

GO FUND

News on the GO

"I support the GO Fund and their research, and encourage you to assist this worthwhile cause."

Nicole Kidman



• Research • Treatment • Awareness • Prevention of Gynaecological Cancer

*Supporting a collaboration between the Royal Hospital for Women
and the Garvan Institute for Medical Research*

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A mother's love remembered

The three Moffet siblings remember their mother's tragic death and decide it's their generation's turn to do something about ovarian cancer.

It's amazing how we remember our mother at different stages of our life. Libby, Stuart and David Moffet have kept wonderful memories of their mother Jean, who died in 2003 from ovarian cancer. The grieving process is ongoing.

But Jean's children decided they wanted to do something to stop other people losing their mothers. If Jean's ovarian cancer could have been

diagnosed in its early stages, she would have had a 90% chance of recovery. But there is no blood test to detect the cancer. During the 12 days Libby, Stuart and David visited their mother in her hospice, they saw three other patients die from the disease. After Jean passed away they decided they wanted to express their gratitude for all their mother had given them, while helping other women. And so they resolved to support the GO Fund. Jean Moffet made a huge impact on her three children. Amongst words such as "loving" and "kind", they also remember how she helped them to pursue their goals in life and have

high standards by which to live. "She taught us that if you have a view, you live by it," recalls Libby.

Jean began her adult life as a nurse, and it was while nursing that she met her husband, Rod. Full time motherhood soon followed. While her children were young, Jean completed her HSC at night, then went on to university to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree and become a high school teacher. In a glowing tribute at her funeral, one of her colleagues, the English Master at Mosman High School, told how Jean was absolutely dedicated to her job as an English and History teacher and excelled as a true scholar.

Her leadership qualities were always evident to her children. "She led by example. She not only gave us a sense of direction, she told us what was right and insisted we did it," says Stuart. "A short term view was not a consideration. We were encouraged to take an interest in the world outside our family." This led to dinner table discussions about current and world affairs. Topics such as the dangers of uranium mining and the republic were on the agenda.

Jean was a member of many organisations including Amnesty International, the Australian Republican Movement and the National Trust and was a volunteer guide at the NSW Art Gallery. An interest in politics was something to



Libby, Stuart and David Moffet

be proud of and Libby and Stuart recall how they used to help their parents hand out how to vote leaflets for the Labor Party. Stuart also remembers being taken to the local showground during the 1975 election and hearing Bob Hawke address a packed crowd.

In early 1998, at the age of 61, Jean was concerned about her swollen stomach and was convinced it was not just due to age. In true "Jean" style, she pursued the cause. Having always had regular pap smears, she had previously thought, as most women do, that that would be enough. Her operation in February was followed by chemotherapy for much of that year.

In September she started to recover and decided to get on with life. This meant a series of overseas trips and a return to her volunteer guiding work at the NSW Art Gallery. It also meant continuing her lust for learning and knowledge, and maintaining a strong

interest in the news. Says Libby, "She would sit up 'til 1 or 2 in the morning reading newspapers."

In 2001, tests indicated that Jean's cancer might be returning and in 2002 she resumed chemotherapy. She was characteristically very stoical about her illness despite the chemotherapy having an adverse effect, which saw her hospitalised on eight occasions from late 2002. When she died in April 2003, her devoted husband and great supporter, Rod, and her three children were by her bedside.

David, who recalls his mum's support and the encouragement of his scholastic side when he was considering which career he would follow, says he decided to become a financial supporter of the GO Fund because he feels it is a tragedy that women have only a short prognosis if the disease is not found early. "Other cancers are preventable, but this one is hard to detect. And it's not age specific when

girls as young as 12 are diagnosed."

"Mum and Dad gave us a lot of support in our lives," says Stuart. "My support of the GO Fund is not only to acknowledge what my mother gave us and her contribution to society, but also to help other women."

"It's our generation's turn to find the answers," says Libby.



A portrait of Jean Moffet by her husband Rod. His work is based on his last photo of Jean, taken in March 2003.

Miss NSW joins the fight against gynaecological cancer

Miss NSW, Sabrina Houssami, will become a glamorous and sophisticated representative for the GO Fund at our Cocktails on the GO in March 2006.

