

# Transplant Voice

ISSUE **02**  
2011

## Arrow supporters raise \$10,400 in the 2011 City2Surf!

Arrow's participation in the annual City2Surf began in 2008 following the involvement of two then thirteen-year-old boys, Zigi Blau and Mason Yates, who raised over \$10,000 for Arrow as a positive way to mark the anniversary of the passing of their fathers, Steve Blau and Ian Yates.

Zigi and Mason formed the 'Running for Dad' team once again this year to raise funds for Arrow. Unfortunately Mason broke his thumb only a day before the race but that didn't deter Zigi from taking on the challenge on behalf of the team. Zigi completed the race in an astounding 72 minutes and raised a massive \$6770 for Arrow.



Zigi Blau at 2011 City2Surf finish

A huge thank you goes to everyone who participated in the 2011 City2Surf for Arrow including: Kristen Blewitt, Tony and Barbara Dodds who ran for 'Team Arrow,' raising a combined total of \$1310; Theresé Olsson reached \$1000 (double her target!) and Vanie Chelliah achieved \$810.

## **CBFCA Black Tie Gala raises \$20,000 for Arrow**

Communicate. Innovate

The Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia Inc (CBFCA) held a black tie Gala Dinner at NSW Parliament House on Friday 9 September 2011 attracting 275 guests from across the international trade and logistics sectors.

Paul Zalai (CBFCA Manager Freight and Business Operations) announced that the event generated a total of \$20,000 which was donated to Arrow. "The sponsorship from all companies and individuals involved is very much appreciated, with special thanks to Wallace International (Gold Sponsor) and the Sydney Ports Corporation (Silver Sponsor) for their generous contributions."

The event was the result of over 12 months of planning and promotion involving representatives from both the CBFCA and the Foundation. Mr Zalai stated "We are proud to have partnered with the Foundation and are thrilled that the event was not just a great night enjoyed by all but was also a financial success".

## **Arrow set to receive a \$36,000 grant from Tour de Cure!**

Tour de Cure is an Australian charity committed to raising awareness and inspiring action in the fight against cancer. Tour de Cure's signature annual cycling tour sees a group of ordinary people embark on an extraordinary journey between two Australian cities to celebrate the charity's amazing fundraising efforts. A huge \$36,000 will be presented to Arrow in December to help fund vital patient support services including:

- Travel assistance for patients, carers and bone marrow donors experiencing difficulties meeting the cost of travel for transplant and post transplant treatment;
- The Tracey Scone Wig Library which offers cancer and transplant patients the opportunity to borrow a wig completely free of charge for the duration of treatment;
- Scholarships to registered nurses employed in the field of blood and marrow transplantation and paediatric oncology; and
- Patient information seminars and comprehensive guides on the transplant process.

Arrow's involvement with this remarkable event followed from a nomination by a transplant patient's mother who wished to support Arrow after receiving petrol cards to help with the cost of the frequent long trips to visit her son who was undergoing stem cell treatment at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.

Robyn Flood, Arrow CEO said: 'This grant will enable Arrow to provide tangible and practical support to the many patients who look to us for help through the transplant process, whether it be a wig or financial assistance with travel costs. It will also enable us to provide more nursing scholarships in 2012, ensuring transplant and oncology nurses have up to date training which can be applied in their workplace and shared with other colleagues.'

## donations in memoriam

We gratefully acknowledge donations received in memory of:

- Katherine Robertson
- Peter Manlik
- Olive Cook

## 2011 events

### Hawkesbury Canoe Classic

22nd-23rd October, 2011

[www.canoeclassic.asn.au](http://www.canoeclassic.asn.au)

### Commonwealth Bank 'Coke' Memorial

29th and 30th October, 2011

### Light the Night charity benefit concert

Monday 31st October, 2011

[www.lightthenight.com.au](http://www.lightthenight.com.au)

### Arrow AGM

18th November, 2011

25th Anniversary Ball, 2012

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Story ideas & photos are welcome.  
Please contact Gloria Vincent:  
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or phone (02) 8382 2696.

## ROAD 4 REMISSION



**TWEED TO SYDNEY  
20TH-29TH OCT 2011**

### Why a bike ride?

On the nine year anniversary of my transplant in November, 2010, I got together with close friends and family and asked for their support in staging a fundraiser to give back to charities that I received so much support from. I was thinking something simple like a golf day, only for a sadistic friend to say, "people will pay more if you are in pain;" and mentioned the bike ride. The rest, they say, is history.

