The PCFA’s inaugural National Conference, themed Supporting Quality of Life, on Queensland’s glorious Gold Coast was an outstanding success. This was due to the enthusiasm and input from the more than 500 delegates from every state and territory in Australia, and excellent local and international speakers.

Over two days at the superb RACV Royal Pines Resort and Spa, delegates heard from many outstanding local and international speakers about a broad spectrum of prostate cancer related issues, including:

- Dealing with a diagnosis of prostate cancer;
- Research;
- Consumer advocacy;
- Testing for prostate cancer;
- Treatment options;
- Bladder and sexual rehabilitation;
- Clinical trials;
- Dealing with depression;
- Support groups;
- Palliative care; and
- Translational medicine.

Importantly, the Conference also offered delegates an unprecedented opportunity to socialise with other men and women from around Australia who have felt the impact of prostate cancer, or who are playing a part in the fight against this insidious disease. It was one of these social gatherings that kicked off the Conference on Saturday night.

Mr Graeme Johnson, Chairman of the PCFA National Board hosted a Welcome Reception, and also took the opportunity to announce the final three recipients of the inaugural Max Gardiner Awards for Distinguished Service. The recipients were Mr Don Baumber, Mr Spence Broughton and Mr Trevor Hunt.

Mr Don Baumber is the former Co-Chairman of the PCFA’s Support and Advocacy Committee; former National Director of the PCFA; founder and current Convener of the Gold Coast Prostate Cancer Support Group; and inaugural and current Queensland PCFA Board member.

Mr Spence Broughton was the inaugural Chairman of Queensland Chapter Council; and former Editor of Queensland Prostate Cancer News.

Mr Trevor Hunt is a former member of the PCFA’s Support and Advocacy Committee; and Chairman of the South Australian Action Group.

On Sunday, Conference proceedings began with a consultation breakfast for prostate cancer nurses, before Mr Andrew Giles, CEO of PCFA officially welcomed guests. Associate Professor Phillip Stricker then gave a keynote address during which he presented some preliminary findings from his ‘Quality of Life’ research.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
During her career, Melbourne-based PCFA national board member Anita Ziemer (BAppSci, AdvDip (Screenwriting)) has worked in various management, human resource and marketing roles within the commercial, not-for-profit and government sectors. Her professional experience and insight make her a valued asset to the PCFA team. Since 2005, she has been MD of Slade Group, the family-owned national recruitment and HR firm and has spent 12 years as a board member for the Slade Group, a human resources consultancy that is also currently reviewing PCFA’s staff training and development systems and processes. She sits on a number of external boards and committees and is married with two teenage children.

Anita’s involvement with the PCFA harks back to a conversation with prostate cancer specialist Professor Tony Costello in 2001. They discussed the lack of awareness of men’s health issues compared to women’s health issues and decided that somebody had to do something about it. She has been involved with PCFA ever since.

‘Seeing a marked increase in prostate cancer detection over the years is one of the most satisfying things about being involved with PCFA,’ said Anita. ‘PCFA’s awareness campaigns have been vital for improving our understanding of the disease, which has improved early detection rates and helped save lives.’
During the lunch break, the Ulysses Motorcycle Club and the Christian Motorcyclists Association roared into the grounds of Royal Pines to lend support to the cause of prostate cancer in Australia.

In the afternoon, the Founder and President of US-based Prostate Net, Mr Virgil Simons, outlined his “word of mouth” techniques that help drive greater awareness of prostate cancer issues in America.

Mr Simons has developed an information network in America using men’s’ barbershops to spread the word about prostate cancer and the benefits of testing among African-American men. So far, more than 4,000 barbers have volunteered to encourage 30,000 of their customers to go to local medical centres to discuss the benefits of tests related to prostate cancer.

