



# GEELONG REGION CANCERIANS

Bellarine, Geelong, Golden Plains, Queenscliff & Surf Coast

## Awareness Bulletin #1

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### Welcome:

On behalf of the Geelong Region Cancerians (GRC) welcome to the first edition of our Awareness Bulletin.

We thank everyone who attended our launch, and those unable to attend for their words of support; we appreciate you asking to be kept informed regarding upcoming events.

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### Vision of Geelong Region Cancerians:

Our aim is to raise awareness and funds that support research for uterine cancer and other cancers supporting the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).

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### Message from GRC Founder – Phillipa Challis OAM

It was with much pride and satisfaction that I celebrated the launch of the Geelong Region Cancerians. I applaud and congratulate the terrific team effort by the Geelong Region Cancerians committee, under the leadership of our Chair Helene Bender OAM, in pulling the launch together after only being formed some three months ago.

The offers, expressed by many, to be involved and to assist where possible, made it a delightful beginning for my wish to give back to the community in appreciation of being declared a uterine cancer survivor.



Professor Tom Jobling OAM, Helene Bender OAM Chair, Phillipa Challis OAM Founder and Dr Karl Najjar

Surrounded by a wonderful committee and with help from you and our supporters, my aim of raising awareness of uterine cancer and funds for research into uterine and all other cancers will most definitely be achieved.

My thanks go to Device Technologies, our major sponsor for the launch. I am grateful to them for their sponsorship and the equipment they distribute, as it was used during my surgery by Professor Tom Jobling OAM.

Dr Karl Najjar is a specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. His vision is to provide the highest standard of care to women during all stages of their lives, and he kindly agreed to introduce Professor Jobling, the guest speaker at the launch.

Professor Jobling is Director of Gynaecologic Oncology at Monash Medical Centre, a Member of the Society of Pelvic Surgeons, and Founder of the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. His major interests are radical surgery for ovarian cancer and the application of robotic surgery for gynaecological malignancy.

I encourage you to visit our website [geelongregioncancerians.com.au](http://geelongregioncancerians.com.au) and follow us on Facebook [facebook.com/GeelongRegionCancerians/](https://facebook.com/GeelongRegionCancerians/)

*Working together we can help beat cancer*

## Message from GRC Chair – Helene Bender OAM



The Western Beach Room at Deakin University was a buzz on Wednesday April 18 when the Geelong Region Cancerians was launched. 100 guests invited to the cocktail party heard that ACRF in 2017 awarded \$7.5 million in cancer research funding. The funds go toward cutting-edge research technology and infrastructure to speed up discoveries in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Professor Ian Brown, CEO of ACRF spoke at the launch and emphasised the importance of the community's

support. It was acknowledged Geelong Region Cancerians is the first regional city in Victoria to form and be affiliated with the Australian Cancer Research Foundation. The Platinum Launch partner was Device Technologies, their vision is to make a difference in the medical and supplies arena. The *da Vinci* System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Device Technologies is a perfect partnership with GRC and our Founder Phillipa Challis OAM.

Our other partners for the launch were Lake Imaging; West End Real Estate; Deakin University; Pam Hutchinson Photography and Proxy Design.

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## Geelong Region Cancerians Wine Drive @ Centra Hotel

Centra Hotel at 131 Yarra Street, Geelong is hosting the launch of the GRC Wine Drive on Thursday May 24, 2018 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Attached is a list of the wines available on the 24<sup>th</sup>, rsvp required by Monday May 21, 2018. The Wine Drive Fundraiser opens on Thursday May 24 and closes Saturday June 30, 2018.



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## Geelong Region Cancerians Committee

Helene Bender OAM – Chair. E: [helenebender@westnet.com.au](mailto:helenebender@westnet.com.au)

Tim Birchall – Treasurer

Phillipa Challis OAM – Founder

Michelle Challis – Deputy Chair

Deb Fribbins – Committee

Beryl McMillan OAM – Secretary. E: [hello@geelongregioncancerians.com.au](mailto:hello@geelongregioncancerians.com.au)

Alison McLeod – Publicity Officer

Luke Outerbridge – Committee

Gavin Seidel – Committee