

NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN JAMES
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

VOLUME THREE, ISSUE ONE
JUNE 2009

Foundation *Journal*

GOVERNOR GENERAL
becomes Foundation Patron

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
underway for 2009

EDUCATION INITIATIVES
new programs for 2009

HOSPITAL FACILITIES
major upgrades planned

LOCAL CHARITIES
continue to benefit from the Foundation



John James Foundation

A tradition of healing, serving our community.

Foundation Journal

Volume Three, Issue One
June 2009

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The John James Memorial Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organisation. It built what is now known as the Calvary John James Hospital in 1970 and operated it until October 2006, when the hospital business was sold to Calvary Private Healthcare Canberra Ltd. Following the sale of the business, the Foundation retained ownership of all of the hospital land and buildings, which is now known as the John James Healthcare Campus. The foundation relies on rental income from the various tenants on campus, including Calvary, for its ongoing operations. The foundation is now an independent, broad based healthcare charity providing a range of programs and assistance to the people of Canberra and beyond and is very grateful for the ongoing support of a large number of Canberra based Specialists and GPs.

Cover: In the theatre during our latest trip north with the Volunteer Specialist Program.



From the Chief Executive

We are extremely pleased that the Governor General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce has accepted our invitation to be the Patron of the Foundation. This is a great endorsement of the work we are now doing and gives us a range of new opportunities to promote the operations of the Foundation. At this stage we are planning a special acknowledgement function for the Specialists and Nurses who participate in our volunteer program in the Northern Territory and this will hopefully involve the Governor General later in the year.

Having completed seven Specialist volunteer team trips to Katherine in the Northern Territory last year, we currently have nine trips planned for 2009. We welcome Ophthalmologist Dr Christiane Lawin-Bruessel to our team of volunteers who will undertake a trip this coming September. We are also in negotiations with the Commonwealth, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian Governments with a view to exploring ways in which we might build on and expand our existing program.

We recently completed the selection process for the three students from James Cook University who will participate in our Specialist Elective Program from September to November 2009 and we look forward to welcoming them to Canberra in September. Our first John Curtin School of Medical Research scholarship holder commenced her PhD studies at the beginning of 2009 and we are hopeful her work at the School

will provide further valuable steps toward solving the mysteries of cancer.

We have also added a new element to our Education Program with a scholarship fund for nurses at the Calvary John James Hospital commencing from 1 July 2009. The fund will provide financial assistance to nurses to further their education and bring new skills to the hospital.

After an extensive period of negotiation we will shortly formalise an ongoing relationship with Calvary which will see the Foundation contribute significant funding toward the facilities and equipment at the hospital. A precursor to the Foundation contributing funds is Calvary commencing their own capital expenditure program and we are very excited about what this will mean by way of improvements to the hospital over the next 12 months. Clearly there are likely to be some changes and challenges in the hospital landscape in the ACT with the likely sale of the Calvary North Public Hospital by Calvary to the ACT Government and changes to current health fund premium rebates. We will certainly continue to work closely with the new management of the Hospital and the Little Company of Mary through this challenging time.

Our General Charitable Gifts program for the 2008-09 year has been settled and although we have had to shorten our list of recipients due to the expected expenditure at the Calvary John James Hospital, we

Welcome to the first and new look Foundation Journal for 2009. As you'll note from the size of this edition a lot has been happening in our patch since the last newsletter.

FROM THE CEO

CONTINUED

FROM THE CEO

believe we have continued to make a very worthwhile contribution to the Canberra community through the \$140,000 in gifts we have been able to make.

Many will have noted the large crane towering over the Healthcare Campus from the adjoining construction site which was once the Deakin Hotel. When complete that project will provide a significant new amount of commercial office space in the Deakin precinct. Although still in the planning phase, it is also likely we will see some significant redevelopment of the Deakin Bowling Club site by its owners the Hellenic Club of Canberra. The Bowling club will be retained but a new large mixed use building will be added to incorporate a Hellenic Club and potential for commercial and residential space. Both developments should help to lift the quality and aesthetics of the precinct.

This year will see us embark on a range of communications and marketing efforts to increase the profile of the Foundation and ensure the community is aware of our programs and the distinctions between our operations and those of our tenant; the Calvary John James Hospital. We will also be specifically targeting a wide range of health professionals as part of this campaign.