Throughout the day, delegates had the opportunity to have input into a declaration of prostate cancer priorities that PCFA will deliver to, and follow-up with Governments and healthcare decision makers. The resulting key points in the declaration, which follow the principles of patient-centred care and patient-directed policy are as follows:

- The establishment of a high-profile, national, consumer-directed, government-funded public health campaign that aims to raise awareness of prostate cancer and encourage early intervention in the disease.
- That this campaign be under the responsibility of a government-funded national secretariat that operates with significant consultation with consumers and support groups.
- Consumer representation in the development of the national “Men’s Health Policy” and to deliberations regarding decisions by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) to ensure that these are patient-focused.
- Development and implementation of a national program of Prostate Cancer Nurses to liaise with patients and provide a point of continuity in multi-carer health teams.

According to overseas delegate Mr Tom Hudson, who is President of the European Cancer Patients Coalition (ECPC), the declaration may well have important international implications.

“Not only will this Conference help set the agenda for prostate cancer management in Australia, but there are many international delegates here who are part of a global coalition which aims to improve the way prostate cancer is dealt with right across the world,” said Mr Hudson. “Sharing ideas and looking at what works in different countries will greatly enrich the success of the Worldwide Prostate Cancer Coalition.”

Keep an eye out for detailed articles about the issues discussed at Conference in future issues of Prostate News and on PCFA’s website – www.prostate.org.au
PCFA was proud to be the principal sponsor of the Royal Melbourne Hospital 9th National Prostate Cancer Symposium held in Melbourne from 6 to 8 August, 2008. The symposium attracted top international and Australian speakers invited by Professor Tony Costello, Professor and Head of Urology at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Department of Surgery, The University of Melbourne. These included Professors Patrick Walsh and William (Bill) Catalona and Dr Vip Patel.

Dr Walsh is a Professor of Urology and Director of the James Brady Urological Institute at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Department of Urology. He is renowned for his pioneering work in the development of ‘the anatomic approach to radical prostatectomy’, which involves nerve-sparing techniques that reduce the likelihood of impotence and incontinence. With Janet F Worthington, he also authored the best-selling (and highly recommended) lay person’s Guide to Surviving Prostate Cancer (available through Amazon.com).

Dr Walsh covered the history of the radical prostatectomy from the first operation at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1904, through the near-demise of the procedure in the 1970s because of the side-effects, continuing to today, where improved anatomical knowledge of the prostate and its surrounding tissue, in combination with the development of the PSA test for screening, has led to the radical prostatectomy techniques that have seen a significant reduction in prostate cancer mortality. Finally, he pointed to the need for more accurate imaging to estimate the extent and location of tumour within the prostate; cohort studies to compare cancer control and quality of life with competing forms of treatment; and adjuvant trials to improve cancer control in men who are not cured by surgery alone.

Dr Catalona is a Professor of Urology and the Director of the Clinical Prostate Cancer Program for the Northwestern University School of Medicine. He was the first to show that the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test could be used as a firstline screening test for prostate cancer. He is currently conducting research in prostate cancer tumour markers and the genetics of prostate cancer. He has also performed more than 5,000 ‘nerve-sparing’ radical prostatectomies.

Dr Catalona spoke of the benefits of ‘intelligent’ PSA screening and the concern that active surveillance (or ‘watchful waiting’), traditionally reserved for men with more than 10 years life expectancy and a Gleason score between 2 and 5, can amount to delayed treatment for early cancers, which may be the most curable, with fewer side effects. Prospects for potency sparing surgery are greater in young patients who have not had multiple biopsy procedures. While Dr Catalona prefers the open radical prostatectomy, where the surgeon can sense how the gland feels and/or how it separates from the surrounding tissues, the future direction, he felt, is towards the laparoscopic/robotic radical prostatectomy.

Dr Vip Patel is the Director of the Global Robotics Institute at Celebration Health in Orlando, Florida. He leads one of the world’s most experienced robotic surgery teams (having performed some 2000 robotic prostatectomies) and travels worldwide to educate physicians and care for patients. He is Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Robotic Surgery and editor of the first Robotic Urology textbook. Dr Patel explained how modern day surgical robots are a form of computer-assisted surgery in which the surgeon is able to control the actions of the robot in real time, using it to improve upon his/her vision, dexterity and overall surgical precision. Robotic surgery is minimally invasive and while there are the disadvantages of loss of feedback from touch, operative time has been reduced to 75 minutes; hospital stay for 97% of cases of less than 24 hours and catheter time from 4-7 days. Dr Patel looked to a future that includes nano robots, natural orifice surgery and the integration of imaging during surgery.