Sabrina, at only 19 years of age, has a string of accomplishments both before and since leaving high school, culminating in her becoming the runner up to Miss World Australia 2005 in September.

While studying for a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Sydney University, Sabrina has won several other titles, including Miss Swimsuit Australia 2005 and 1st runner up to Charity Queen 2005.

With a multi-cultural background of half Lebanese and half Indian, Sabrina is not only beautiful, she has shown that she has many other talents in public speaking and debating. She was a member of the NSW Zone Champion debating team in 2003 and a member of the winning team in the Lions Club General Knowledge Championships

in 1996. In October she was 2nd speaker of the winning team at the Goodwill Week Great Debate.

Sabrina was invited by the Sydney Turf Club as the "Face of Sydney Racing" on the Girls Day Out at Rosehill Gardens in November. Seen here with Gai Waterhouse, Sabrina has also worked tirelessly for charity, raising funds for several causes.

As Miss World Bankstown, Sabrina performed in the Bankstown Silver Jubilee Celebrations and the Sister Cities in Harmony Concert in July both as an MC and soloist. She is also an

accomplished motivational speaker.

Sabrina obviously has a great future in whichever field she chooses.

We welcome her on board the GO Fund team.



And the research goes on...

A large part of the research program is currently focused on identifying ovarian cancer 'brake' genes that are switched off early in disease development, allowing uncontrolled growth of the cancer cells. Accumulating evidence from our own and other laboratories suggest that changes in these types of genes have potential as early diagnostic markers of ovarian cancer.



Caroline Barton

Caroline Barton joined the GO Fund team three months ago in the role of Post Doctoral Researcher. She did her PhD in London, specialising in genetics, and was looking abroad for new challenges when she heard through a friend that the Garvan was looking for someone with her expertise. "In London I was looking at a drug that killed ovarian cancer cells at Cancer Research UK. Here I'm looking at how ovarian cancer develops and progresses. I'm working on genes that are altered in patients with ovarian cancer, so that we can find a diagnostic marker. We are constantly comparing our research to that of overseas labs to ensure that our work is not being duplicated elsewhere."

Kate Patterson is a PhD student who originally studied veterinary science at Sydney University. "I was interested in cancer in animals and wanted a career in research. When I was in Year 12 I visited the Garvan with my biology class and was so impressed that I knew I wanted to work here. I am working on a potential tumour suppressor gene which was identified from the work done here in the lab by other members of the team. I am trying to characterise its role in the pathogenesis of ovarian cancer – its importance in the development of the cancer. We are hoping that this gene may inhibit the development of cancer."



Kate Patterson

"There are several more genes we'd like to investigate but we don't have the time. We need more money to hire more people."

Alison Smith has been with the GO Fund's research team for the past two years. With her previous experience in London on breast cancer at the Institute for Cancer Research, Alison saw the position of Research Assistant at the Garvan advertised on their web site. "I had missed the deadline, but applied anyway and got the job. I am very interested in cancer research and women's health. The Garvan has an excellent reputation so I knew it would be a good place and environment in which to work. With the tissue samples we receive from the Royal Hospital for Women, we can isolate DNA, RNA, and protein. DNA represents the genes we inherit, RNA is the gene expression, and protein is the functional product of the gene. We compare normal patients to patients with different types of ovarian cancer. My role is to help Kate and Caroline in the management of the lab."



Alison Smith

Kathleen aims to defy the odds

A fit, young, healthy, 31-year-old lawyer has no time for a disease such as ovarian cancer. She is busy building a successful career, enjoying her relationship with her partner, and is surrounded by a loving family and friends.



Kathleen Thornton

did not suffer from most of the common symptoms of ovarian cancer. The disease was discovered after Kathleen found a lump in her neck, just above the collarbone. It was no bigger than a macadamia nut. Her GP referred Kathleen to a thyroid specialist who identified it as a calcified lymph node. In April the node was removed and pathology revealed it as metastatic cancer which could have originated either in the ovaries or omentum.

