brisbane Hospital.

“That night the doctor confirmed our worst fears – Kasey had leukaemia. Our whole world felt like it had fallen apart,” Karen Rogers said.

The Rogers’ son, Michael, spent Christmas with his grandparents in Townsville, while Barrie and Karen stayed at the hospital with Kasey, who had begun chemotherapy immediately.

A week later Barrie returned home to Townsville to be with Michael who was turning six and also starting his first year at school.

“Leukaemia is a disease that literally turns the lives of your family completely upside down. One minute everything is normal, and next thing your lives are completely uprooted, you have moved to another city and you are bombarded with a whole lot of medical terminology and procedures. It is completely devastating,” Karen said.

Kasey’s family has now returned to Townsville where Kasey still has monthly chemotherapy, and returns every three months to Brisbane for a hospital visit.

“Kasey has responded very well to her treatment and it is exciting to see her start prep this year. With everything Kasey goes through, she never complains, always thinks of others and is never without a smile on her face. Kasey has been the strength of our family and we are all so proud of her.”

Karen said they have had wonderful support from grandparents, the staff at the Royal Children’s Hospital, and the Leukaemia Foundation.

“When Kasey celebrated her fourth birthday last April, the Leukaemia Foundation arrived with gifts and a birthday cake. The Foundation has helped us in so many practical ways as well. Sometimes you just need someone to talk to.”

“I can’t thank the Foundation enough for its ongoing support and helping our family to return to as normal a life as possible,” Karen said.
Dr Clem Jones AO
1918 - 2007

The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland has paid tribute to Brisbane's former Lord Mayor, Dr Clem Jones AO, as a man of great generosity and an honoured Life Member of the Foundation, after his passing on 15 December 2007.

Dr Clem Jones AO has been a major supporter of the Leukaemia Foundation since 1998, when he offered the first of six houses to accommodate regional patients and their families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Dr Jones continued his commitment to the Foundation's accommodation services when he generously donated $2 million to help construct the Clem Jones - Sunland Leukaemia Foundation Village which was opened in October last year.

Chief Executive Officer of the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland, Peter Johnstone, said he had personally lost a great mentor and the Foundation had lost a benefactor who had donated more than $2 million to assist patients and their families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

“The legacy which Dr Jones has left within the Leukaemia Foundation will live long and will benefit leukaemia patients for many years to come.”

“We will never see his like again – he was a Crackerjack Queenslander,” he said.

Dr Jones is well recognised as a philanthropist and has been a major donor to numerous charities and community groups for many years. In recognition of this Dr Jones has, among his many awards, received an AO (Order of Australia) and the title of Senior Queenslander of the Year.

The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Clem Jones Group for their support over the years and condolences to all family and friends of Dr Clem Jones.

New village becomes home for the Tibbles…

Tony Tibbles and his wife Janet wanted nothing more than to be smelling the sea breeze at Pottsville where they planned to retire, when they got the terrible news that Tony had leukaemia.

“We sold our unit at Sherwood and had found a little place at Pottsville when Tony visited our GP with an ear infection. We were so shocked when blood tests showed leukaemia,” Janet said.

Chemotherapy began immediately and the Tibbles became some of the first residents at the new Clem Jones - Sunland Leukaemia Foundation Village.

“The timing for us could not have been more perfect. It was wonderful to have a place to come that truly feels like home and where there are always people available to offer support.”

“We cannot tell you how grateful we are to be staying in this beautiful place. The village has the most wonderful energy from the moment you walk in.”

“We wander around the lovely grounds and there is such a sense of joy and peace. Whoever planned it has done a perfect job.”

The village contains 30 self contained units in a low-infection risk environment; trained oncology nurses and counsellors on staff, library, playground, gymnasium, activity room, landscaped gardens and barbecue facilities.
Welcome new LFQ president

The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland welcomed a new president, Mrs Beverley Mirolo, to its Board in October last year.

