

MEDIA RELEASE



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Cancer research given funding sweetener

Cupcakes and music have given cancer research in Tasmania a boost, thanks to a talented student.

Recently in Launceston, final year medical student Thanuja Dharmadasa made a donation of \$4000 to Cancer Council Tasmania for research into cancer.

Throughout the year she raised money through piano lessons, several "Cupcake Days" and the Musica Pro Vita (Music for Life) concert held in Hobart in October.

Ms Dharmadasa was keen to support Cancer Council Tasmania after completing an honours study into the relationship between vitamin D, UV radiation and skin cancer, from which she graduated with First Class Honours last week.

"It has been really satisfying to be able to raise these funds for the Cancer Council Tasmania and in doing so, keep the subject of cancer and the need for cancer research in the community's mind," Ms Dharmadasa said.

"The Cancer Council Tasmania supported my honours thesis on the relationship between Vitamin D, UV radiation and skin cancer and it is so important to keep working together to reduce the impact of cancer in the community," she said.

Cancer Council Tasmania's Deborah Church expressed the organisation's appreciation of the funds and Ms Dharmadasa's efforts.

"Cancer rates aren't linked to interest rates and cancer will continue to impact on lives even when the economic situation is difficult. Maintaining funds for cancer research is crucial if we are not to lose the momentum of the last decade in improving cancer health outcomes," she said.

In 2009, the collaboration between Ms Dharmadasa and Cancer Council Tasmania will continue as a project about UV radiation, skin cancer and Vitamin D is introduced into Tasmanian schools.

Ms Dharmadasa will start her internship at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne next year.

She was assisted in her fundraising by Dr Kim Rooney, the Launceston Medical School, Scotch Oakburn College and St Michael's Collegiate School.

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