

MEDIA RELEASE

17 March 2017

Wyong Rugby Leagues kicks goal to help end melanoma

Wyong Rugby League Club Group has joined forces with Melanoma Institute Australia to help end melanoma for future generations.

The club has generously donated \$60,000 to Melanoma Institute Australia to enable purchase of a new slide stainer which is vital for monitoring individual patient responses to melanoma treatment. The new equipment will help ensure life-saving clinical decisions can be made, including switching therapies should resistance begin to develop.

CEO of Melanoma Institute Australia, Carole Renouf, said the support from Wyong Rugby League Club Group was particularly relevant given the region had been identified as a melanoma hotspot.

“Wyong and the Central Coast are among 28 melanoma hotspots around the state, meaning they have some of the highest rates of melanoma, significantly above the state average,” Ms Renouf said.

“Melanoma is the most common cancer affecting Australians aged 15-39 and kills more 20-39 year olds than any other single cancer. Incidence in the over the 60s is also increasing.

“The support from Wyong Rugby League Club Group means we are equipped with the latest equipment and technology to ensure melanoma patients, many of whom come from the Wyong and Central Coast areas, receive the best possible treatment,” she said.

CEO of Wyong Rugby League Club Group, Michael Coghlan, said with seven venues located on the Central Coast and 50,000 members, it had always been a core focus of the group to support local organisations, sporting groups and the greater community. “We recognise that the Central Coast is a melanoma hotspot and we look forward to growing our partnership and raising awareness with Melanoma Institute Australia,” he said.

The partnership between MIA and Wyong Rugby League Club Group also extends to support of *The Longest Melanoma March*, a 1200 kilometre trek from Brisbane to Sydney by MIA Community Coordinator and melanoma survivor Jay Allen. Wyong Rugby League Club Group is planning a range of fundraising activities at the Bateau Bay Bowling Club to welcome Jay as he arrives on 28 March.

“We sincerely thank Wyong Rugby League Club Group for this generous support,” Ms Renouf said. “It will help us raise awareness about sun-smart behaviour to reduce melanoma risk, and will also assist us in raising vital funds for ongoing research into melanoma prevention and treatment,” she said.

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