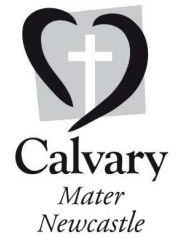


Media Release



26 May 2010

TRAILBLAZING THE WAY FOR AUSTRALIAN CANCER RESEARCH

Senior research scientists, clinical staff and management from Calvary Mater Newcastle will be visiting Kempsey on 27 May to say a special thank you to Ron Bannerman OAM and the generous community of Kempsey. Over the last 12 years Ron has raised \$100,000 for the Hunter Haematology Research Group based at Calvary Mater Newcastle with the support of the people of Macleay and Kempsey.

Ron first began his association with the Mater over 12 years ago while receiving treatment for APML leukaemia. He was initially given a prognosis of just four months to live until it was discovered that the highly toxic substance of arsenic was used to treat cancer in Chinese medicine.

Dr Lisa Lincz, Senior Hospital Scientist at Calvary Mater Newcastle has been in regular contact with Ron since his journey with APML leukaemia began.

'Ron's treatment was an amazing breakthrough in cancer research; he has essentially been in remission now for 11 years. Ron was the first patient in Australia to be treated with arsenic together with other conventional treatments, which is now being used to treat blood cancer patients around the world,' said Dr Lincz.

The soothing sounds of Ron's violin has been music to the Kempsey community's ears, as this 76-year-old has raised most of the much appreciated funds by busking in Kempsey Mall and through teaching the violin to students.

Colin Osborne, General Manager of Calvary Mater Newcastle has long admired Ron for his dedication to fundraising for cancer research.

'Ron's commitment to groundbreaking treatments and raising funds is astounding. In spite of being a cancer patient himself, he has gone out into the community with great strength of spirit to play his violin and encourage his community to give so generously. We are extremely thankful to Ron for his hard work and dedication over the last nine years as well as to the people of Kempsey for continuing to support Ron's work,' said Colin.

Ron's generous donations have been used to support a range of research initiatives within the Hunter Haematology Group as well as creating the Ron Bannerman Scholarship, allowing undergraduate university students to experience what it's like to conduct research in a laboratory setting.

A lunch event to honour Ron and to celebrate his years of tireless fundraising for cancer research will be held at the Kempsey City Council Chambers. The lunch will be attended by the Mayor of Kempsey, Cr John Bowell.

-ENDS-

Note: Media are invited to attend the presentation at 11.30am on Thursday 27 May 2010 at Kempsey Council Chambers.

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