

15 April, 2013

Heart and lung patients to benefit from *Knights of St George* donation

For the past 28 years St George Hospital has benefited from the hard work of a fundraising group called *The Knights of St George Heart Association*.

Since their inception in 1985, *The Knights of St George* members have raised funds for the St George Hospital's Cardiothoracic Unit, with this year's donation of \$89,000 bringing the group's total fundraising tally to more than \$1.25 million.

Department Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery at St George Hospital, Dr Gary Fermanis, said the most recent donation from *The Knights of St George* will be used to purchase a trans-oesophageal probe for the Hospital's new 3D cardiothoracic echo machine.

"The probe, which is attached to the cardiothoracic echo machine, will allow surgeons to view 3D images, showing structure and function of the heart and blood vessels during heart surgery," Dr Fermanis said.

Retired St George Hospital Cardiothoracic Surgeon and President of *The Knights of St George*, Dr David Horton, said the group has around 220 active members, whose fundraising efforts have culminated in the purchase of vital medical equipment for the benefit of heart and lung patients.

"Amongst the items purchased are a cardiovascular ultrasound system, a cardiac imaging machine, cardiac monitors, two intra-aortic balloon pumps, bronchoscopes and a heart-lung machine. Funds were also provided to fit-out a second cardiac catheter laboratory at St George Hospital," Dr Horton said.

According to Dr Horton, the real strength of the *Knights of St George* is its strong community involvement, highlighted by its outstanding committee of dedicated volunteers.

"We hold a number of fundraising activities throughout the year including dinners, stalls and raffles with all funds raised going to the Cardiothoracic Unit at St George Hospital.

"Fundraising events are supported by many former cardiac patients, and it is an excellent opportunity for those attending to not only raise funds for a good cause, but to share their experiences with each other," he said.

Photo opportunity:

Members of *The Knights of St George* will attend a thank you morning tea at St George Hospital where they will view the trans-oesophageal probe, purchased with their \$89,000 donation.

Date: Thursday 18 April, 2013
Time: 10.30am
Venue: Operating Theatres, St George Hospital

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