

QUEST

Autumn 2012

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation

Inside this issue:

- **Gourmet start to the Luncheon Series**
- **Research update – Mr David Tuck**
- **Introducing the Foundation's new Chair – David Catchpole**

Our QUEST is for knowledge that will lead to better healthcare and medical services for the people of Tasmania. You can help us by supporting our research efforts with a gift, bequest or donation.

Each year the Foundation funds research into a variety of conditions affecting the lifestyle and wellbeing of the people of Tasmania, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

This research is undertaken by doctors, nurses, surgeons, anaesthetists, scientists, pathologists and many other health professionals at the Royal Hobart Hospital, and the University of Tasmania's medical school and the Menzies Institute.

Many of our researchers are nationally-renowned in their fields, whilst others are at the very early stages of promising careers. All of them are working to improve the quality of healthcare for Tasmanians.

Your gift, bequest or donation can be vital in ensuring that this QUEST continues to provide benefits for Tasmanians, now and into the future.



**ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

Level 5, 25 Argyle Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000
GPO Box 1061 Hobart Tasmania 7001
p: 03 6222 8088 f: 03 6222 7930
e: research.foundation@dhhs.tas.gov.au
www.rhhresearchfoundation.org

RHH Research Foundation celebrates at inaugural Research Excellence Dinner

The Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation recently recognised local medical and health care researchers at its Inaugural Research Excellence Dinner.

Following the announcement of over \$730,000 in funding for local medical and healthcare research in late 2011, the Dinner provided an opportunity to acknowledge the 2012 grant recipients, while showcasing the skills and achievements of current researchers.

As the Foundation's Chair, Heather Chong explained, "The event is a formal celebration of excellence, a special occasion to recognise the contributions that are being made in health and medical research."

"The event featured several researchers, both emerging and highly skilled, who were presented certificates in acknowledgment of their funding for research endeavours. Selected from a highly competitive field of submissions, the Foundation's scientific research advisory panel, endorsed by the NH&MRC, undertook the challenging task of selecting from the many excellent proposals seeking funding.

Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation CEO, Heather Francis,



Dr Kevin Wheeler receives a certificate from Chair, Heather Chong.

added that the Dinner was an important way to thank supporters, both individual and corporate, for their ongoing generosity that enables this valuable work to continue.

"As a completely independent entity, the Research Foundation is buoyed by ongoing generosity from across the Tasmanian community. It is the wonderful support that we continue to receive that enables us to fund the research work of specialist doctors, nurses and allied health professionals through our annual grants program," she said.



Appointment of new Chairman

The RHH Research Foundation is pleased to announce David Catchpole has been appointed as Chairman of the Board at the Foundation's recent AGM.

As the former Deputy Chair and a long term Board Member, David's appointment to Chair will leverage his wealth of experience in a range of commercial and governance roles.

While, Heather Chong has relinquished her role as Chairperson at the AGM to pursue other challenges, she remains an active Board member for the Foundation.

continued on page 3...

Research update: Serum S100B as a Predictor of Neuropsychological Recovery following Traumatic Brain Injury



Mr David Tuck

Serum S100B as a Predictor of Neuropsychological Recovery following Traumatic Brain Injury is the title one of the studies funded by this year's Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation clinical research grants. The project, led by chief investigator David Tuck, is examining a specific blood protein that could potentially improve the prognostic accuracy for patients who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI). At present, the ability for a

clinician to predict the recovery of a TBI patient is extremely limited. As a result, many patients endure long recoveries from their injury and much of their impairment can go unnoticed.

By definition, TBIs result from an external force to the brain. Although motor vehicle accidents account for the majority of TBIs, other causes include assaults, falls and workplace injuries. Males are three times more likely to sustain a TBI and they occur most often in young adults. TBI is also the leading cause of brain death in Australia. At a state level, Tasmania has a markedly higher rate of TBI than the national average and the proportion of assaults is the highest in the country.

Previous prognostic studies conducted by Mr Tuck have all focused on improving the accuracy with which recovery patterns can be anticipated for TBI patients. His most recent focus, however, has emphasised the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in the management of neurological conditions. The current study is an

investigative collaboration between the University of Tasmania's Department of Psychology and the RHH's Pathology Department.

In the study, patients who have sustained a brain injury are followed up with neuropsychological evaluations after they have been sent home from hospital in order to investigate any cognitive impairment and the magnitude of any symptoms of post-concussion syndrome. Each patient's level of impairment and their rate of recovery between evaluations, is compared to the level of the S100B protein in their blood at the time they presented to the hospital's emergency department.

In 2010, Mr Tuck was a recipient of a Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation starter grant for his work in neuropsychological prognostics following TBI. To date, his work has been presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists in Sydney, and at the 2nd Australian Neurotrauma Symposium in Hobart. Last year he was invited to present his work in New Zealand, and was awarded the 2011 International Neuropsychological Society's award for best submission by a graduate student in the field of neuropsychology. Most recently, Mr Tuck has been invited to guest lecture in neurotrauma management and recovery by the UTAS School of Medicine.