* Excerpts from a series of articles by Pam Sandoe, OAM, in the Sydney Adventist Hospital Prostate Cancer Support Group newsletters, August and September, 2008. For the full text visit www.sah.org.au/cansup_prostate.asp
Under the Enhanced Primary Care Program (EPC) Medicare dental items (85011-87777) are available for people with chronic conditions and complex care needs, on referral from a GP. A cancer diagnosis is classified as a chronic illness and eligible patients can access up to $4,250 in Medicare benefits for dental services over two consecutive calendar years.

The Australian Government planned to close the Medicare chronic disease dental scheme by 1 July 2008, and to re-direct the savings to its new dental programs (Commonwealth Dental Health Program and Medicare Teen Dental Plan). However, the Senate has blocked the scheme’s closure on two occasions and according to the Australian Government website (www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Dental+Care+Services) on 1 November, the scheme remains open and all eligible claims will be paid, although the Government will persist in trying to close the EPC.

The EPC dental care scheme is available to anyone, working or on a pension, with a chronic medical condition and whose oral health is impacting on their general health. Your GP will assess your eligibility and prepare a ‘GP Management Plan’ and ‘Team Care Arrangements’. The EPC scheme covers up to $4,250 of dental work including assessments, extractions, fillings, restorative work (bridges, crowns and implants), dentures, orthodontic services and preventative services. Your doctor will give you a referral to a private dentist. Your doctor submits the Care Plan to Medicare - you cannot start dental work until Medicare has processed this.

Make an appointment with the dentist you have been referred to, and take your Care Plan and GP referral letter to your first appointment. Some private dentists will bulk bill for this, but some may set their own fees and charge the difference between that and the Medicare rebate. If your dentist does not bulk bill, ask them for a detailed quote. Medicare refunds 85% of the scheduled fee and if you have to pay up-front, keep the receipts for your Medicare claim.

For more information speak to your GP, contact Medicare on 132 011 or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

With thanks to Jo-Anne Tamlyn, Chronic Illness Alliance Inc www.chronicillness.org.au

The PCFA and Cancer Voices Australia (CVA) welcomed the announcement in September by the Minister for Health to allow consumers to comment on medicines being considered for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

‘This will be of particular interest to cancer patients’ said John Newsom, Chair of CVA. ‘Cancer patients will now have a better understanding of the process and we commend the efforts of cancer patients, advocacy groups and cancer organisations who have engaged with the Government and the Public Benefits Advisory Committee to achieve this policy change.’

Cancer places an enormous burden on sufferers, their families, governments and the community and allowing cancer patients to have access to the drug listing process and enabling them to provide their ‘patient impact statement’ opens a new chapter in Government - consumer relations.

Future cancer patients will benefit from this decision at a time when it is most needed.

For more information contact John Stubbs, EO, Cancer Voices Australia, mobile: 0407 075 525.
It’s that time of the year again! As we go to print, thousands of men across the country – and around the world – are leaving their razors untouched as they grow moustaches in support of the annual Movember campaign. Movember 2008 is a great chance for friends, families and colleagues to have fun while raising awareness about prostate cancer, depression and men’s health in general, with Australian proceeds going to support the vital work of PCFA and beyondblue, the national depression initiative.

From its modest beginnings in 2003 when four Melbourne mates decided to ‘bring back the moustache’, Movember has become a runaway success. In Australia alone, the 2007 campaign saw over 96,000 registered ‘Mo Bros’ and ‘Mo Sistas’ participating in events around the country throughout November. An amazing $15 million was raised to support prostate cancer research and to raise awareness about men’s health and depression. Last year Movember also went international, with over 130,000 participants worldwide, a figure that Movember hopes will increase this year through its events and activities in the USA, UK, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland and Spain.