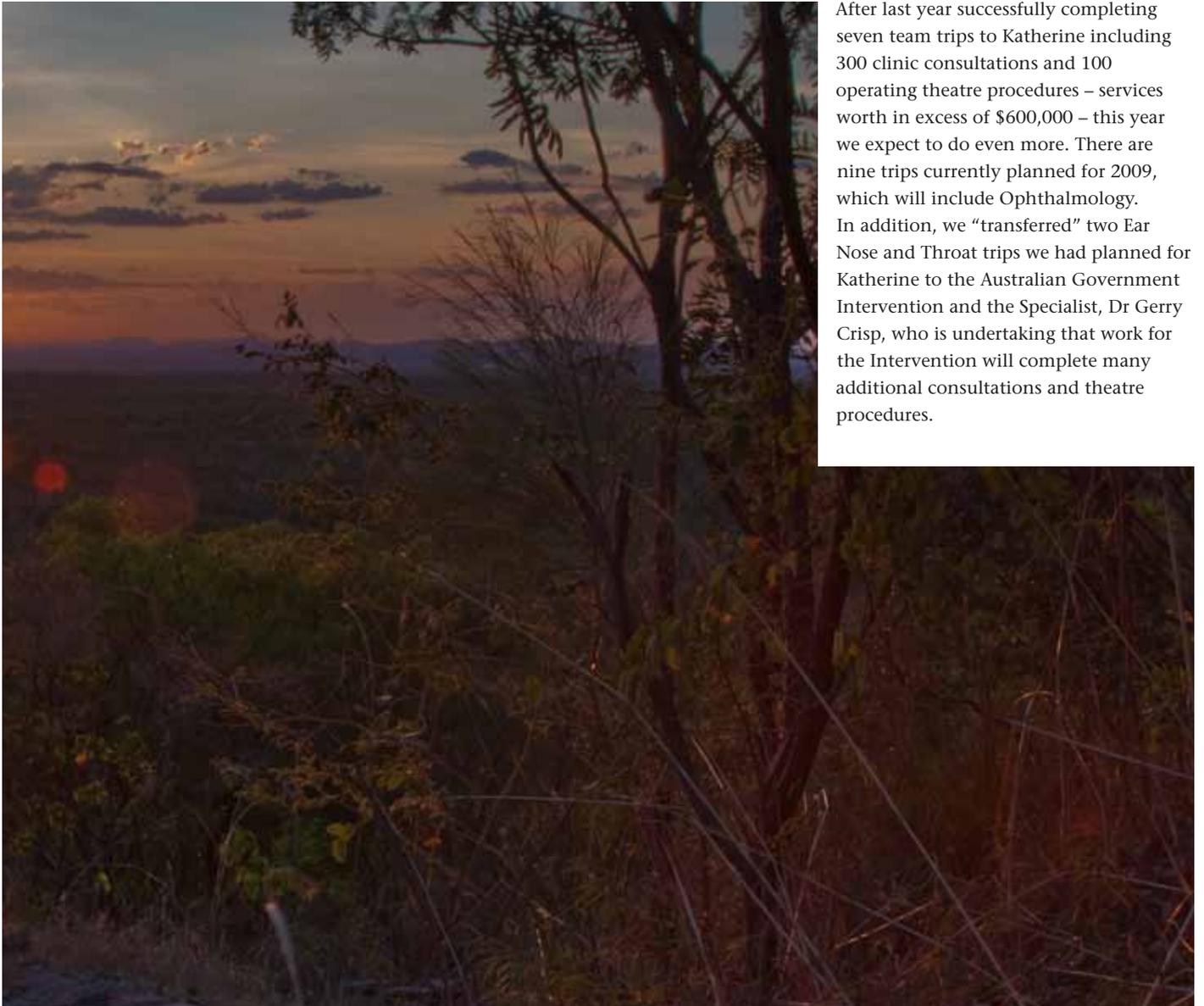
We had two new additions to our Board following the Annual General Meeting last year and we welcome Dr Charles Mosse

(General Surgeon) and Mr Mark Sullivan (CEO ACTEW) to our Board and look forward to their valuable input and support.

I hope you enjoy the following pages covering a range of achievements and exciting future plans for the Foundation which continues to grow, providing significant charitable benefits and services to the community. I am certainly extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve to date with only two and a half staff!!

-- **Peter Williams**

Volunteer Specialist Program



After last year successfully completing seven team trips to Katherine including 300 clinic consultations and 100 operating theatre procedures – services worth in excess of \$600,000 – this year we expect to do even more. There are nine trips currently planned for 2009, which will include Ophthalmology. In addition, we “transferred” two Ear Nose and Throat trips we had planned for Katherine to the Australian Government Intervention and the Specialist, Dr Gerry Crisp, who is undertaking that work for the Intervention will complete many additional consultations and theatre procedures.