Her oncologist told her it was serious – life threatening. However, doctors could not say for certain where the primary cancer was. Shortly after being diagnosed, Kathleen decided to ensure she knew as much as possible about what she faced, including exactly what type of cancer it could be, the grade, and the prognosis. Her oncologist spelt it out – 12-24 months prognosis because it was so advanced.

However, Kathleen refuses to accept that there is nothing that can be done. "I'm strong and stubborn," she says, "At first, I was frustrated with the degree of uncertainty in the diagnosis, but then I decided to maintain a positive attitude and be well informed about the whole process."

As an Employment and Industrial Lawyer, Kathleen is used to hard work and dedication. After running a half marathon in May, Kathleen started the first of her chemotherapy treatments.

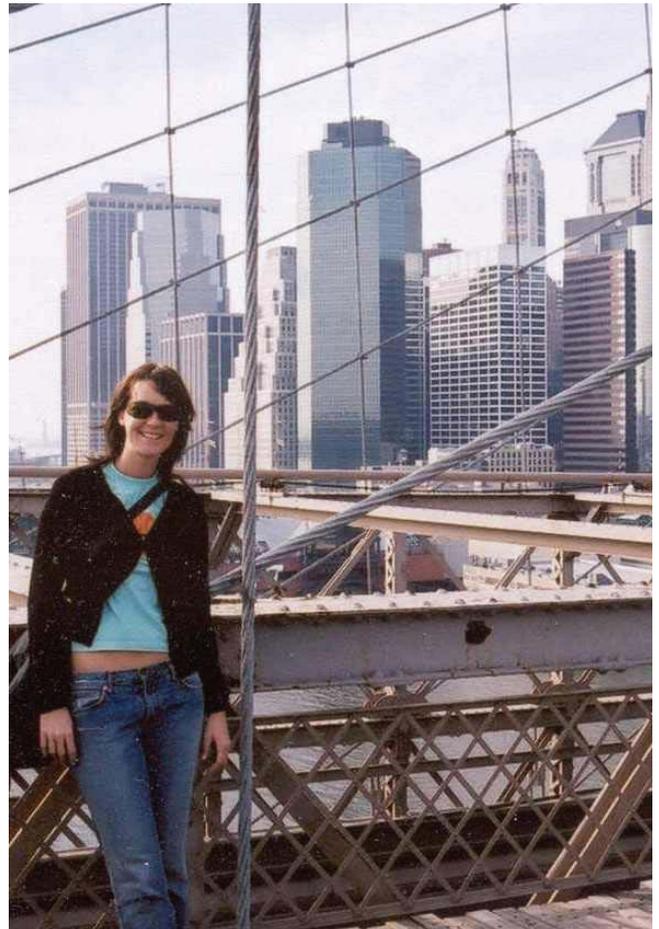
After three cycles of chemotherapy,

the lump in her neck had decreased in size and she was referred to Professor Hacker for surgical removal of the primary cancer.

The operation which removed her tubes, ovaries and omentum, revealed that it was Stage IV ovarian cancer. However, the chemotherapy had had the desired effect and reduced the extent of the cancer.

Originally from New Zealand, Kathleen is the youngest of five children. "They were devastated that this could happen to their baby sister. It was hard on my family and my partner. They have been an incredible support."

Kathleen has continued working as a Senior Associate at law firm, Baker & McKenzie, throughout her treatment and is strongly supported by her colleagues. "My friends, most of whom are lawyers, now understand more about ovarian cancer. I also discovered that Baker & McKenzie has



Kathleen in New York

been a strong supporter of the GO Fund since its inception and the staff there have been incredibly generous in raising money for the GO Fund's Karen Campaign to find a blood test for the disease."



Kathleen with close friends at a recent wedding

A valiant woman



Regina Tram was always a bright spirit in the halls of the Royal Hospital for Women. She was determined to fight her ovarian cancer, and succeeded for more than 15 years following her initial diagnosis in 1990 at the age of 46.

Regina approached her illness with a defiant strength of mind, positivity, and a sharp sense of humour. She always looked to the future with courage and determination. Regina also made many friends at the RHW and was a well-known and

conversational character.

Originally diagnosed following a hysterectomy performed by Professor Hacker, Regina's disease went into remission for 9 years. Her recurrence was picked up with a CA125 reading during one of her regular visits to the Centre.