The official Movember 2008 campaign was launched in Sydney and Melbourne on 14 and 15 October respectively. ‘Every year we introduce a new creative campaign to keep Movember fresh,’ said co-founder Luke Slattery, ‘the launch was a great chance to show our corporate sponsors and key stakeholders what we have planned for 2008, as well as showcasing some of the important research and other activities that were funded during the last year through our partners, PCFA and beyondblue.’

As well as the huge Movember Gala Parties that are held in each Australian capital city at the end of November, there are regional ‘Mo Town’ parties spanning the country – from Broome and Bunbury in Western Australia to Wagga Wagga in New South Wales and Airlie Beach in Queensland. A vast number of organisations have also registered to host ‘Mo Office’ events, with each workplace holding a competition for the best mo. Every registered business receives a special Movember pack to help them celebrate, which also contains vital information on prostate cancer, depression and men’s health.

And as we all know, behind every great Mo Bro is a Mo Sista – the partners, friends and colleagues who support the Movember cause, not only by putting up with the dreaded ‘pash rash’ for an entire month, but by discussing men’s health issues and encouraging men to make changes for a healthier lifestyle. Movember 2008 has also been embraced by celebrity ambassadors like V8 Super Car drivers Rick Kelly and Paul Dumbrell and Movember is an official partner of Cricket Australia and the Australian Masters golf tournament.

‘Every year we’re reaching more areas of society and raising more awareness about men’s health,’ said Luke. ‘Our partnerships with PCFA and beyondblue are also growing every year, which is something we’re very proud of. It’s great to know that Movember is able to assist PCFA in supporting men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer, as well as educating men about the importance of getting tested from a younger age.’

To find out more about Movember, visit www.au.movember.com
MEN URGED TO MAKE A DATE

Sydney-based GP Dr Jeremy Cumpston joined forces with iconic Aussie actor Michael Caton in a new TV community service campaign to encourage men to make ‘Make a Date’ with their GP and take charge of their own health by discussing issues related to prostate cancer with their doctor.

The Make A Date, Mate community service announcement aims to dispel the ‘cringe factor’ often associated with talking about prostate health and screens on television nationally from September 2008.

Make A Date, Mate follows Michael Caton through the final stages of a check-up with his doctor (Dr Cumpston), where the doctor suggests he make a date to have a PSA blood test, and a Digital Rectal Examination (DRE) – to which a shocked Michael Caton exclaims, “You’re joking! A finger…up my date?”

The doctor informs Michael, “Well, mate. You wait, it could be too late.”

Dr Cumpston was inspired to create Make A Date, Mate following a visit from a 50-year-old male patient who asked for a prostate check. “I realised that I felt under-confident in performing this simple procedure. I rang a colleague, urologist Dr Raji Kooner, who took me through the why’s, what’s and how’s of a proper DRE.

“Given that my father had a diagnosis of prostate cancer, and my grandfather died from the disease, I felt I should do something about the terrible burden that prostate cancer creates. I set out to make a community service announcement that would help break down certain taboos by using comedy.”

Dr Cumpston conceived, wrote, produced and directed the commercial. Michael Caton provided his time free of charge and the production was paid for by Minomic International, a Sydney biotech firm.

With Dr Raji Kooner, Dr Cumpston has also created an educational video on DRE and PSA testing that the PCFA is distributing to GPs nationally.

A RED CARD AND $12,000 TO FIGHT PROSTATE CANCER

One of the year’s most colourful events was also one of the most successful with more than $12,000 raised for the PCFA by the Australian Italian Football and Referees Association (AIFREA) at the Red Card to Cancer Gala Ball at Club Marconi, Bossley Park on Saturday 27 September 2008.

In a room festooned with blue drappings and fairy lights, more than 300 people enjoyed a full schedule of entertainment and fundraising with the highlight being the raffle of a car – the very popular i30, carsguide 2007 car of the year – generously donated by the Hyundai Motor Company of Australia.

Channel 9’s Stephanie Brantz introduced National Deputy Chairman David Sandoe OAM to talk about the work of PCFA and to remind the audience of the importance of prostate health and care.