VOLUNTEER SPECIALIST PROGRAM

CONTINUED



The Katherine Hospital has for some time been indicating the need for Ophthalmology services in the region. Disease of the eye along with ears and teeth are some of the biggest health issues in remote communities. While we were able to provide ENT and Dental surgeons in 2008, we were not able to identify an ophthalmologist who was able to participate in a volunteer trip. We are then very excited to have Dr Christiane Lawin-Bruessel from the Canberra Eye Hospital join our team of volunteers. Dr Lawin-Bruessel along with Orthoptist Mrs Pat Helsing, also from the Canberra Eye Hospital will travel to Katherine in September for the first time and will no doubt be kept busy. We are extremely grateful for their assistance to our program.

Following on from the very positive ongoing outcomes of our program based in Katherine we believe there is now a good opportunity to increase the number of trips and expand the range of Specialist services we currently provide. To that end we are continuing to negotiate with the Commonwealth, Northern Territory and Queensland Governments and will shortly commence discussions with the West Australian Government in relation to services in the Kimberly region.

As part of our move to increase the profile of the Foundation and its programs, the ABC Television's Stateline Program will be compiling a story on our Orthopaedic trip

at the end of May 2009. It is understood the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs the Hon Jenny Macklin along with the Secretary of her Department Dr Jeff Harmer and Ms Jane Halton, Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing may also be able to visit this project. We are very pleased to have this high level of interest in our program.

2009 Program

We have already completed two trips to Katherine so far this year in the Specialties of Obstetrics/Gynaecology and Dental with almost 60 patient clinic consultations and 60 theatre procedures having been undertaken.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology Trip

In the week commencing 20th April Obstetrician & Gynaecologist Dr Robert Armellin, together with Anaesthetist Dr Vida Vilunas and Nurses Samantha Aksinov and Peggy O'Connor travelled to the Northern Territory. None of the team members had previously been to Katherine and it was a credit to them in how well they managed to deal with the cultural issues and adapt to a much different working environment to that found in Canberra.

Working with Darwin based Obstetric & Gynaecology outreach nurse Lesley Stewart and Gynaecology Registrar Dr Clara Marin, Dr Armellin travelled to clinics in



WITH THE SUCCESS OF
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TO LOOK TO EXPAND

Lajamanu, Mataranka and Bulman. The team completed a total of 36 patient clinic consultations during the visits to these three communities – which had not had a specialist visit for almost 12 months. A further clinic was conducted in the Katherine Hospital on the Thursday of the visit week with a further 20 patients being seen during that clinic.

While Dr Armellin was undertaking the Obstetrics & Gynaecology clinics, Dr Vilunas and Nurse Sam Aksinov assisted visiting ENT surgeon Dr Geoff Vercoe from Adelaide in 14 Ear, Nose & Throat procedures and in addition provided anaesthetics for an emergency caesarian section while Katherine's other surgical and anaesthetic doctors were completing a second caesarian section. The final day on Friday was a full day in the operating theatre for the whole team, completing seven gynaecological procedures.

The team managed to fit in visits to several of the sites and attractions in the Katherine area and not only provided a significant

amount of health services, including almost 60 clinic consultations and 20 theatre procedures during the week, but thoroughly enjoyed their first trip to Katherine.

Dental Trip

Immediately following the Obstetrics & Gynaecology trip, the second team for the year comprised of Dental Surgeons arrived in Katherine to complete an extensive schedule of planned surgery for the week. Northern Territory Oral Health and the Australian Government Intervention Program had already identified 40 young patients who would be flown in from a number of remote communities to receive desperately needed dental surgery.

The team from Canberra comprising Paediatric Dental Surgeons, Drs Peter Wong and Fiona Bell, Anaesthetist Dr Don Lu and Nurses Elaine Guy, Nadine Mahoney and Alicia Southwell were joined by Anaesthetic Registrar Dr Michelle Spencer from Melbourne's Monash Medical Centre for what would be a very busy week. This trip would be the third undertaken by the Canberra team and the Foundation cannot speak highly enough of the commitment of all these professionals and the time and expertise they have given and continue to give to the people of the Katherine region.

In what was a remarkably well oiled machine, patients were flown in and out of Katherine for surgery every day on

charter planes, with each patient also being accompanied by a carer and everyone being accommodated in the Katherine Hospital. Patients travelled in for surgery from the Borroloola, Oenpelli, Ngukurr, Maningrida and Minyerri communities.