Regina was always very appreciative of the ongoing help of Professors Hacker and Friedlander, and the support of the amazing nursing team. In keeping with her wishes, her family and friends have donated to the GO Fund to help with our research.



Regina Tram

Be informed and spread the word



The GO Fund video explains the difficulties in diagnosing ovarian cancer because of the vagueness of symptoms, how it affects not only the patient, but those around them, what the GO Fund is doing to solve the problem and how you can help.



The 10 minute video is ideal to show to friends and community groups. It is compulsive viewing for every woman, regardless of age. For your copy phone (02) 9382 6283.

Did you know you can write a will for free?



If you would like to write your will and it's not a complex one, why not log onto the GO Fund web site which will direct you to the Lawsoft Online Will Preparation. The service is free, providing you leave something to the GO Fund so that we can continue with our research into gynaecological cancer.

Just log onto www.gofund.org.au/html/bequests.htm or www.charitywills.net.au/gofund

On the GO...

Get ready for the GO Fund's 3 great events next year:

- **Cocktails on the GO** and the launch of the 2006 Karen Campaign
15 March 2006
Doltone House
Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont
6.30pm

Tickets will be available to purchase by phone, fax, mail or through the GO Fund web site:
www.gofund.org.au

- **Fashion on the GO**
June 2006
- **Food on the GO** - October and the awards for the 2006 Karen Campaign

Congratulations to the winners of the 2005 Karen Campaign!

Kells the Lawyers responded to the challenge put out by Sparke Helmore and Baker & McKenzie and were the highest fundraising law firm, winning the Emirates, business class return trip for two to Auckland. Sparke Helmore were not far behind and took out the most glamorous prize of \$4,000 worth of jewellery from Jeff Einstein Jewellery of Double Bay and Westfield. Baker & McKenzie were awarded the stylish Raymond Weil watches for their innovative Eye Toy event.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all those involved who worked hard to raise funds. Each firm came up with different ideas to raise the funds which proves there is no limit



Organisers of the Kells luncheon: Theresa Curman (Marketing Manager for Kells), Suzanne Kent (Mortgage Choice), and Chris Turrisi (Paralegal for Kells)



Kells the Lawyers held a Christmas in July luncheon

to the imagination.

Kells had a Christmas in July luncheon and a monster raffle. Sparke Helmore followed up their mailout to the NSW legal profession for us, by holding a trivia night, a rowing challenge and a monster raffle. They also participated in workplace giving. Baker & McKenzie held a pool night, an Eye Toy event (virtual reality), a raffle and a regular Friday charity collection.

The event raised \$30,000 for our research team at the Garvan and all three firms have pledged their support for next year. Our goal next year is to increase this amount so that we can add to our team at the Garvan.

Thank you to our sponsors for the Karen Campaign: Emirates, Jeff Einstein Jewellery and Raymond Weil. Their support for this great cause is appreciated.

The big launch for the 2006 Karen Campaign will be held in conjunction with our Cocktails on the GO on Wednesday, 15th March 6:30pm at Doltone House. Campaign entry forms and invitations will be mailed to law firms and both will be available on our web site at www.gofund.org.au.



Petunia Pig collected donations from the staff at Baker & McKenzie



Baker & McKenzie's Eye Toy Event was popular with the staff



Sparke Helmore's winning rowing team, the Helmoars



Survival the only choice

When Helen Tye was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at the age of 29, her first thoughts were of those around her.



Helen and her partner, Eddie, holidaying at Santorini in 2004

With visions in her mind of her loved ones attending her funeral, Helen's comments to Professor Hacker were, "I can't die because it would kill my mother. Who would raise my 6-year-old son? How would my partner cope?"

It was these questions which kept pushing her to fight the disease. Still in shock from her diagnosis in August 1989, Helen at first thought that they had the wrong person. It was only a routine check-up for blocked tubes to

ensure that she could get pregnant. But the doctor who performed the laparoscopy revealed the bad news when she woke from the anaesthetic.

"Instead of hearing that I could have a baby, I was suddenly told that I had cancerous growths on both ovaries. I was under the impression that I should have pain or symptoms with a disease such as this."