Funds raised will be directed to the development of services and resources that will directly benefit the Italian community with regards to prostate cancer information and support.

STOCKTON JELLYBLUBBERS FACE THE COLD

The Australian Winter Swimming Championships were held over the weekend 20-21 September in Stockton near Newcastle. Organised by the Stockton Jellyblubbers, the carnival attracted more than 700 competitors and was geared to help the PCFA and raise awareness and funds to fight prostate cancer. With more than 22 sponsors and a very generous response from the public and from competitors, substantial funds were raised. Members of the PCFA Newcastle support group manned booths and the following Friday, PCFA support group members Jim Newton and Terry Wheeler were presented with a cheque for $20,000 for PCFA.
WA MEN’S HEALTH PROMOTION FORUM

The PCFA Men’s Health Promotion Forums held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank, continued their educational journey around Australia and have now been attended by almost 1000 men and women. These forums are also supported by Pacific Brands and beyond blue: the national depression initiative, together with PCFA community partners around Australia.

Perth hosted its second forum for men and their partners on Sunday 21 September. There were many new faces in attendance this year and some of those who attended last year had made changes toward a healthier lifestyle in the interim. Topics included the early detection of prostate cancer, treatments, emotional health, nutrition and the importance of a healthy heart. The Forum’s excellent speakers were complemented by a range of displays and a Pitstop health check.

Two organisations conducting fundraising and awareness activities across Australia met each other along the way. The Long Ride, an annual Motorbike ride for charity, left Sydney on Friday 17 October to ride to Perth. There were up to 120 riders in the group at any one time, with approximately 50 riders completing the journey from ocean to ocean arriving at Scarborough Beach on Saturday 25 October. Around 500 enthusiasts Australia-wide are believed to have participated throughout the eight-day ride. WA Chairman Jim Freemantle and Anna Gurrie met the bikers and thanked them on behalf of PCFA for funds raised.

Promoting Men’s Health Nationally:

Commonwealth Bank

PACIFIC BRANDS

WA SUPPORT GROUPS GET TOGETHER PROMOTION FORUM

On 20 September representatives from four of the six WA support groups came together in Perth for a networking and training meeting preceding the Men’s Health Promotion Forum the next day. This was followed up a month later with a meeting in Bunbury to discuss the formation of a WA Chapter which was also attended by National Deputy Chairman David Sandoe and his wife Pam from NSW, Daryl Hyland from Queensland and PCFA staff Paul Redman and George Doubikin. The wealth of experience that David, Pam and Daryl brought to the meeting was immeasurable.

THE LONG RIDE MEETS WHEELBARROW MAN

David Baird, The Wheelbarrow Man, is running across Australia from East to West pushing a garden wheelbarrow to raise awareness for prostate and breast cancer, and hopefully, to gain entry to the Guinness Book of Records. David and partner Jo left Cottesloe Beach on 21 September and hope to arrive at Manly Beach around 7 February 2009. David’s progress can be monitored at www.aussiedust.com.au.
PCFA is proud to be managing the National Men’s Health Ambassador Speaker Program 2008-2010 funded by Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

The first training weekends which took place in Sydney on 11 and 12 October and in Melbourne on 25 and 26 October were a great success and a fantastic experience for all involved. All participants received certification as Men’s Health Ambassador Speakers by executive trainers RogenSi and PCFA.

We are very grateful to all involved including RogenSi, the new Ambassadors and PCFA Ambassadors from the Pilot Program who shared their experiences and inspired the new Ambassadors.

Please contact PCFA to invite a Men’s Health Ambassador Speaker to your corporation, university, school, club or community to present on prostate health and continence health.

For NSW contact 1800 220 099 or mharris@prostate.org.au
For WA contact (08) 9346 6302 or perth@prostate.or.au
For Victoria and all other states contact 1800 206 700 or melbourne@prostate.org.au

Recruitment is currently taking place for Men’s Health Ambassador Speakers in Tasmania, South Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory. We are particularly interested in recruiting Ambassador Speakers in regional, rural and remote areas. Public speaking training will be provided, as well as a Men’s Health Kit and a standard presentation on prostate health and continence health. Please contact Erin Woodman ewoodman@prostate.org.au or 1800 206 700 to register your interest by 9 January 2009.