Mrs Mirolo was appointed following the sad passing of former president, Mr Paul Malone.

Mrs Mirolo brings to the position over forty years experience working with leukaemia patients, and has served the Foundation in various capacities for over thirty years.

As an oncology nurse who began working with leukaemia patients in the early 1970’s, Mrs Mirolo knows only too well how the personalised care and support offered by the Foundation is crucial in giving patients the best possible chance of survival.

During her nursing career at the Royal Brisbane Hospital during the 70’s and 80’s, Mrs Mirolo played a key role in developing day only haematology services, which allowed leukaemia patients and others with blood disorders to recuperate at home.

During her association with the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland, Mrs Mirolo has been a member of the medical advisory committee, a board member for many years, and has also been responsible, along with nursing and medical colleagues, for designing Queensland’s first bone marrow transplant unit which opened in 1987.

“I am very proud that after 32 years, the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland has remained true to its mission to care and support patients though the terrible ordeal of a life threatening illness,” Mrs Mirolo said.

“As president I would like to see the Foundation’s wonderful services and facilities continue to grow and broaden, as well as its commitment to funding medical research to find cures and improved treatments.”

“I also see potential to branch out into new areas with one example being the development of programs specifically catering for adolescent patients,” she said.

Become a blood donor

Did you know that 30 percent of all blood donated in Australia goes to people battling cancer?

From the 21,000 donations the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) needs every week, more than 6,000 donations are for cancer patients and in particular blood cancer patients, such as those with leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma.

With only 3.5 percent of the eligible population currently donating blood, the ARCBS is always looking for new donors. If you are over 16 years old and in good health, you can probably donate. And if you can’t, encourage others to donate! It doesn’t hurt and takes around an hour. Every donation helps to save three lives and of course helps people with leukaemia.

Blood is made up of three components and one donation of 470mls of blood can be separated into three components; red cells, platelets and plasma.

Platelets, in particular, play a critical role in the treatment of patients with cancer as certain cancer treatments can lead to low levels of white blood cells and platelets, which in turn can sometimes put a person at risk for life-threatening infections or bleeding. This is why platelet transfusions play such a critical role in their recovery. But we need a lot of them as treating one patient with acute leukaemia for just one month will need 45 donations.

One way in which we can collect more platelets is a process called Apheresis (A-fer-ree-sis). Apheresis is a special type of blood donation that allows for the collection of just platelets. It does take longer than a normal donation, but one apheresis donation collects far more platelets than a regular blood donation. Many Donor Centres in Queensland are looking for more platelet donors.

To find out more information on becoming a blood donor call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au
Foundation funds new research in 2008

A host of exciting new research projects have been selected for funding at a total cost of over $1.2 million by the Leukaemia Foundation in 2008.

Through its National Research Program, the Foundation is committed to funding innovative research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

The Foundation also funds research facilities such as the PricewaterhouseCoopers Leukaemia and Lymphoma Tissue Bank and the Leukaemia Foundation Research Laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR).

The program also includes grants for research projects, scholarships and fellowships to encourage and support young researchers and to foster cutting edge research to improve our understanding of leukaemias and related disorders in the short and long term.

The Leukaemia Foundation is pleased to announce that, the following new research projects will be funded in 2008.

QUEENSLAND

Dr Mayer Ghandi (QIMR) $100,000 A novel mechanism of immunosuppression in B-cell lymphomas.

Dr Raymond Banh (Princess Alexandra Hospital) $100,000 Molecular prognostication in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

Ms Renee Jessica Robb (QIMR) $40,000 Targeted modulation of antigen presenting cells in graft versus host disease.

Mr Diwakar Pattabirar (University of Qld) $40,000 Targeting Myb in human leukaemia.

Ms Therese Seldon (Mater Medical Research Institute) $40,000 Development of dendritic cell biomarker antibodies and applications in leukaemia.

Total new projects funded by LFQ $320,000

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Prof Timothy Hughes (Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science) ($81,225) Studies of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) patients to characterise the causes of resistance and to predict response to second-line therapy.