I took up cycling eighteen months ago as it was good for my joints and muscles in my legs, and to do a bit of exercise. The ride has now been twelve months in the making and I have really stepped up the riding and training in preparation for the ride.

The bike ride will culminate with a fundraising party at North Curl Curl Surf Club on the evening I get back, the 29th of October. The emphasis will be on topping up what has already been raised, celebrating my ten year recovery, and starting the recovery from the bike ride.

**Half of all funds raised will be donated to Arrow in support of our work so please sponsor Todd by visiting:**

<http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/road4remission>

To celebrate the tenth year since his stem cell transplant, Todd Eadie will embark on a bike riding challenge to raise funds for leukaemia research and patient services. The ride will start on October 20th at St Joseph's Primary School, Tweed Heads, and will finish at Sydney's Northern Beaches on October 29th. Todd is expected to average close to 95km each day, and will stop along the way at: Ballina, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Crescent Head, Tuncurry, Bulahdelah, Salamander Bay, Belmont and Woy Woy. Todd's goal is to raise at least \$20,000 to be shared between the Leukaemia Foundation and the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

### Todd's Story

On 27th of June, 2001, my life changed forever. Prior to this I was a normal twenty-two year old loving life, playing football, and planning an overseas adventure. I started noticing some breathing problems at training and became extremely tired while playing footy. After a month of this, and almost passing out half way through a game, I finally went to the doctor.

Following several lung and blood tests, as well as an awful bone marrow biopsy, I got the phone call – the doctor told me I had Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML). I started my treatment at Royal North Shore hospital after a night in emergency (not fun). It was quickly decided that I would need a bone marrow transplant – the thought of this made me pretty nervous. The whole family got tested but unfortunately were no match; although my two bothers did match each other. That meant a search of the Bone Marrow Donor Registry to see if they could find a matched unrelated donor.

A donor was found quickly but they didn't perform unrelated transplants at Royal North Shore Hospital, so I was off to St Vincent's Hospital at Darlinghurst. On the 22nd of November, 2001, I had my transplant and was released four weeks later in time for Christmas. From there it was a case of dealing with the many different challenges that transplant throws at you. I have been constantly monitored with things like medication, rejection and infections. This has been going on for ten years now. I have experienced ongoing issues with my skin and the joints in my legs, but am happy to say that for last four years there has been nothing but improvement.

# Light the Night

## Light the Night Charity Benefit Concert 2011

Join us for a magical night of live performances featuring some of Australia's finest stars at this year's Light the Night charity benefit concert which is to be held on Monday 31st October, 7.30pm, at the City Recital Hall Angel Place, Sydney.

All funds raised from this year's concert will fund the Light the Night Research Grant that supports a promising new Gene Control in Acute Leukaemia project being undertaken by St Vincent's Hospital's haematology research team. The Light the Night Committee and a talented line up of Australian artists donate their valuable time each year to produce an enchanting event that has raised over \$200,000 since the first show seven years ago. Inspired by Matthew Rennie and his brave battle against leukaemia, Light the Night has become a must see on the Australian musical calendar.

To book visit: [www.cityrecitalhall.com](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com) or call the box office on: (02) 8256 2222.

## Support the 35th Annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (HCC)



The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (HCC) is a 111km overnight paddle that challenges entrants to test themselves against the elements. In 2011, Arrow will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Vice President, Mark O'Hara and his friend and leukaemia patient, Greg Neate, completing the HCC together - only months after Greg's bone marrow transplant. Sadly, Greg is no longer with us, but his memory lives on with Mark now competing with leukaemia survivor and transplant recipient, fellow Arrow board member Darren Williams. Mark and Darren will paddle in the same kayak that Greg paddled in 2001 using Arrow's dedicated number '303'. Greg was an inspiration to Darren who was going through his own transplant at the time.

The HCC and its paddlers generate much needed funds for charity and Arrow has been the main beneficiary with \$312,000 donated in 2010 and a total of \$2.7m being donated since 1994. Please consider sponsoring Mark and Darren in this year's 111km paddle which takes place on the 22nd and 23rd October. Visit the HCC's website and search for Mark or Darren's name under 'Sponsor a Paddler'. <http://www.canoeclassic.asn.au/my/races/donate?eid=345>

To volunteer at the HCC please contact Arrow on: (02) 8382 2698. Visit: <http://www.canoeclassic.asn.au/> for more information.