New Victorian Ambassadors ready to spread the word.

Training sessions are planned for
Hobart 21-22 February 2009
Adelaide 21-22 March 2009
Canberra 4-5 April 2009
Darwin 9-10 May 2009

PCFA THANKS VICTORIAN SUPPORTERS

On 23 September PCFA Victorian Chairman, David Curtain QC, proudly hosted a function at Melbourne’s iconic MCG to acknowledge the Foundation’s Victorian supporters. Victorian Governor David De Kretser and Jan De Kretser assisted with the formalities and the Governor shared his vision for prostate cancer research in Australia. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to supporters in the corporate and community sectors, all of whom contributed to the PCFA’s success in raising the awareness of prostate cancer among Australian men. These included the Vodafone Kokoda Trek fundraiser, Blue Sunday, the prostate cancer awareness campaign hosted by Host Plus, The Ted Whitten Foundation, Collingwood and Richmond football clubs and many others.

PCFA and La Trobe University gratefully acknowledge Allens Arthur Robinson’s generous support of the 2009 PCFA National Prostate Nursing Care Scholarships.

PCFA Welcome Applications for the 2009 National Prostate Nursing Care Scholarships conducted in partnership with the La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences, Division of Nursing & Midwifery. The Prostate Nursing Care Unit is conducted via professionally supported distance education and is available to Registered Nurses Australia wide.

PCFA Scholarship applications are particularly invited from nurses in rural and remote areas of Australia. The $1,500 PCFA Scholarships are only offered to those enrolled in the unit and will be awarded on successful completion of the course. Please contact Elizabeth Watt for all enquiries for scholarships and course information on (03) 9496 4461 or e.watt@latrobe.edu.au
SUPPORT GROUPS UPDATE

Paul Redman, Support Group Services Manager looks back over his first year in the job – and his baptism of fire!

‘It seems like last week when I commenced with PCFA. What a year in finding out what our 80 support groups needed from the Foundation and myself in particular. What pent-up demand!

‘It hasn’t always been easy to respond as quickly as I would have liked, but many things have been achieved:

- The basic lending library has been provided free to every group;
- The first elements of the new Support Group Handbook have been designed by the National SAC committee;
- A new Chapter has commenced in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory;
- There have been conferences to discuss Chapters in all other states and the Northern Territory;
- Business cards have been produced for every Support Group, and more dedicated brochures for each group; and
- The commencement of over 15 new groups with 11 affiliations. Very exciting!

‘The demand for information from PCFA through our support groups has increased exponentially.

‘I am always overwhelmed by the passion and commitment of every member of the support groups that I have met across our vast country.’

WWPCC MEETS AT WORLD CANCER CONGRESS

On 27–31 August 2008, the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) held its biannual World Cancer Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, with the theme ‘Towards True Cancer Control’.

UICC’s vision is ‘a world where cancer is eliminated as a major life-threatening disease for future generations’ and it aims to advance scientific and medical knowledge in research, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, as well as promoting the global campaign against the disease.

With over 300 member organisations in more than 100 countries including ministries of health, volunteer cancer societies and research and treatment centres, UICC focuses on cancer prevention and control, knowledge transfer and patient advocacy and support through a range of workshops and training courses around the world.

Coinciding with the UICC Congress was the second meeting of the World Wide Prostate Cancer Coalition (WWPCC), a partnership of prostate cancer interest groups from around the world that aim to share information and pursue collaborative activities to minimise the global impact of prostate cancer. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to network with like-minded organisations to identify shared priorities and develop future strategies for the Coalition.

According to PCFA CEO Andrew Giles, ‘The meeting of the WWPCC provided PCFA with an unparalleled opportunity to work with international organisations in our ongoing efforts to better coordinate the use of resources and share ideas.’