Ms Hui Peng Lim (Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science) $10,000 Identification of prognostic markers and therapeutic targets in acute myeloid leukaemia.

Ms Theresa Sadras (Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science) $10,000 Dissecting the role of B-catenin in FLT3 ITD AML.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr Lawrence Liew (Royal Perth Hospital & Curtin University of Technology) $10,000 Immune dysregulation in myelodysplasia.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Dr Michelle Henderson (CCIA) $93,500 Improving treatment outcomes for infants with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Ms Claire Wakefield (Prince of Wales Hospital) $70,460 Familial psychological adjustment and needs on childhood cancer treatment completion.

Prof James Wiley (University of Sydney) $90,000 Susceptibility to chronic lymphocytic leukaemia in an extended family pedigree.

Dr Margaret Blyth (Westmead Millennium Institute) $100,000 The use of cytotoxic T cells for immunotherapy of viral infections post allogeneic stem cell transplantation.

Dr Scott Brown (Children’s Cancer Institute of Australia for Medical Research) $40,000 Gene trap mutagenesis to identify cellular mutations that contribute to the development of leukaemia.

Dr Sylvia Ling (Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology) $40,000 Understanding and predicting the response of multiple myeloma to proteasome inhibitors.

VICTORIA

Dr Lorraine Robb (The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research) $66,163 The role of the homeobox gene Mixl1 in leukaemia.

Dr Ruth Mackinnon (St Vincent’s Hospital) $100,000 A new oncogene in acute myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes.

Dr Catherine Carmichael (The Walter & Eliza Hall IMR) $97,759 Investigation of the physiological role of the transcription factor Erg in haematopoietic development and disease.

Dr Simon He (The Royal Melbourne Hospital) $50,000 New therapeutic approaches in acute leukaemia & transplant.

Dr Jake Shortt (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) $40,000 Therapeutic inhibition of the cell cycle checkpoints mediated by CHK1.

Ms Lina Happo (University of Melbourne) $40,000 The impact of BH3-only genes on the response of murine lymphoma to anti-cancer therapy.
IGA’s Million Dollar Partnership

With no ongoing government funding, the Leukaemia Foundation relies on the generosity of business partners such as IGA.

The Foundation’s ongoing association with IGA began nine years ago and in that time their commitment has been shown through a host of fundraising events at a regional and state level which have raised a staggering $1 million.

Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland CEO, Peter Johnstone, said he was very grateful to IGA for its continued show of generosity and support.

“I believe the synergy between our two organisations exemplifies a shared mission to help our community and make a difference in the lives of people throughout Queensland.”

“The Foundation places a great value on our association with IGA and we look forward to it continuing in coming years,” Mr Johnstone said.

IGA’s fundraising events have included the very popular IGA Car Rallies in Far North Queensland, North Queensland and Sunshine Coast; the IGA Community Chest; Cairns IGA Race Day, IGA Captain’s Collection, IGA Pirates of the Caribbean Movie Premier and World’s Greatest Shave.

The IGA Car Rallies have proven a huge success seeing teams hitting the streets in fancy dress, not just for themselves but also their vehicles. The Far North Queensland rally has now been running for six years and has raised over $210,000 since it began.

The Captain’s Collection Gala Evening organised by Walter’s Super IGA in Townsville raised an outstanding $104,000 late last year. The evening saw the auctioning of 16 individually framed NRL team jerseys from 2007, signed by the captains of each team.

Not content to stand still, IGA is also set to launch new events including the IGA Lockyer Darling Downs Car Rally, The Amazing Chase (The Hopper Group) and the In-store Grocery Raffle (The Hopper Group).

IGA are also set to make World’s Greatest Shave 2008 bigger and better than ever. They are planning to raise over $91,000 by encouraging every IGA store throughout Queensland to raise $320 in the 2008 WGS IGA Tribal Challenge.