Since being awarded the clinical research grant, the researchers have been able to purchase necessary pathological equipment, employ a part-time research assistant – and, excitingly, take on post-graduate psychology student Daniel Moore as a co-researcher. Mr Moore's collaboration will broaden the scope of the study and help to promote the Royal Hobart Hospital – not only for its high quality treatment and care, but also for its ability to produce international standard medical research. The grant will further assist the project to publish findings in academic journals, present findings at renowned conferences and promote interdisciplinary collaboration in medical management.

Australian Rotary Health - PhD Scholarship investigating Bowel Cancer

Applications for a PhD Scholarship commencing in 2012/13 researching Bowel Cancer are being called for by Australian Rotary Health. Guidelines and applications can be downloaded from www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au with the closing date for applications Friday 6th July 2012. For more details please contact Kelly Anne Martinez at Australian Rotary Health on 02 8837 1900 or kellymartinez@australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Medical research boosted by International Women's Day Breakfast



Guest Georgie McGee (right) had the chance to meet Judy and pose for a picture while getting her copy of *Tiger Men* signed.

The annual International Women's Day Breakfast again delivered a wonderful celebration recognising this important day on the calendar. Teaming up with Department of Premier and Cabinet – Community Development Division, the Foundation welcomed guests to a new home at Wrest Point, with over 430 people enjoying Judy Nunn as speaker.

Judy shared wonderful stories of her journey through an array of Australian television shows and theatre productions before becoming an author of over eleven titles. Many of our guests took the opportunity to purchase a copy of Judy's latest novel, having it personally signed before posing for a pic.

Our very big thanks to all who were involved in bringing this fabulous event together including all of our very special friends who enabled us to raise over \$23k for local health and medical research.

Appointment of new Chairman continued...

Chief Executive Officer Heather Francis extended sincere appreciation to Heather Chong for her dedication and strong commitment to the goals of the Research Foundation acknowledging not only her time as Chair, but also as Acting CEO of the Foundation during an interim period in the first half of 2011.

"My personal thanks must go to Heather for her significant contributions to the Foundation over her time as Chair".

The RHH Research Foundation Board now consists of: David Catchpole (Chair and Public Officer/Secretary), Peter Murfett (Deputy Chair), Vanessa Jarvis (Treasurer) and members; Helen Dickenson, Matthew Jose, Craig White, Jane Holden, Ray Playford, Heather Chong and John Amery.

From the CEO

While it's generally Springtime that brings fresh starts, perhaps it's all those swirling Autumn leaves that has us turning a few proverbial new leaves of our own during recent times.



This issue of QUEST highlights a number of 'firsts' for our Foundation that have been celebrated in recent times, recognising that with a history spanning fifteen years and with many milestones already reached over this time, we are poised to take next steps. Perhaps the most significant was our celebration of health and medical research, marked by our inaugural Research Excellence Dinner held in March. Naturally our Foundation has as its core an objective to promote the importance of health and medical research. Enjoying a proud history of extensive investment (now over \$6m) with strong outcomes, this proved a valuable opportunity to pause and reflect on achievements while welcoming a new cohort of grant recipients. As noted further in QUEST, this event brought together researchers and supporters for a true night of celebration that we look forward to now repeating each year.

As many of our supporters would already know, we have also turned a corner in delivery of our renowned monthly event series. While our traditional Big Breakfasts continue in March and December, we have now switched to a calendar of lunches from April to November at a new inner-city venue, with our first luncheon welcoming the Foundation's first male guest speaker. Profiled further in this issue, Matthew Evans proved a passionate spokesman for the importance of real food, engaging a capacity audience who enjoyed this event as a marvellous way of supporting our fundraising aims.

While we continue to gain the support of so many long term partners across the business community, we've also been busy developing friendships with a number of new proud Tasmanian partners. Keep an eye out for our next issue of QUEST when we announce a number of exciting relationships with local enterprises who, like us, are eager to support the health and wellbeing of our Tasmanian community. And of course, if you would also like to add your further support, we would be honoured to hear from you. These are challenging economic times, but with your generosity, we can continue to invest in outstanding research that provides stimulation and satisfaction to our Tasmanian clinicians, with outcomes enhancing our quality of life in this beautiful state.

Gourmet start to the Luncheon Series

In other events held recently, the Research Foundation Luncheon Series kicked off with a full house at Grand Mercure Hadleys Hotel, with guests being wowed by Matthew Evans.

In his genuine approach, Matthew's presentation encouraged people to think about where their food comes from and the manner in which it has made its way to the dinner table. True to style, Matthew stayed on for book signings – with many of his titles available for sale by long term supporters Fullers Bookshop – with many guests having a relaxed chin-wag with such a personable fellow while obtaining an autograph.



Attending the April luncheon was Rebecca Abela who was lucky enough to chat with Matthew Evans while getting her book personally signed.



Matthew Evans delighted guests as he took to the stage at the April Luncheon.



Pictured from left: Deborah Byrne, Jenny-Ellen Kennedy, Jane Stephens and Tony Kennedy.

