

# The Well Wisher

Summer 2011

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## Local family donates \$1 million

**Olivia Newton-John flew into Melbourne recently to personally thank a local Melbourne couple, Carlo Montagner and wife Bozena Zembrzuski, for their extraordinary donation of \$1 million - the largest personal contribution to date to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre.**

"I was so excited when I heard the news," said Olivia Newton-John. "This is the first chance I have had to personally see Carlo, Bozena and the family to thank them for sharing our vision and making this inspirational gift."

Carlo Montagner and Bozena Zembrzuski, say their \$1 million dollar donation to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre has been inspired by a strong desire to "give back" to their local community.

The couple, who are joint founders of private pharmaceutical company, Specialised Therapeutics Australia, know that cancer touches many lives, including people close to their family. "Both Carlo and I grew up in the northern suburbs and the Austin Hospital was a part of our lives as the local hospital. We have since used it many times with our children and wider family," said Ms. Zembrzuski.

Ms Zembrzuski explained it was whilst living and working in the United States that they became aware of, and inspired by, numerous philanthropic initiatives. She said the million dollar gift is a personal family donation, not a business contribution, and she hopes the donation will inspire further generosity. "We encourage all Melburnians to help



**Olivia with donors Bozena Zembrzuski and Carlo Montagner**

support the Centre," Ms. Zembrzuski said. "We are great believers in giving back to the community when you are able. This is going to be a world-class facility with a wonderful medical and holistic focus. We are proud to be contributing and helping to make the Centre a reality."

In recognition of their donation, Ms Newton-John announced that the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre's day oncology will be known as Montagner Zembrzuski Day Oncology when it opens in June 2012. "I too hope that this gift inspires others in the community to make a donation to our Centre," said Ms Newton-John. "We are so close to

completing the Centre, and have had so much support from Government and the community. Thanks to Carlo and Bozena we now only have a few million left to raise!"

Of the \$189 million dollars needed to fund the project, \$181 million has been secured to date, of which \$16 million was raised through the community, foundations and individual donations. The current fundraising target is to raise a further \$8 million through donations from the community and corporate sector.

# Cancer & Wellness Centre – Progress Update



External structure almost finished

Pass by the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre site and you will notice a distinct change to the skyline with the removal of the massive 62m high tower crane. According to building project manager, Eddie Law, the removal of the crane was a very exciting moment for the building team.

“This is a significant milestone in the building process because it signifies the fact that all the heavy lifting has been completed,” says building project manager, Eddie Law. “The crane removal was a massive undertaking, it took four days,” he said.

“The crane can lift up to six tonnes at a time so it has been a very crucial part of the building process,” he says. “We have also hooked up the high voltage power to the Centre, so we are technically at the lock-up stage.”

By December, Eddie’s hope is to have the fitout works to most areas of level two and three completed. About 80 per cent of Zeltner Hall (Wellness Centre) will also be completed with the re-stumping and all other structural aspects of the refurbishment of the building well and truly completed. Day Oncology and the Apheresis area will also be moving into their cosmetic stage with the vinyl flooring completed by Christmas.

Another exciting piece of news is the arrival of the brand new multi-million dollar Linear Accelerator machine which will be delivered on site and installation will begin on this highly technical piece of radiotherapy equipment in late January 2012. The installation process will take about six months due to the specialised nature of the equipment and an extensive testing process will need to be completed before commencing operations.

Although there still seems to be a lot of work to get through, Eddie Law is confident that the project is on target. “This has been an amazing team of builders to work with, Leighton Contractors have been incredibly professional and so I can safely say that we are on schedule for the opening in June 2012,” Eddie Law says.



Full steam ahead on internal fitout



Pictured in the foreground is the Wellness Centre being restored and renovated

## Facts & figures:

- There have been approximately 1,150 glass panels installed in the Centre so far.
- The builders have been working on construction for approximately 204,500 hours.
- Tower crane stood 62m high.

# Planning the move

Austin Health's Helen Longton and Rohan Vaughan are charged with the enormous responsibility of ensuring a smooth transition of current cancer services to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre (ONJCWC) by mid 2012. So what's life like in the hot seat? We asked Helen Longton, Project Manager, ONJCWC Transition planning.