In total the team carried out 37 operations, extracting almost 200 teeth, carrying out 150 restorations/fillings and fitting just over 50 stainless steel crowns. When you appreciate that means work was carried out on an average of more than 10 teeth for every patient it is understandable the team worked from sun up to sundown every day. However it's also an indication of the size of the problem with oral health in remote communities, where poor diet and oral hygiene continue to have a large impact.

We are extremely grateful for the assistance of Julie Hornibrook from the Australian Government Intervention project and Nicolette Dargan from Northern Territory Health for their invaluable assistance in identifying and bringing all of the young patients to Katherine for surgery. We are also extremely grateful for the assistance of all the staff at the Katherine Hospital and in particular Rose Gaston and all her theatre nurses for accommodating the large team in her theatres and ensuring the schedule ran so smoothly.



Education Program

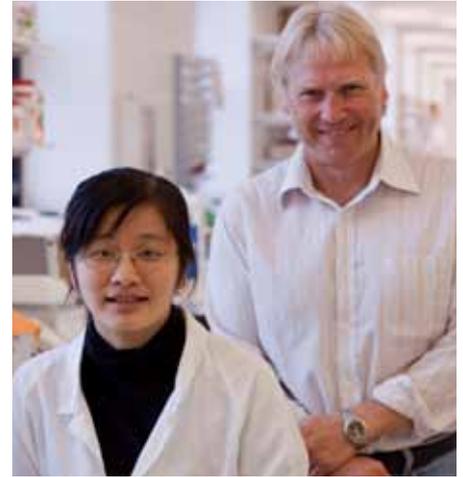
After a competitive selection process involving 10 student applicants from the James Cook University, final year medical students Patrick Donald, Sarah Fairhall and Kimberley Wells were selected to participate in our Specialist Elective program. The program will give the students the chance to spend time one-on-one with some of Canberra's leading specialist both in their consulting rooms and in theatre and also provides some additional chances for learning in anatomy and guidance on some of the legal issues faced by doctors in private practice.

This will be the third year of the program and we remain indebted to all of our Specialist Doctor members who give their time and expertise to these students. The students are all rurally bonded, which means upon graduation they will commence their professional careers as doctors in rural and remote areas. This is the third year of the program and the skills and experiences the students who have participated previously in the program have gained from the Foundations' program have been invaluable in this setting.

The Foundation looks forward to welcoming Patrick, Sarah and Kimberly in late September 2009.

The Foundations three year sponsorship of a PhD student at the John Curtin School of Medical Research commenced in 2009, with Sophie Shu Yi Han being the successful student. Sophie has a First Class Honours Degree in Science from Sydney University and has already completed a significant number of research projects. Sophie's direct supervisor will be the highly respected, Professor David Tremethick.

Sophie's area of study includes carrying out a 2-D and 3-D analysis of specific structural changes in chromosomes during the progression of cancer, which if successful over the next three years will add to the excellent work being done by the John Curtin School in unraveling the mysteries of cancer, its causes and its cures.



Following recent discussions with Associate Professor Amanda Barnard at the ANU Medical School, we expect to shortly commence providing medical students enrolled in the rural and indigenous health stream at the ANU with the opportunity to participate in our specialist team visits to Katherine in the Northern Territory. The Foundation will pay for the student's travel and accommodation and importantly will provide them with an outstanding opportunity to not only learn from Specialists, but experience first-hand the health issues in rural and remote areas.

Given our roots in the Canberra community we are very excited about forging this link with the medical program at the Australian National University.

In another exciting addition to our education program we will shortly be finalising a scholarship fund for nursing staff of the Calvary John James Hospital. Successful applicants to the fund will be able to obtain reimbursement for some or perhaps all of the costs of completing further studies. It is hoped this program will provide positive encouragement to the nursing staff at the hospital as well as add to the skills available within the hospital.



CALVARY JOHN JAMES HOSPITAL

UPDATE

Having emerged from a full review of their operations the Little Company of Mary, parent of the Calvary company which runs the Calvary John James Hospital, has provided very positive indications of their ongoing commitment to the hospital operations. While the Calvary John James Hospital is still in the process of being restructured into a fully sustainable operation and funds for capital works remain tight, we feel confident that over the next 12 to 18 months we will see Calvary making significant improvements to the facility.

To assist in this process the Foundation expects to finalise terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between it and the hospital which will see the Foundation make charitable gifts to Calvary in excess of \$2m during the 2009-10 financial year to assist them in their endeavours to upgrade and refurbish the hospital fitout and facilities. The Foundation sees this gift as being a very important contribution not only to Calvary as operators of the hospital, but to the Canberra and surrounding community who rely so heavily on the hospital for a large range of surgical procedures, medical care and rehabilitation and to all the dedicated staff and doctors who utilise the facility.

