

All hands on deck...

With the movement of cancer staff and services to the new Westmead Cancer Care Centre it was a priority to have one cancer record for patients.

After getting various quotes to outsource this work in the tens of thousands of dollars, it was suggested that staff - on a volunteer basis - make a first pass at getting this job done.

Over the next five weeks doctors, nurses, radiation therapists, pharmacists, physicists and administrative staff in Cancer Services worked shoulder-to-shoulder to amalgamate over 5,500 radiation oncology and medical oncology files with much of this work being done during busy work schedules, lunch breaks, after work hours and on weekends.

When the Parramatta City Rotary Club's President, Ms Luba Charlton, heard of this great work, she and her Board of Directors were keen to acknowledge this incredible team effort. Ms Charlton expressed the need for the Parramatta local business community to support their local hospital and acknowledge the great work that staff do. "When I put the BBQ proposal to my Board, the vote was unanimously supported," she said.

Parramatta City Rotary Club has expressed a wish to make this an annual event and indeed to assist Cancer Services in future fundraising efforts for cancer patients.



Frantic fingers: Paul Harnett, doctors, nurses, radiation therapists, pharmacists, physicists and admin staff work side by side to get the job done.



The thankyou BBQ for the staff of Cancer Services was held down in the Westmead Hospital clubhouse on 7 November 2007, during a break in the wet weather that had prevailed for days prior to the event.

Luba and her great team of Rotarians catered and cooked for over 120 hungry cancer services staff.

Professor Harnett, Cancer Services Network Director expressed his gratitude to Parramatta City Rotary Club for their generosity and their commitment to supporting Sydney West Cancer Services.



Enjoying the BBQ are (above) Garry and Luba Charlton from Rotary with Paul Harnett, Warwick Benon, Catherine Death and Katharine Cox and (left) Radiation Therapists with Rotary members.

