

# Fundraiser helps support new treatment for MS

Kaniva Times: Grady Hudd

September 18th 2013



**Family:** Jill Hendy (middle) with daughter Nakita Jewell (left) and daughter-in-law Sam Hendy (right).

A morning tea has helped raise more than \$1600 towards a new treatment for Multiple-Sclerosis (MS) that has helped one Kaniva local fight back against her progressive illness.

In November last year MS sufferer Jill Hendy underwent a new treatment for a condition called Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI), which many specialists believe contributes to the symptoms of MS.

Jill said the revolutionary treatment has helped “get her life back.”

“[I was] struggling to walk and really trying hard to do everything, it’s been a huge difference,” she said.

CCSVI is caused by blockage of critical veins in the neck, which prevents adequate drainage of blood from the brain and spine.

Through a procedure called a ‘balloon angioplasty,’ a small balloon was inserted into the vein in Jill’s neck and inflated to clear the blockage, with the aim of improving blood flow and, in turn, reducing her symptoms.

Since undergoing the procedure 10 months ago Jill said she has seen improvements in her cognition and mobility.

“The first thing I noticed was I could walk in bare feet, and I wasn’t able to do that before,” she said.

“I could carry a cup of tea or a cup of coffee, not too full, but I [wouldn’t] spill it; the life came back into my eye.”

The treatment has also freed Jill of the debilitating fatigue that accompanies MS.

“It was terrible and overwhelming...you have to sleep, you just can’t get out of it,” Jill said, before joking “I still get tired, but I’m 51 and I’ve got four grandkids so I reckon I’m allowed to.”



**Raffle winners:** Jackie Nash, Desiree Williams and Jill Hendy holding some of the prizes donated by Jenny Lester-Smith and Joanne Wallis.

To help raise much needed funds for CCSVI Australia, Jill, her daughter Nakita Jewell and daughter-in-law Sam Hendy held a fundraising event at the Presbyterian Church in Kaniva last Tuesday.

Around 60 people attended the morning tea, where Jill shared her story about living with MS and how she found out about the new treatment for CCSVI.

Jill was diagnosed with primary progressive MS at just 34 years of age; with this form of the illness symptoms gradually worsen over time, rather than presenting as sudden attacks.

At around this time last year, Jill recalled being fearful that her future may involve being admitted to a nursing home, or even becoming wheelchair-bound.

It was then that she saw an interview about the new CCSVI treatment on ABC show 'Catalyst,' which triggered her hunt for answers.

"I was like a dog with a bone, searching the internet and Googling CCSVI, hungry for any information I could get," Jill said.

After concluding her research, she contacted CCSVI Australia and emailed the doctor, who would perform her surgery just four weeks later.

The marked improvement in Jill hasn't gone unnoticed by friends and family; she said "they can really see the difference" that the treatment has made.

Nakita said that CCSVI is also linked to a number of other conditions, and that the treatment could potentially be applied in a similar way.

"It's connected to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and those sorts of things, so it's got huge potential," she said.

She also thanked everyone that has supported her family.

"If I start naming people then I'll forget somebody, so just a general thank you to everyone in the community for their support and also to our family and friends."

At the morning tea people were able to donate any amount of money, and were also able to purchase tickets to a raffle which was drawn after Jill's address.

Winners Jackie Nash and Desiree Williams won some nice cards; Claire Duthie won a home-made quilt and Jackson Staehr a painting.

If you would like to donate to CCSVI Australia, go to [www.ccsviaustralia.com.au](http://www.ccsviaustralia.com.au) and follow the prompts.