The philosophy underpinning the design development of the Centre is to integrate three key elements to improve cancer care. These are: cancer treatment, wellness and supportive care and of course research.

The challenge now is to focus on how our current services will operate within these spaces to deliver this philosophy of cancer care to the patients, and make the most of the opportunity the Centre will provide.

"Ideally we aim to improve how we bring cancer expertise from various disciplines together to discuss and provide the best advice to patients. We want to improve how we involve patients, their families and carers in decisions about their care. We are mindful of how their cancer care is



Building project manager, Eddie Law (left), with transition project managers Rohan Vaughan and Helen Longton

planned and coordinated," Helen says.

"We will be focusing on how patients access the Centre for their appointments and treatments, how we communicate with patients and their GP's, how we train, develop and support the cancer workforce, how we can incorporate best practise cancer treatment in a timely manner and integrate supportive care and wellness activities into everyday cancer care," she says.

According to Helen, transition planning is also about preparing staff to move from isolated departments

across more than 11 different buildings to working cohesively together in the Centre with minimal disruption to patient care.

"To achieve this we have seven working groups involving nearly 100 staff from across cancer services, Austin Health and key stakeholder groups working on optimising our clinical care, wellness and supportive care, training, research, information technology, workforce and corporate elements for the Centre," Helen says.

"Everyone is really looking forward to the move."

## Herceptin therapy breast cancer test now at Austin Health

Austin Health patients will receive targeted therapy for breast cancer more quickly now that the Department of Anatomical Pathology can undertake a targeted cancer test with newly acquired equipment.

The 'Ventana Benchmark ULTRA' enables pathologists to determine the eligibility of breast cancer patients for treatment with the life-saving drug, Herceptin.

Dr Peter Crowley, director of Anatomical Pathology, says the test was previously performed off-site at the Peter MacCallum Centre and in the past, results could sometimes take up to 5 days to complete. "Having the equipment here at the Austin Hospital will improve the turn-around time. Results will be available in 24 hours for breast surgeons and oncologists; the process of planning treatment will be more efficient," he says.

The test detects a particular gene called HER2 that is over-expressed in some breast cancers. The test assesses the patient's suitability to receive Herceptin therapy. "Breast cancer patients with over-expression of HER2 generally have a poorer prognosis, however having Herceptin treatment has been shown to improve survival," says Dr Crowley.

Anatomical pathologist, Dr David Williams says the test is all about delivering personalised therapies to cancer patients. "We anticipate an increased need for such testing as more targeted therapies are developed," he says.

It's recognising that not all cancers are the same. Different molecular abnormalities drive different cancers. This test helps identify which breast cancer patients will respond to the drug Herceptin. Other targeted



Abi McDonald (manager of Anatomical Pathology), Dr Brendan Murphy (CEO), Rita Au (Immunohistochemistry senior scientist) Dr Peter Crowley (director of Anatomical Pathology)

therapies have also been developed for lung cancer, colon cancer and melanoma patients.

It allows us to be smart about choosing the right drug for each patient so that we avoid unwanted side effects and don't waste time and resources giving people therapies that are not going to work for them," he says.

# Thank you for Being a Friend

We are always grateful to those in the community who choose to support the Centre through various fundraising activities. Thank you for the time and work you put into your events which recently included:

## Plenty Valley Masonic Lodge 703

Donated \$3,000 from their annual fundraising events which included sausage sizzles, raffles and dinners etc. A big thank you to all involved.

## Natasha's CD

The extraordinarily enterprising Natasha donated part proceeds from the sale of her CD, Last Night. We were thrilled to receive \$700, thank you Natasha.

## Mother's Day Social Afternoon

When Karen decided to donate the sum of \$1,820 from her Mother's Day afternoon tea, we were over the moon – another great example of how the community support the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre.

## 7PM Project and Dave Hughes Ebay Auction

Olivia's appearance on the 7pm project inspired Dave Hughes to organise Olivia to sign his show notes and then put them up for auction on Ebay which raised \$620.

## Chocolatier Australia

Have continued their great support of the Centre with a recent donation of \$543 from the gold coin donation for

their gift-wrapping service – bringing their total support so far to just over \$4,676 – thank you!

