

The official newsletter of the Prostate
Cancer Foundation of New Zealand Inc

The Prostate Advocate

President's report

ONE word dominated the 2006-7 year for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand and that was 'Movember' members and delegates of the Foundation were told at the organisation's annual general meeting in Christchurch.

In his annual report the



ABOVE: Ian Morrison (Mana) and Kareen Sutcliffe (Tauranga) in discussion at the AGM dinner.

RIGHT: Project Manager and Canterbury Branch Chairman Chris Jones running a workshop to assist the preparation of the Foundation power point presentation.

President of the Foundation, Barry Young, said the Movember project gave the Foundation a highly visible profile, promoted the cause of prostate cancer awareness to unprecedented levels amongst the public and raised money to enable the Foundation to equip itself to achieve its goals.

"At March 31 last year we had assets totalling \$94,000. By March 31 this year we had \$850,000, an 804% improvement in our financial position.

"I wish to formally thank the people of New Zealand, the MoBro's and MoSista's, the teams, the corporates, everyone who contributed. In particular we must all thank our project manager, Chris Jones; our national secretary, Carolyn Young and the Movember team all of whom worked so hard to make Movember the success it

became. Planning has already started for this year's Movember," said Barry.

He explained that access to increased funding had enabled the Foundation to immediately embark upon a number of projects. While proceeding with these, however, the Foundation has kept in mind the need for financial prudence to help ensure the future of the organisation. It has sought

developed a programme to equip branches with such things as power point presentations, signage and promotional literature. Once again we have worked prudently. We assess what is needed at each branch and equip accordingly. The more recent branches are still sorting out their requirements but we are ready to assist as and when required," said Barry.

The AGM was told that following a series of meetings and discussions the Tauranga branch chose to close down as an incorporated society. The members decided they did not want to continue as an incorporated society and voted to close and disburse their funds according to their constitution. Discussions about future representation for the Foundation in the region will take place at an appropriate time.

"Another major decision taken during the year was to develop the concept of a 'virtual office'. The executive chose not to indulge in major capital expenditure such as offices and vehicles but rather to use the latest communications and computer technology to facilitate operation of the Foundation. It will mean the CEO, the members of the executive and representatives around the country will be able to operate effectively from wherever they are," said Barry.

The meeting was told that funds from Movember had been allocated for research and scholarship. One project, "The Early Detection of Prostate Cancer in General Practice: Supporting Patient Choice" is already underway.

The Foundation is also to establish an annual scholarship for a New Zealand urology nurse. Talks are taking place to develop this and select the first recipient.



NGO's form CANGO

A number of leading non-government agencies (NGO's) involved with cancer have formed a new organisation to ensure their opinions are heard by the Cancer Control Council. The inaugural meeting of what is now known as CANGO was called by the Cancer Society of New Zealand in April.

As a result the Cancer Control Council has been told of a number of issues that concern the members of CANGO.

1. NGO's are not being as fully involved as they might be in new regional networks which are heavily District Health Board (DHB) driven. CANGO takes the view that cancer NGO's provide all the resources and support that cannot be accessed from government and in that respect are a hugely important component in cancer care and therefore must be more actively involved in new initiatives such as the networks.

2. CANGO believes that the current and projected status of the cancer workforce is critical to cancer care and more robust

data need to be collected. A lack of appropriate planning to ensure an adequate and viable workforce will jeopardise the goals of the Cancer Control Strategy.

3. CANGO is very concerned that New Zealand patients do not enjoy the same level of access to the most recent treatments and drugs as do people in other OECD countries. It is also concerned that this gap is widening and that the gap is not being addressed and this will significantly undermine NGO capability to provide first world care for cancer patients.

4. CANGO is concerned at the amount of money invested in cancer research in New Zealand and how this will be addressed.

A letter making these points was sent to the chair of the Cancer Control Council, Dame Catherine Tizard, and signed by:

- Cancer Society of New Zealand
- Prostate Cancer Foundation
- New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation
- Palliative Care New Zealand
- Child Cancer Foundation

Mission statement

The following mission statement was formally adopted by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand Inc. at its annual general meeting in Christchurch.

