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Issue 5

# Mummy's Wish Inc

Helping Mums with cancer

## Paint the Town Red - get involved!

Mummy's Wish is undertaking a joint campaign with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, called Paint the Town Red. This exciting, initiative aims to highlight the strong association between donating blood and helping people with cancer. Unbeknownst to many, more than 30% of all blood donations are used to improve the quality of life for cancer patients. Many of the treatments are derived from the special blood component - plasma. Plasma, otherwise referred to as Liquid Gold, is critical in saving lives. Paint the Town Red aims to educate people about the amazing, life-saving blood components we all possess and can easily share with others.

The three month campaign, running April - June, will raise the profile of Mummy's Wish throughout Queensland and help spread the word about the unique services we provide.

You can show your support in a range of ways. This includes donating funds to Mummy's Wish and/or registering to become a blood donor. You can also host a 'Dress in Red' day at your workplace or be a blood ambassador. Overall it is a feel-good campaign that promises great results. If all goes well this time around, Paint the Town Red could move to the national level in 2011!

The campaign will launch with a Gala Red Cocktail evening on Friday 16th April 2010 at Kedron Wavell Services Club. It will be a fun-filled night with good food, live entertainment and great prizes up for grabs. Look out for next month's newsletter for details on how to reserve your tickets!

We are in need of prizes, great and small, for the Gala Evening. If you are able to assist, please email the Event Coordinator Kirsty, at [kirsty.kahler@gmail.com](mailto:kirsty.kahler@gmail.com)

## About our mums

One of our mum's Tess who has been undergoing treatment for cancer had the joy of bringing her baby girl home from hospital in December after having been in the special care nursery for 11 weeks. Tess also has four other teenage daughters and with all the homework they have to do she has decided to spend her treat money on a new laptop for the household which will make life a lot easier for them all.

\$150 worth of taxi vouchers were provided to our mum, Soudari, who needed transport to and from the Greenslopes hospital where she is receiving treatment.

We also paid for three hours of spring cleaning for Yvonne's house as she has finished her chemotherapy and wanted to start afresh.



*Bernadette and her two children*

### Inside this newsletter:

- About our mums
- Upcoming events
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*Gayle and her daughter*

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## Did you know?

There were 44,356 new cases of cancer diagnosed in females in 2005. By far the most common was breast cancer (12,170 cases), which made up over 27% of all diagnoses and had over double the number of cases than the second most common cancer, colorectal cancer (5,895 cases).

The next three most common cancers were melanoma of the skin (4,640 cases), lung cancer (3,444) and lymphoma (2,057). The top five cancers accounted for over 63% of all diagnoses.

Based on 2005 data, the risk for a female of being diagnosed with cancer before age 75 was one in four and before age 85 was one in three.

Source: AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) & AACR (Australasian Association of Cancer Registries) 2008. Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2008. Cancer series no. 46. Cat. no. CAN 42. Canberra: AIHW.

## New Charity Manager

I'm excited about joining Mummy's Wish as the new Charity Manager, and bring with me more than 20 years experience working in the disability sector, in roles from service provision to policy formulation, systemic advocacy to government advisor.

Having entered the world of retirement, I'm looking forward to continuing my involvement with the community through Mummy's Wish. In taking on the role as Charity Manager I'm hoping to free up our champions, Bernadette and Gayle, from many of the ongoing tasks that need attention, allowing them time to concentrate on the heart and soul of Mummy's Wish ...providing support to mothers and families dealing with cancer.

I feel a personal connection with some of the mothers and families we support. In 2005 my sister-in-law was diagnosed with leukaemia, which represented a difficult time for my brother and their three year old daughter. Fortunately my sister-in-law went into remission in July of the same year and is still in remission as of the beginning of 2010. Unfortunately that's not quite where the story ends. In November of 2005 my brother, yes the same brother who had just watched his wife go through the fight with leukaemia, was then diagnosed himself with the same blood born disease. The strain of leukaemia my brother was living with was of a far more severe form. In August of 2006, he passed away.

On a professional front, I have also worked as a personal counsellor and from time to time, have provided support to others living with cancer.

I love to read and am an avid AFL fan - Essendon Football Club, not the Brisbane Lions I'm sorry to say. I also have one tattoo and I use a wheelchair for mobility.

I'm looking forward to working with Mummy's Wish and to continuing the valuable support we offer to mums in need.

Cheers  
Jeremy Muir



*Help us raise funds for Mummy's Wish and have a great time in the process. Support us by coming along to one of our wonderful fundraising events.*



*If you would like to hold a fundraiser for us, please [email us](#) and we will discuss it with you.*

*By helping us grow you can assist us in achieving our long term mission of helping mums and dads all around Australia diagnosed with cancer when they have young children.*

## Thankyou

[The Salera's group](#) is a family owned and operated jewellery and watch business with stores in Melbourne, Sydney and metropolitan Brisbane. Salera's are donating \$5 from the sale of every S-Class Pen, so please visit their website and download their catalogue for more information on how to buy one.

Thanks again to mortgage and home loan brokers, [Smartline](#), who volunteered staff to assist three of our mums with general household and garden clean ups. The day was successful, the mums were very appreciative and were surprised with an additional \$100 cleaning voucher. Smartline also donated \$1,500 towards the purchase of laptops.

We'd like to thank Kevin Henderson from [Box and Lock Self Storage](#) for donating a large storage unit for a minimum of six months. This will help consolidate all of our stock and make our treat bag preparations much easier to organise.

[www.ministylista.com.au](http://www.ministylista.com.au) hosted a charity night in December and raised over \$100 for Mummy's Wish. Mini Stylista is an online shopping network for mamas, kids and babies.

## About Mummy's Wish

Mummy's Wish is a not-for-profit charity focusing on supporting mothers in South East Queensland who are diagnosed with cancer while either pregnant or with young children.

Our mission is to support mums with young families to help them and their family cope with many of the challenges they face while undergoing treatment.

To do this we aim to provide:

- someone to talk to who has been there and survived
- toddler friendly toys and entertainment in hospital wards and waiting rooms
- treat bags to mums to brighten their day
- family portraits prior to treatment
- information on other services and support.

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact us please either call on 07 3103 0649 or email [contact@mummyswish.org.au](mailto:contact@mummyswish.org.au)

Would you like to make a [donation](#) to Mummy's Wish? All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



### Mummy's Wish Inc.

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[www.mummyswish.org.au](http://www.mummyswish.org.au)

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