The most significant project currently earmarked for the Foundation's funding is a complete refit of the Aubrey Tow ward and upgrade to the front reception area.

The Foundation now has a very open and positive working relationship with not only Ms Ann Cassidy, the new CEO of the Calvary John James Hospital, but also Mr Mark Doran, Group CEO and Mr Arthur Yannakou, Head of Private Hospitals of the Little Company of Mary Health Care Group. With the potential for reductions in private health fund premium rebates and locally the changes that appear likely to take place with the administration of the Calvary Belconnen Public and Private Hospitals, this solid working relationship with senior management of the hospital and the Little Company of Mary will remain extremely important to us.

In addition to the charitable gifts to Calvary for internal fit out works, the Foundation as landlord of the hospital premises continues to make a range of improvements including the construction of a large pergola outside the staff function room and the complete upgrade of all major components of the air conditioning systems at the hospital to be undertaken over the next three to four years at a total expected cost of \$600,000.

As mentioned earlier in this update the Foundation is also very pleased to be able to offer Calvary nursing staff the opportunity to apply for financial assistance from a new education fund to assist in furthering their studies and bringing new skills to the workplace.



Giving for the Community

General charitable gifts made by the Foundation so far in the 2008-09 financial year include:

- Snowy Hydro Southcare Helicopter. Funds go toward the operational costs of the helicopter and outside of Snowy Hydro the Foundation remains one of the Helicopters major individual supporters: \$45,000
- SupportLink. Funds go towards the provision of counselling services to members of the emergency services including ambulance, police and fire as well as to supporting members of the public who have been affected by a traumatic event attended by emergency services. The service was most recently called into action to counsel a number of fire fighters following the tragic death of their colleague Mr David Balfour in the Victorian bushfires: \$25,000
- Heart Foundation. Funds are applied toward the early warnings education program designed to encourage people exhibiting signs of heart attack to seek medical assistance as soon as possible: \$20,000
- Lifeline. Funds are applied toward high school based peer programs designed to identify the signs and hopefully reduce the incidence of suicide in our young people: \$20,000
- Hartley House. Funds are applied toward a range of holiday opportunities for residents of Hartley House all of whom suffer severe mental and/or physical conditions which require extensive care 24 hours a day. Many of the residents have never had the experience of a trip outside the House, let alone a simple holiday that the able bodied community would take for granted: \$15,000
- Brain Injury Foundation. Funds are applied toward Darryl's Den which is an opportunity for people suffering severe brain injuries (currently at the Kaleen Community Hall) to receive a range of important physical and mental therapy opportunities. Darryl's Den is run completely by several extremely committed volunteers: \$15,000

Funds have also been pledged to the Home in Queanbeyan Program (\$10,000) which it is hoped will provide much needed accommodation and care for a number of people suffering from chronic mental illness.

Although the list of charities and amounts given are a little less than in the 2007-08 year, primarily due to the Foundation's significant future commitment to the Calvary John James Hospital and our growing volunteer and student programs,



we are still very pleased to be able to help these local charities who make a significant difference to the lives of people in need in our community.

GIVING AT A GLANCE

SNOWY HYDRO SOUTHCARE HELICOPTER	\$45,000
SUPPORTLINK	\$25,000
HEART FOUNDATION	\$20,000
LIFELINE	\$20,000
HARTLEY HOUSE	\$15,000
BRAIN INJURY FOUNDATION	\$15,000

**PROVIDING
VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Volunteer for our Specialist Program

Name

Postal Address

Telephone: (w)

(m)

Area of Specialty

Would you be able and prepared to train local health workers? Y / N

Individual visits are likely to take around 7-10 days including travelling time during the months of March to October. We would obviously aim to give team members at least a couple of months advance notice of the timing for proposed visits. Are there any times of the year that would suit you better than others to participate and/or are there any times you cannot travel?

We are always looking for more Specialists to register their interest in volunteering as part of our Specialist Volunteer Program.

If you can spare some time and are interested in volunteering, please complete this form and return it to the Foundation to register your interest.

Please return the form to the Foundation by Fax: 6282 9973 or post: PO Box 23 Deakin West ACT 2600 or drop it in to us at our office on level 2 of the Clinical Services Building

If you are a surgeon, do you have a preference to work with a specific anaesthetist and/or theatre staff? If so, please ensure you speak with them and confirm they are prepared to also volunteer their time for this project. Please provide the name(s) of the anaesthetist/theatre staff: