



MELANOMA MATTERS

AUTUMN 2008

SKMRC APPOINTS NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

In March, the Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre (SKMRC) welcomed Professor Peter Leedman to the team as Medical Director.

With a background in clinical medicine and several years experience as the Deputy Director of the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), Professor Leedman's knowledge and experience will be invaluable to SKMRC.

Professor Leedman said he was enjoying his new position at the Centre as he always had a real passion for its work and great connection with the staff.

"I have always been an advocate for the SKMRC from the beginning, so it's very exciting for me to be able to step into this role and get involved in the important work being done there," he said.

"I'm looking forward to helping the researchers continue laying down a fantastic resource in the WA Melanoma Health Study, that will not only help open opportunities to pinpoint genes linked to melanoma, but also establish a solid platform

for research well into the future."

Professor Leedman said he also planned to expand the Centre's scope in the future to include a more therapeutic approach and clinical trials in its search for better treatment and cure for melanoma.

Centre founder, Yvonne Kirkbride said she was thrilled to welcome Professor Leedman to a leadership role at the Centre.

"I believe Peter's drive and infectious enthusiasm will deliver a bright future in the development of research and treatment of melanoma in Western Australia. I will be working closely with Peter and look forward to the months ahead as we strengthen our Centre and the important research we're dedicated to," she said.

As well as his position within WAIMR and the SKMRC, Professor Leedman is also Director of Research at Royal Perth Hospital where he also consults patients at his Endocrinology clinic, treating people with a range of hormone disorders such as thyroid problems and diabetes.



Professor Peter Leedman

MARCHING ACROSS THE GOBI DESERT FOR MELANOMA



The team - Jamie Prendiville, Garry Prendiville, Bill Biffin and Mark Dawson

Three years after becoming the largest group of siblings to swim the English Channel, Swanbourne doctor Jamie Prendiville and his brothers have set themselves another mammoth challenge – a 250-kilometre run across the Gobi Desert to raise funds for the SKMRC.

In what is shaping up to be another record-breaking event, four Prendiville brothers and two family friends have entered The Gobi March in June, a foot race across the gruelling terrain of the Gobi Desert in northern China.

The race, which will reach heights of up to 14,000 feet in the mountains and traverse rivers, sand, rocks and donkey tracks in temperatures above 40 degrees, is part of the Racing the Planet event, which covers the four largest deserts in the world.

The family made a unanimous decision to support the Centre as the long-term recipient of their fundraising efforts because Scott was a patient and friend of Dr Prendiville's, who held a place in the family's heart.

To sponsor the Gobi March please visit www.skmrc.org.au/gobi.html or call (08) 9224 0333.

INTO THE FUTURE

We would like to let our readers know, this Autumn 2008 edition of Melanoma Matters will be our last - in future, our news and updates will be incorporated into a larger WAIMR newsletter, which will be sent to you each quarter. We would like to extend a big thanks to you all for your continued and valuable support of our newsletter and Centre.

AN EXTREME SPORTSMAN DROPS IN FOR LUNCH

This year's SKRMC annual fundraising luncheon on Friday May 9 was a huge success, raising more than \$50,000 for our Centre!

More than 300 people flocked to Subiaco Oval to hear extreme sportsman Todd Mason speak about his intense lifestyle and share his thoughts on overcoming challenge and fear.

"As an extreme sportsman, I would never jump out of a helicopter onto a mountain without first researching conditions like the snow, the possibility of avalanches and mountain terrain – it's just too risky, so I can see the huge value of research into melanoma to help us avoid the risk," Mr Mason said.

"Research and education is vital because it can lift the awareness and knowledge of melanoma, to define the risks, find ways to prevent it and stop people dying of the disease.

The afternoon was hosted by Mark Reading, with other special guests including a friend and doctor to Scott, Dr Jamie Prendiville and world champion marathon swimmer Shelley Taylor-Smith.

Our sincere thanks go to the organisers and those whose contribution and generosity made the afternoon such a success. We also thank all our guests and the many supporters of our raffle and auction.



Todd Mason, Rob Kirkbride, Shelley Taylor-Smith, Jamie Prendiville, Yvonne Kirkbride



Mark Reading and Todd Mason



Mark Reading with Shelley Taylor-Smith

A SOCIAL DAY AT THE RACES

The SKMRC's fundraising in 2008 kicked-off in style, with more than 1,200 people putting on their best frocks and heading out for a day at the races.

For the second year running, Ascot hosted a social day on a sweltering Saturday in February – all in the name of raising money for skin cancer research and together with Perth Racing, event coordinator Peter Collins put on a fun day of fantastic racing, great food and drink, and amazing prizes including a motorized scooter and an overseas trip.

The day is proving a popular event on the social calendar, drawing in an impressive crowd who helped raise more than \$40,000 for the Centre this year.

The SKMRC would like to extend a big thanks to Peter Collins who invested his valuable time and efforts into coordinating an amazing day as well as Perth Racing and all sponsors and patrons on the day.

ON THE CAPE TO CAPE TRAIL



Roly Egerton-Warburton on the Cape to Cape trail

In a very physical fundraising challenge which took place over the Easter break, Roly Egerton-Warburton hiked the Cape to Cape trail in the State's south west to raise money for the SKMRC.

The five day, 134-kilometre trail took Mr Egerton-Warburton along the coastal ridge from Cape Naturaliste in Dunsborough to Cape Leeuwin in Augusta.

Mr Egerton-Warburton, who was a school friend of Scott Kirkbride said he hoped his efforts would inspire people to dig into their pockets and support the Centre's valuable work.

Donations can still be made for Roly's hike at www.skmrc.org.au/support.html - please use the code 'Cape to Cape' – or by calling (08) 9224 0333.

VONNIE'S VOLUNTEERS

WAIMR is opening volunteer opportunities for people who would like to get involved and contribute to lifesaving work at the Institute for Medical Research and the SKMRC.

Volunteers are needed across a whole range of duties to suit all individual skills and talents.

If you are interested in becoming one of 'Vonnie's Volunteers' please register your interest via email at yvonnek@waimr.uwa.edu.au or by phoning (08) 9224 0333.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coming up on the SKMRC calendar is our 720 ABC Perth hosted Quiz Night, which will be held at the East Perth studio in September and be attended by the station's well-known personalities. Please call us on (08) 9224 0333 for more information.

We are also looking forward to another bright and sunny golf day at Wembley Golf Complex in November. If you would like to get a team together or participate, please give us a call to register.

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All donations to the Centre over \$2 are tax deductible.