“IGA has a solid reputation as an organisation which values community and places great importance on helping others in need. The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland has certainly seen this in action and would like to say a huge thank you to IGA for helping Queenslanders and their families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders,” Mr Johnstone said.

ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO SHAVE?

With only a few weeks until the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave, Queenslanders need to ask themselves the question. Are you brave enough to shave?

If you’ve always been meaning to join in the fun, but just never took the big step, why not register to be part of the special ten year celebration of WGS.

World’s Greatest Shave will be held from 13-15 March 2008 with the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland aiming to raise $3 million to fund patient care and medical research.

Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Peter Johnstone, said since WGS began in 1999, the event has raised over $14 million, and has grown into one of the most successful and well recognised fundraising events.

REGISTER NOW!
1800 500 088
worldsgreatestshave.com
Global Initiatives for chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) Patients

In October last year, Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland’s Director of Support Services, Barbara Hartigan, travelled to Montreal, Canada as the Australian representative of the GOAL (Global Oncology Advocacy Leadership) Alliance Advisory Board.

GOAL is a network of worldwide organisations focused on addressing the issues facing the chronic myeloid leukaemia community.

The GOAL Alliance meeting was attended by advocacy organisations representing ten countries to share best practices and discuss how to address the unmet needs of patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia on a worldwide basis.

According to Mrs Hartigan, the group looked at the different types of patient advocacy programs that are available throughout the world and identified areas of need.

Particular areas discussed included the importance of the internet as a source of education and information, the need to educate policy makers to ensure optimum treatment and care, the need to educate patients and empower them to become their own best advocates, and the need to educate healthcare providers to work more effectively with patients.

“It was amazing to participate with organisations from around the globe with a wide range of cultures, and to be able to share our experiences and discuss parallels that exist between each country when caring and supporting people with CML,” Mrs Hartigan said.

Small business with a big heart

Patients at the Clem Jones - Sunland Leukaemia Foundation Village are benefiting from the generous donation of two scooters worth $2,100 each.

Owners of Bundaberg Mobility, Jennifer and Russell Howe (pictured), kindly donated the scooters in conjunction with Pride Mobility Scooters.

Clem Jones - Sunland Leukaemia Foundation Village manager, Pam Glucina, said the scooters are such an asset to the village and it was fantastic to see small businesses show such a big heart.

Pittsworth Branch celebrates 25 years

The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland’s Pittsworth Branch celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special supporters breakfast at Tattersalls Club Hotel last October.

Past and present Leukaemia Foundation Branch and Rotary Club members came together for this special celebration which recognised the countless volunteer hours and tireless work of many individuals.

Branch founder, Ian Hutchinson, told guests how he and his wife Joan formed the branch in 1982 after losing their daughter, Jan Dawson, to leukaemia.
The fashion spectacular, Essence – Eye on Fashion, was a glittering success in October raising $35,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland.

Miss Universe Australia 2007 and Leukaemia Foundation ambassador, Kimberley Busteed, added more than a touch of glamour to the event which was held at the Hilton Cairns.

Kimberley knows only too well the urgent need to care for patients and find cures, as she lost her brother to leukaemia a number of years ago.

The event showed designs from Australia’s hottest designer labels including Alex Perry, Peter Morrissey, Wayne Cooper and Lisa Ho, as well as one fortunate guest receiving a genuine carat diamond valued at $5000 in their champagne.

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**Trust and Foundation Grants 07/08**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trust/Foundation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane City Council Community Support Funding Program</td>
<td>$5,635</td>
<td>Part remuneration for rates paid by LFQ during 06/07 financial year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cory Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>Assist with purchase of LCD TV’s &amp; DVDs for ESA Village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Chee Foundation</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>Assist with installation of handrails in bathrooms at Townsville Village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred P Archer Charitable Fund (Trust Company Ltd)</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Assist with installation of waterproof shade over BBQ area at Townsville Freemason's Village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2007 - Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</td>
<td>$990</td>
<td>Purchase of a digital camera, vacuum cleaner and a laminator for Gold Coast branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling Community Benefit Fund</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>Assist with purchasing a new Toshiba Digital copier for Gold Coast branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast City Council (for Gold Coast Branch)</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Assist with the purchase of two flat bed trolleys for Gold Coast branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The William Angliss (Queensland) Charitable Fund</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Assist with purchase of tables and chairs for the volunteers room in the Qld office building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBOSA Australia Foundation</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>Partial furnishing of a two bedroom unit at the Clem Jones-Sunland Leukaemia Foundation Village.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Ergon throws its support behind Foundation’s work**


Brian Lambert, Senior Contracts Officer (Southern) said the cheque recognised the excellent efforts made by the Foundation in providing personalised support and care for patients and families from diagnosis to treatment and recovery.

(From left) Brian Lambert (Ergon Energy) and former transplant patient, Kate Hall of Dalby, present the cheque to Ron Grieve (Toowoomba Branch) and Oncologist/ Haematologist, Dr James Morton.

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**Essence - Eye on fashion a glittering success**

The fashion spectacular, Essence – Eye on Fashion, was a glittering success in October raising $35,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland.

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Kimberley knows only too well the urgent need to care for patients and find cures, as she lost her brother to leukaemia a number of years ago.

The event showed designs from Australia’s hottest designer labels including Alex Perry, Peter Morrissey, Wayne Cooper and Lisa Ho, as well as one fortunate guest receiving a genuine carat diamond valued at $5000 in their champagne.
Support Services seminars 2008

Brisbane
The following educational seminars will be held at ESA Village, South Brisbane. For more information or to make a booking phone 07 3840 3844.

Lymphoma Seminars
Making an informed decision
Wednesday, 19 March, 11.30am

Advances in Lymphoma Treatment
Wednesday, 21 May, 11.30am

Leukaemia & Myelodysplastic Syndromes Seminars
Topic TBA
Wednesday, 14 May, 11.30am

Multiple Myeloma Seminars
Living with MM now and in the future
Tuesday, 11 March, 11.30am

The journey through stem cell transplant
Tuesday, 27 May, 11.30am

Amyloidosis Seminars
Tuesday, 4 March, 11.30am
Wednesday, 11 June, 11.30am

Living Well with Grief
Four week course on Wednesday mornings, time TBA
4 June, 11 June, 18 June, 15 June

Grief Brunch
16 February 10.30am
15 March 10.30am (parents)
17 May 10.30am
14 June 10.30am (parents)

Look Good Feel Better
(Ladies) 6 February, 10am
(Teens) 5 March, 4pm
(Ladies) 30 April, 10am

Carers Group
Four week course on Thursday mornings 10am

The Role of the Carer
21 February or 17 April
Emotional roller coaster ride
28 February or 24 April
Carer burnout
6 March or 1 May
Strategies for coping
13 March or 8 May

Townsville
The following educational seminars will be held at Freemason Village, 41/100 Angus Smith Drive, Douglas 4814. For more information phone 4727 8000.

Caring for the Carer
(3 week course)
Course 1 – 18 Jan, 25 Jan, 1 Feb
Course 2 – 1, 11 & 18 April
Course 3 – 4 June, 11 July, 18 July

Survivorship presentation – 28 February
Transplant presentation – 30 April

Our vision to cure and mission to care.
The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland is a not for profit organisation focused on the care and support of patients and their families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

The Foundation does this by providing counselling, accommodation, transportation and practical assistance for patients and their families. The Leukaemia Foundation also funds research into cures and better treatments for leukaemia and the related disorders.

The Leukaemia Foundation receives no direct ongoing government funding, and relies on the continuous support of individuals and corporate partners to expand its services.

To find out more about the work of the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland and how you can help, phone 1800 620 420 or visit the Foundation’s website: www.leukaemia.org.au