**Make a donation today! Visit [www.arrow.org.au](http://www.arrow.org.au) or complete the form overleaf.**

## Excellence in nursing

Thanks to the fifty Arrow supporters who so generously contributed to our nursing scholarship appeal, we raised over \$5600 for the education of transplant nurses across Australia to enable better outcomes for transplant patients and their families. Arrow has extended nursing scholarship opportunities to paediatric oncology nurses to give all registered nurses the opportunity to advance their education in the following specialty areas through the College of Nursing: Chemotherapy and other Systemic Treatments in Cancer Care; Blood & Marrow Transplantation; Haematology Nursing and Paediatric Oncology Nursing.

So far this year, Arrow has provided the following nurses with education scholarships:

Louise Holt, Riverina Cancer Care Centre. Course: Chemotherapy and Other Systemic Treatments in Cancer Care.

Soyeun Baek, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. Course: Haematology Nursing.

Katie Del Gallo, Sydney Children's Hospital. Course: Haematology Nursing.

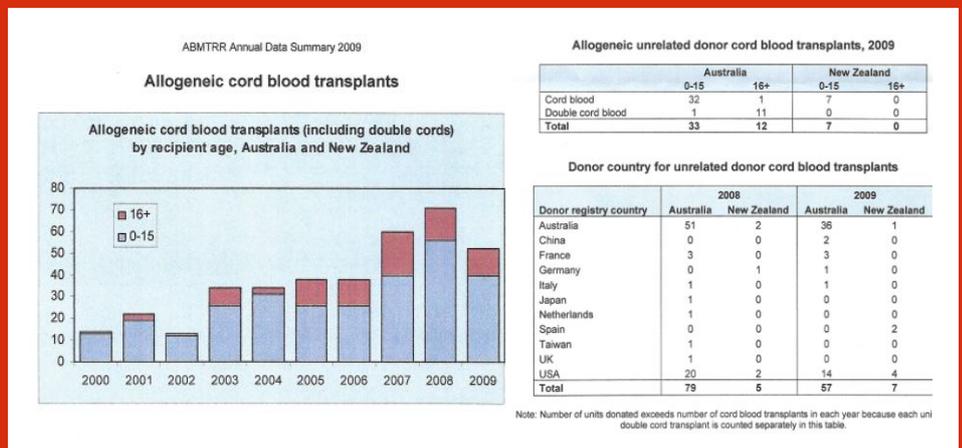
Jessica Wilder, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Course: Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Nursing Studies, Oncology.

Lisa Maher from the Riverina Cancer Care Centre recently completed the Chemotherapy and other Systemic Treatments in Cancer Care course with a scholarship from Arrow and said, "The skills gained in this course are immeasurable. My professional knowledge, understanding and update of research has helped me assist and support patients, families and communities. The greatest thing I can give my patients is knowledge, strength and support. By increasing my knowledge, I am giving further strength, and am therefore able to empower our patients."



## Researching the long-term effects of stem cell transplants

Arrow has contributed \$33,469 towards the data collection costs of the cancer after stem cell transplantation (CAST) study. This NH&MRC funded project is being coordinated by the Children's Cancer Institute Australia. The study involves linkage between the Australasian Bone Marrow Transplant Recipient Registry (ABMTRR), the Australian Cancer Database and the National Death Index, as well as data collection at transplant sites across Australia.



Marisa Frenkel

## PUVA wand clinical trial update

Last year, Arrow, with the support of the Allan Frenkel Foundation, funded a new clinical trial that involved utilising Psoralen Plus Ultraviolet A (PUVA) wands to assist patients experiencing painful ulceration of the mouth caused by Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD). The Haematology Department at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, has provided a brief update on the results of the trial:

'We would like to thank Arrow Foundation and benefactors for providing the UV wands to be able to provide the specialised UV therapy for the treatment of oral GVHD. The results to date have been encouraging. We have enrolled 7 patients on the PUVA study who have all had some improvement in their GVHD. The duration and level of improvement in this small population enrolled to date have varied. We hope to continue to enrol more patients in the future and look toward publishing our findings/ summary in the near future.'

