

# Chemo drug mixer drive

## Bid to halt trips south

THE first step in improving the lot of Far Northern cancer patients was taken by a group of community fundraisers last night.

The Committee for Oncology Unit for Cairns Hospital group and the FNQ Hospital Foundation announced the State Government had promised to match what they raised towards an \$850,000 piece of equipment that will enable cancer drugs to be mixed in Cairns rather than Brisbane.

Up to \$40,000 worth of the drugs – used for chemotherapy patients at Cairns Base Hospital – are wasted each month because of delays getting them north before their limited shelf-life runs out.

The delays are also taking a personal toll on patients who must reschedule their treatment each time the drugs don't make it here in time.

The goal is seen by COUCH as the first step in getting radiation treatment at Cairns Base Hospital.

At last night's fundraising launch, cancer patient Liz Plummer said people and governments were starting to realise the heartbreak endured by thousands of local cancer sufferers forced to leave loved ones



**First step:** About 200 people attended the fundraiser and cancer patient Liz Plummer (inset) spoke of her suffering. Picture: ELENOR TEDENBORG

for treatment in Townsville and Brisbane. "It's horrendous," said Ms Plummer, who triggered the formation of COUCH about a year ago when she spoke about her own grief at having to go away. "It's a plague out there and governments have got to see they can't do this to people any more."

About to fly to Brisbane for treatment today for about the 20th time, Ms Plummer said although her own cancer was nearly under control, many more people needed help.

COUCH spokesman Bob McGill said last night's launch was to try to enlist the help of service clubs and

explain what the group was trying to do. COUCH also announced it is reviving the old Rosie's Run on the Esplanade, renaming it the Cairns Cancer Crusade on September 30.

About 200 people attended the launch and tens of thousands of dollars were pledged.

## Pesticide overkill, court told

IT was not normal practice to apply pesticides at the volume or frequency they were sprayed on Tableland coffee plantations in 1996, an expert has told a Cairns court.

Entomology Professor Andrew Beattie gave evidence in the Supreme Court during the second week of a civil damages claim by Tableland coffee producers.

The Colbran, Jaques and Maloberti families are suing the State Government for damage to crops after pesticide spraying in 1996 to target an outbreak of the papaya fruit fly.

Prof Beattie told the court on Monday the concentration of chemicals used was "above the rate" specified by Department of Primary Industries guidelines.

"It is normally applied in a grid pattern because the flies are attracted to them," he said.

"You would apply it to individual plants as a spot-spray and under those circumstances ... you would be unlikely to treat any plant twice."

The trial continues today.

## 2007 Cairns Show

Wed. 18, Thu. 19 and Fri. 20 July

Cairns Showgrounds: cnr. Mulgrave Road and Severin St., Parramatta Park (7 minute walk from Cairns City)

Gates Open: 9am each day - closes 9pm. Non-stop action, entertainment, displays AND exhibits each day

### CAIRNS SHOW DAILY ADMISSION PRICES

Adults	\$17.00	Children under 5	Free
Concession	\$12.00	1 day family pass	\$40.00
Children (5-14)	\$8.00		

### HEAPS OF ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

- ▶ Flying Lotahs trapeze act
- ▶ Freestyle Moto-X
- ▶ Equestrian World record jump
- ▶ Arts and Crafts
- ▶ The Silver Spike Competition
- ▶ Cow milking demonstrations
- ▶ Snakes and Reptiles
- ▶ Prize dogs, Visual Arts
- ▶ Fireworks every night
- ▶ Musical Rock Extravaganzas
- ▶ Awesome Axemen
- ▶ Rock Drilling Championships
- ▶ Heritage Park activities
- ▶ Dress-up Ducks
- ▶ Australian Navy Band
- ▶ Precision Parachutists
- ▶ Chainsaw races
- ▶ New sideshow rides
- ▶ Bigger animal nursery
- ▶ The best local produce
- ▶ Top cattle displays
- ▶ Horseman from Susan River
- ▶ Prize local produce
- ▶ Prize goats, birds, cats

For all Cairns Show information, go to the website

[www.cairnsshow.com.au](http://www.cairnsshow.com.au)

Cairns Show - The excitement never stops

WIN A DOUBLE PASS!

THE SIMPSONS

# MOVIE

MATT GROENING In Cinemas July 26

Aye Carumba!

The Cairns Post together with Birch, Carroll & Coyle Cinemas present an exclusive preview screening of The Simpsons Movie on Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30pm. For your chance to win one of 175 double passes to the most anticipated movie of the year just fill out your details below and send to The Simpsons Movie, PO Box 126, Cairns 4870.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition starts Saturday, July 14 2007 and ends Friday, July 20 2007. Entries close at 10am on Monday, July 23. Winners will be drawn at 11am and winners will be published in The Cairns Post Public Notices on Tuesday, July 24. Employees of The Cairns Post and their immediate families may not enter the competition. Prize is valued at \$29.60 and can be collected from The Cairns Post reception, 22-24 Abbott St, Cairns.