PCFA has been a member of UICC since 2005, and Andrew Giles, National Deputy Chairman David Sandoe and Patient Advocate Pam Sandoe were among the 100 or so delegates from Australia and New Zealand. The next UICC Congress is in Beijing in 2010.
beyondblue AND PCFA

As a co-beneficiary of the Movember initiative beyondblue, the national depression initiative has experienced the heightened awareness around depression and men’s health since Movember started in 2004.

There has been a natural synergy between PCFA and beyondblue as both organisations seek to address the psychosocial concerns faced by men with a prostate cancer diagnosis and their families. In 2008, beyondblue has become a significant supporter of the PCFA’s work to reduce the impact of prostate cancer in Australia.

In addition to supporting PCFA’s Mens Health Promotion Forums around the country, along with the Commonwealth Bank and Pacific Brands, beyondblue recognised the importance of supporting PCFA’s National Conference Living with prostate cancer: supporting quality of life held at the Gold Coast on 16 and 17 November.

As a platinum partner beyondblue presented on different aspects of depression with special guest speakers including John McGrath AM throughout the two-day conference.

PCFA and beyondblue value their shared goals and can look forward to working together in the future to better support men and their families living with prostate cancer.

ANZUP: A NEW CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

A few years ago Dr Ian Davis, a medical oncologist at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and Austin Health in Melbourne, recognised a need for greater collaboration within the Australian medical community on research and clinical trials for uro-genital cancers (prostate, testicular, kidney and bladder). He has worked to form a national network that would cover these cancers and bring together the professionals and organisations that conduct and support cancer research.

The result is ANZUP CTG Ltd – the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group Limited (ANZUP) – newly established through the merger of the Australian Prostate and Urogenital cancer Group (APUG) and the Australian and New Zealand Germ Cell Trials Group (ANZGCTG), with initial funding provided by the Victorian Cancer Agency and Cancer Australia.

So far ANZUP has over 260 members spanning Australia and New Zealand, ranging from medical and radiation oncologists, urologic surgeons, molecular biologists to clinical trial coordinators, consumer advocates, nursing and allied health and other professionals. The group is supported by a scientific advisory committee and is currently establishing strategic international links and defining its research protocols. ANZUP is also exploring collaborative opportunities with PCFA to maximise the potential of the ANZUP network in the fight against prostate cancer.

‘There is a clear and abundant need for the coordination of clinical trials in Australia,’ said PCFA CEO Andrew Giles, ‘and PCFA has always had a commitment to supporting clinical trials through its research grant system.’

Dr Ian Davis has been delighted with the broad enthusiasm for ANZUP. ‘We have the support of bodies such as the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and other cooperative organisations within Australia and overseas. Already our base of members is expanding and we’re excited to have so much momentum behind ANZUP.’
I Wish to support the Foundation in its Important Work

Please find enclosed my donation $_________

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☐ Please send me, in confidence, information on how I can help the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia through my will.

Please mail to: PCFA

PO Box 1332, Lane Cove NSW 1595

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

Thank you to all our donors, partners and sponsors for your generous support.

UPCOMING PCFA EVENTS - For more information see www.prostate.org.au or call 1800 22 00 99

December 2008

5 & 6 Victoria/Tasmania Support Group conference, Melbourne

30 Rotary Club of Perth, 21st Vienna Pops Concert, Perth Concert Hall, book through BOCS at www.bocsticketing.com.au

January 2009

30 Wheelbarrow Across Australia

February

1 Pirtek Reel Deal Fishing Challenge

5 Localised Prostate Cancer Short Course Round 3 - for those recently diagnosed with localised prostate cancer only, AH Crawford Lodge, call 08 9382 3774

7 Wheelbarrow Across Australia

7-8 Queensland Men's Health Ambassador Speaker Training

21 Murray Charity Meander

21-22 Tasmania Men's Health Ambassador Speaker Training

March

TBC Ulysses AGM

21-22 Men's Health Ambassador Speaker Training

April

TBC

If you would like to receive our brochure on prostate cancer, additional copies of the newsletter or general information about prostate cancer, call our Australia-wide Prostate Cancer info-line 1800 22 00 99 or email: prostate@prostate.org.au internet: www.prostate.org.au

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