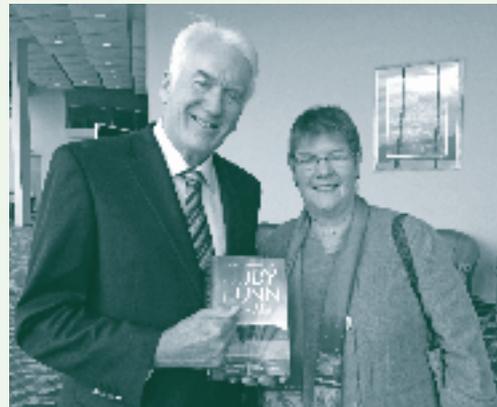


Enjoying the luncheon with Mathew Evans from left: Julia Garry, Susan Sussems and Andrea Byrne.



Rear from left: Dianne Bealey and Margaret Keane; front from left: Marion Woodward and Robyn O'Connor.

International Women's Day Breakfast photo gallery



Hobart Lord Mayor Damon Thomas alongside Margaret Sutherland enjoying the International Women's Day Breakfast.



The Sisongke Community Choir provided a perfect start to the morning with a joyful selection of musical pieces.



Welcoming guests to a new home at Wrest Point.

Donation form

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I/We wish to make a donation of: (please tick)

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Cheque Money order Credit card (please complete the details below)

OR – I would like to become a member of the Foundation's RSVP program by making a regular donation from my credit card.

I/We would like to donate \$ _____ every – (please tick) Month Quarter Year

Credit Card details

Credit card number

Expiry date /

Signature _____ Name on card _____

Please add me to the mailing list for Foundation events and publications

Please send me the bequest brochure 'Your lasting legacy'

Please return donation to: Reply Paid, Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation, GPO Box 1061, Hobart 7001

2012/13 Entertainment books – available now!

The Foundation is once more selling the 2012/13 Entertainment Books – and they're available now for just \$60!

Following your purchase, you'll enjoy wonderful savings at restaurants and activities located around Tasmania and mainland Australia, all while supporting the Research Foundation. This delicious fundraising method provides \$12 from each sale to the Foundation – so why not satisfy your taste buds and help local medical research?!

The Foundation is also offering gift certificates, so if you're stuck for gift ideas, why not purchase a gift certificate? You can give the certificate to your friend

or family member and they are entitled to the 2012/13 Entertainment book which can be claimed through the Foundation.

If you'd like to purchase an Entertainment book for yourself or a gift certificate for a very lucky friend or family member please contact the Foundation on 03 6222 7049 or via email: research.foundation@dhhs.tas.gov.au or complete the flyer included in this edition of QUEST.



Save the date - calendar of events 2012

The Luncheon Series continues throughout winter at Hobart Central Grand Mercure Apartments (adjacent to Hadleys). To make sure you don't miss out, pop the following Wednesdays in your diary:

6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October and 14 November.

As always, we'll wrap up the year with a bang at the Big December Breakfast. With tickets selling fast already, make sure you register your table to join this fabulous occasion.

Call the office on 6222 7049 to register now!



Fullers special event - Ita Buttrose A Passionate Life

This much admired and well-lived life updated!

Ita Buttrose AO, OBE has enjoyed an extensive career in print, radio and television. She has edited leading magazines and newspapers including the Sun-Herald, The Australian Women's Weekly and Cleo. She has served as the national president of Arthritis Australia and as a director of the Australian Prostate Cancer Foundation, chaired the National Breast Cancer Centre's Advisory Network, and is patron of the Australian Macular Degeneration Foundation

and the president of Alzheimer's Australia. A Passionate Life is her 11th book. A portion of this ticket price goes to the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation, a chosen charity of Fullers. Come along and hear this formidable woman speak about her latest book, and support a good cause. Two excellent reasons to brave the wintry weather.



Tickets \$7.50 - available from Fullers Bookshop Hobart from late May

Spotlight on sponsors

The Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation enjoys the support of a very generous Tasmanian business community, and our success in fundraising for local health and medical research is underpinned by that generosity.

In particular we'd like to thank the following:

Gold Sponsor

D J Motors

Partners

40 Degrees South

All Occasions

Cadbury

Chandlers Nursery

Department of Premier and Cabinet –
Community Development Division

D'Orazio family

Electrolux Floorcare

Entertainment Publications

Fairchild Multimedia Pty Ltd

For The Love of Gold

Fullers Bookshop

Harmony Hill Wellness and Day Spa

Howards Storage World

L J Hooker – Hobart and Glenorchy

Menzies Research Institute

Metro Tasmania

Optomeyes

Papillion Health and Beauty Centre

Paula Leishman & Associates/ICMI

Pernod Ricard

Peter Worrall Lawyers

Quadrant Superannuation

RACT

Red Feather Inn

Rotary Club of Hobart

Royal Hobart Hospital

Slick Promotions

St Michael's Collegiate

Sudar Hair

Sypkes Family

Tasmanian Woollen Company

Telstra

Theatre Royal

The Hobart Stocking Shop

The Mercury

The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel

The Travel Studio

Travel Inn Hotel - Carlton

WHK

Worrall Lawyers

Event Venue Partners

Hadleys Grand Mercure Hobart

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

Wrest Point