Helen worked out twice a day and was physically fit. But the diagnosis meant a complete hysterectomy and six lots of chemotherapy, and no chance of having another child. Her partner was devastated as he had never had children, but he was more concerned with Helen's survival.

"For a while there I looked out the window and cried," said Helen, "but the 'Why me?' changed to 'Why not me?' and I realised it was all a blessing in disguise. I believe things happen for a reason; that good comes out of bad, and that we are meant to learn from all of this."

Helen decided to work for Clarins for a while, running workshops for the Look Good Feel Better program. "It was nice to give something back. It

helps women to see someone who had a good result. It gives them hope."

With annual check-ups, Helen has survived for 16 years without a recurrence. Her survival has meant seeing her son celebrate his 21st, something she didn't expect to witness.

Now at 45, Helen feels lucky to be in this world. "Getting old is a reward. I count my blessings that I'm alive another day."



Helen and Eddie celebrating Alexander's 21st birthday, an event Helen did not expect to witness.

A surprise diagnosis

Tom and Nancy Bevan have lived in the Berry area all their lives and have been an active part of the local community.

Nancy was a member of the Berry Garden Club and had started the Garden Festival to show off the beautiful local gardens around September and October each year.

While Nancy was working on the Festival in 1997, she became unwell. "My daughter and a friend told me that I was not myself," she said, "and they insisted that I see a doctor. We had gone on a camping trip to Victoria, but I was not active and I

was not eating well."

Nancy's stomach had swollen and the doctors she visited eventually told her that she had ovarian cancer. Nancy didn't react, but her husband was shocked. "I didn't want to know any details," said Nancy, "just the outline." She was immediately put onto three days of chemotherapy and after a severe



reaction, she was in hospital for the next 10 days.

Another chemotherapy treatment followed, and then Nancy was referred to Professor Hacker. At the time, the Royal Hospital for Women was moving from Paddington to Randwick. While waiting for an operation, Nancy had further chemotherapy treatment. "It really knocked me," she said.

Nancy underwent radical surgery in July 1997 and it was a surprise to both Tom and Nancy when Professor Hacker told them that she had Stage IV endometrial cancer and not ovarian cancer. Although told that she should have a couple of good years of health, Nancy was determined that she was not going to die. "I looked forward to building a new home and spent my days designing it in my head."

Knowing that Nancy would no longer be able to look after the acres of gardens which surrounded their home, Tom and Nancy sold up and moved back into the Berry township. Nancy then embarked on a major campaign to have a retirement village built in the town. "This was something Berry needed, so we formed a committee and set about finding suitable land. Then we looked for one of the churches to finance the project."

Money raised from the Garden

Festival went towards the project and eventually the Berry Masonic Village became a reality. They even named a wing after her – the Nancy Bevan wing. She also received the Shoalhaven Australia Day Citizen Award in 1998.

In the meantime her local doctor was proud to announce that "Mrs Bevan won't be coming back," referring to the fact that he could no longer find anything wrong with her.

Not content with sitting back to enjoy her achievements, Nancy is now involved with the Berry museum, writing articles for them and the local paper. While Nancy works at the museum, Tom plays house husband and indulges his love

of motorcycles as a member of "The Ulysses Club".

On 25th August, Nancy celebrated her 70th birthday in Thredbo with her family of 3 children and 5 grandchildren around her. She has now survived without recurrence for eight years with a very advanced endometrical cancer. Both Nancy and Tom admit that the chances of reaching her 70th birthday seemed remote at the time of her surgery, but both are very grateful for the wonderful care and attention they received in the Gynaecological Cancer Centre of the Royal Hospital for Women.

It just goes to show that you can't hold back a determined woman.



Surrounded by her family, Nancy celebrated her 70th birthday



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DECEMBER 2005

My gift towards finding a cure for gynaecological cancer

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My personal reason for donating: _____

\$500 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Cheque/Money order attached **OR**

Please charge my Visa Mastercard Bankcard Amex

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Name of Card Holder _____ Expiry Date _____ / Signature _____

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Please charge \$ _____
monthly to my credit card
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Thank you for your support!

Please make cheques payable to 'GO Fund'. Donations to the GO Fund are tax deductible. A receipt will be mailed.