## Olympic Village Combined Pensioners Club

Melburnians love a trash and treasure market and this year's Bell Street Mall -Trash and Treasure in West Heidelberg was no exception with a massive, \$1,565 coming as a donation to us from the Olympic Village Combined Pensioners Club.

## Pure Elegance for Hair

This year Pure Elegance for Hair Salon donated \$2,849 from their fundraising day – what an amazing effort.

## Amateur Repertory Company's Production of Grease

Theatre production of Grease raised \$1,403 from ticket sales and donation tins. Many thanks.

## Koonung Secondary College

Grease was the word this year in the amateur theatre circles with Koonung Secondary College's production of Grease raising \$1,890 through gold coin donations received after each performance, thank you.

## "Livwise" cookbook by Olivia Newton-John

Thank you everyone who have purchased the "Livwise" cookbook. It has been well received and to date has raised over \$50,000 for the Centre. The book will also be launched in the United Kingdom and the USA early next year – and would make a great gift. Our thanks to Olivia for all her hard work in developing the book. "Thanks Olivia".

We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the following:

**Christine** - who raised \$765 from her Open Garden.

**Hannah and Evie** - raised \$261 from their garage sale and stall.

**Rosalie's Hair Salon** - raised \$283 from an in-house raffle .

**Amy** - donated \$373 from the proceeds of the sale of one dress from the Zsaneta Fashion Parade.



## Gifts in Celebration

If you're celebrating a special occasion but don't want presents, have you considered asking friends and family to make a donation to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre instead? It's a wonderful way to celebrate and make a difference at the same time. We'd like to thank the following people for doing just that.

### Samantha and Craig's Wedding (congratulations)

Anne's 50th Birthday

Corry's 70th Birthday

Evelyn's 80th Birthday

Renate's 80th Birthday

If you would like to run a community event or celebrate your special occasion in charitable style, please contact our fundraising department on (03) 9496 5753 and ask for Melissa.

# A Personal Message from Olivia



*It's so rewarding to see the final stages of our Cancer & Wellness Centre begin to take shape. I can't believe how much progress has been made in the last 12 months and how close we are to seeing the dream come true – by all accounts it looks like we are on schedule to open the first stage in June 2012.*

*And what a surprise we had in September when Carlo Montagner and Bozena, a local couple, announced they were going to donate, \$1 million dollars to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre.*

*I was just so excited when I heard the news and thrilled that this incredibly generous family who live nearby and use Austin Health regularly, were willing to help us in this way.*

*I came to Melbourne to meet with and thank Carlo and Bozena and was delighted to also be introduced to their wonderful family. After our meeting I managed to squeeze in another site tour and this time I was particularly impressed by the colour of the façade of the building which I'd worked on with the architects, I loved the yellow. For the first time I was able to get a sense of the space and the feel of the Centre from a patient perspective and of course experience those amazing views! I never cease to be amazed by the progress.*

*In this issue of The Well Wisher, you can read all about the Montagner Zembrzuski donation and what inspired these exceptional people to donate to our Centre. We give you a full progress report on how the staff at Austin Health are preparing to transition to the new Centre and we keep you in the loop with a look at the building's progress. There is also an excellent article on breast cancer testing.*

*Your generous support has been vital in helping us to continue with the Cancer & Wellness Centre and we simply couldn't do it without you!*

*I wish you all the very best for a happy and healthy holiday season and I look forward to sharing more progress with you in the coming months.*

*Thank you so much for all your support this year.*

*Love and light*

## Yes, I Wish to Help

Dr  Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am already an Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre OR Austin Health Supporter. My supporter number is \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque/money order made payable to Austin Health for the amount I have ticked:

\$100  \$50  \$25  \$500  \$2,500  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ my choice

**OR** Please debit the amount I have indicated from my:

VISA  MasterCard

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

### For regular monthly donations

I authorise the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre to make automatic monthly deductions from my credit card (details as above) until further notice.

Monthly amount is: \$

Automatic deduction occurs on the 17th of the month, commencing (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send me information about:

- Joining Olivia's Circle (monthly giving program)
- Making a bequest to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre in my Will

### All donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

If you do not wish to receive any further fundraising communications from us, please write, email or phone us on 03 9496 5753.



Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal  
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