"To create or enhance an environment to empower men to make informed decisions about the diagnosis of, and treatment for, prostate cancer."

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Officers elected

Officers elected at the annual general meeting of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand Inc. in Christchurch were:

President

Barry Young, Auckland

Vice President

Trevor Green, Papakura

Treasurer

Trevor Green, Papakura

Secretary

Carolyn Young, Auckland

Executive Ambassador

Ray Mulqueen, Wanaka

Committee

Keith Beck, Dunedin

Ian Chapman, Nelson

Jack Irwin, Auckland

Chris Jones, Canterbury

Ian Morrison, Mana

Kareen Sutcliffe, Tauranga

Regional Representatives

Jack Stanley, Whangarei

Doreen Morrison, Mana

Ross Scott, Wellington

Russell Gibson, Timaru

Bill Gordon, Invercargill

The medical committee was reappointed:

Mr Peter Davidson

Christchurch

Professor Brett Delahunt

Wellington

Associate Professor David Lamb

Wellington

Mr Robin Smart

Auckland

Prostate
Cancer
Foundation
of New Zealand

President admitted to Order of St Lazarus

THE President of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Barry Young, has been admitted to The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem and has been made Commander of the Order's Auckland Region.

His investiture into the Order will be performed by His Royal Highness, The Grand Master of the Order, Don Francisco de Borbon y Escasany, Duke of Seville, in Wellington, on October 20.

The ancient Order was re-established in New Zealand seven years ago and has become involved with a number of charitable activities. Members have to be offered the opportunity to join the Order.

"When I was asked to become a member of the Order I discussed it with my colleagues in the Prostate Cancer Foundation. With the Order's history of helping support medical projects it seemed another opportunity to also promote the work of our Foundation. They unanimously agreed I should become a member," said Barry.

The Barkers Boxer Initiative

BARKERS Men's Clothing are launching a major initiative to raise money to help in the fight against prostate cancer. The company has created a range of boxer shorts designed and modeled by creative and talented New Zealanders. A significant proportion of the profit from each sale will be donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

The boxer shorts will be promoted nationwide, including on the Barker's website, and will be available in 20 stores throughout the country. Purchases can also be made over the internet at www.barkersmensclothing.co.nz and through the Foundation website www.prostate.org.nz

The project will be launched at Mt Smart Stadium in Auckland on September 22 with 'BARKERS 600 ALIVE' - an event that will document the fact that around 600 NZ men die each year of prostate cancer by creating a photographic image of the number '600' using human bodies. Participants will be partially clothed wearing a pair of brand new Barkers designer boxers. Leading photographer Shaun Pettigrew will be positioned 50 metres up on a crane to record this unforgettable image.

The organizers would welcome as much involvement as possible. They need about 1500 bodies to create the giant '600' so if you want to show your support and be involved in one of the most ambitious live art installations ever staged in NZ go to www.barkers600alive.co.nz to register and get more information.

Stores: Auckland: Sylvia Park, Newmarket, St Lukes, Takapuna, Henderson, Botany Downs Tauranga: Red Square Palmerston North: The Plaza Wellington: Lambton Quay, Queensgate Christchurch: Cashel Mall, Riccarton Dunedin: Meridian Centre Invercargill: City Centre

Outlets: Onehunga, North Harbour, Hamilton, Tawa, Hornby, Westgate



OBITUARIES

(by Barry Young)

ERIC DIGGELMANN

THE death has occurred of one of the founders of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand, Eric Diggelmann. Eric died in early May.



Eric was, in fact, one of the original members of the Prostate Awareness and Support Society, the original name of the Foundation. He and his wife Val were a team not just as husband and wife but became an outstanding example of what can be achieved when a husband and wife work together in the cause of the prostate cancer.

Eric was a successful Tauranga businessman and he brought the same personality and skills to the Foundation. But his greatest contribution was his ability to find something amusing in the face of adversity. It was this attribute that constantly motivated those who might otherwise have found the work of the Foundation too onerous or distressing. However serious a subject might be, few discussions were allowed to proceed before a joke had been told and yet another was run-out when the problem had been dealt with.

Over 10 years Eric served as a member of the national executive and then as president and immediate past president.

BOB CARTER

THE death has also occurred of one of the founders of the Canterbury branch of the Foundation, Bob Carter. Chris Jones, current chairman of Canterbury, writes that Bob was one of the most supportive and enthusiastic members of the branch. He had a special zeal to spread the word of the importance of health checks and constantly addressed groups and distributed educational material. It was always he who said "I'll do that for you", when a job needed to be done.



Bob was supported in his work by his wife Sheila and other members of his family. He is sorely missed.

Footnote: The last time I spoke to Bob was only a week or so before he died. I was in Christchurch to attend a meeting of the Canterbury branch but Bob was too ill with his prostate cancer to attend.

During a phone call he said: "Barry please keep doing what you are doing so that my grandsons don't have to go through this".

I made Bob a promise which I hope I made on behalf of all members of the Foundation: Bob, we will keep doing what we are doing.

Plans to include Cook Islands in Helpline coverage

PLANS are being developed to extend the Foundation's Helpline 0800 627 277 service to the Cook Islands. The project follows a visit to the islands by President and CEO, Barry Young, who was invited to present a paper about prostate cancer at the Cook Islands annual health conference at Rarotonga.

"There are about 15,000 people living in the Cook Islands and some 50,000 Cook Islanders living in South Auckland so we are simply extending our existing service that is already available to members of the Cook Islands New Zealand community.

"Cook Islands men are reluctant to talk about health problems and they are particularly reluctant to talk about a health problem that affects one of their sexual organs. Now, working with Cook Islands health professionals in Auckland, we plan to be able to provide counselling in Cook Islands Maori language which should make it easier to talk about such things," said Barry.

Dilworth boys raise funds for Foundation



Jared Cooksley (left) and Kolya Mauraviev present a cheque for \$1,000 to Foundation President Barry Young

If ever further evidence was required of just how Movember had spread the message about men's health then one needs to look no further than the efforts of boys at Dilworth School in Auckland.

This year the boys decided that they would use their annual ball to raise money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. President and CEO, Barry Young, was asked to attend a school assembly and was presented with the cheque for \$1,000. He has since been asked to talk about men's health to 'transition classes'; young men preparing to leave school.

Increase in private treatment

FIGURES obtained under the Official Information Act by National MP, Dr Jackie Blue, reveal that between 2002 and 2003 there was a sharp increase in the number of men and women who had operations in private hospitals for either breast or prostate cancer. Over the same period there was a minimal change in the numbers being treated in the public system.

The number of men with prostate cancer treated in private hospitals increased by 42% while there was only an increase of 2% in the number treated at public hospitals.

The increase in men and women seeking treatment in the private health sector occurred when the number of women being diagnosed with breast cancer has actually declined and the numbers of men diagnosed with prostate cancer increased only slightly.

Provisional figures released for the 2005/6 year show the number of men treated in the public sector decreased by 20% from 2002/03.

New radiotherapy centre for Auckland

MERCY Ascot and Southern Cross Hospitals are to develop a private radiotherapy centre in Auckland. It will be the first such service outside the public system in the Auckland region. It is expected the new facility will be in operation this time next year.

MercyAscot spokesman, Dr Richard Fisher, said patients and their families had said they wanted the option of receiving immediate treatment privately from their choice of specialist.

The new radiotherapy centre will initially house one linear accelerator (radiotherapy machine). Construction is already underway on the northern side of MercyAscot's Mountain Road, Epsom, site.

Dr Fisher said the new centre will provide radiotherapy services to the highest international standards utilising some of New Zealand's top specialists.

"The new centre will offer attractive, comfortable surroundings with the convenience of theatres, radiology, pre and post-operative care, a pharmacy and essential amenities all in one place.

"Centrally located in Epsom the facility will have good access to motorways, parking, public transport, accommodation and other services," said Dr Fisher.