

## Wellington celebrates cardiology past, present and future

From Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 June more than 400 cardiologists from Australia and New Zealand will gather in Wellington to reflect on recent advancements, the latest developments and what is on the horizon for cardiology locally and worldwide.

Under the stewardship of the Capital Coast and Hutt District Health Boards, this year's annual scientific meeting by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) will feature plenary sessions, breakout streams and interactive discussions around the theme of "The first 20 and the next 10 years of the Millennium" with renowned international, national and local speakers.

Wellington is a befitting venue for this gathering, celebrating a proud cardiac legacy of innovation and achievement which has now been captured with a specially commissioned panel at the *Brave Hearts* exhibition on Wellington's Waterfront.

"We are happy to be part of the *Brave Hearts* exhibition and privileged to contribute to it. It showcases an important part of New Zealand History with impact on so many lives." says Professor Sasse, Convenor of this year's CSANZ scientific meeting.

*Brave Hearts – The New Zealand Cardiac Story*, developed by The Auckland Medical Museum Trust with support from the Auckland University of Technology (AUT), explains how the heart works, how heart disease is investigated, and the largely untold story of New Zealand's leading role in the evolution of heart surgery.

Displays with interactive models demonstrate normal heart function, what could go wrong and what can be done to diagnose and correct heart problems. The exhibition delves into the inspiring stories behind New Zealand's first open-heart operation, the cooling of children's hearts to allow life-saving surgery and the innovation which led to replacing damaged heart valves.

The Wellington panel within the exhibition explains how cardiology was established and evolved at Wellington Hospital since 1926 and the state-of-the-art services available to all of us today.

Visitors can also learn about the recipients of ground-breaking heart care such as Helen Harris and former All Blacks doctor John Mayhew:

Almost fifty-nine years ago ten-year-old New Zealander Helen Arnold (now Harris) became the first person in New Zealand to undergo heart-lung bypass surgery. This remarkable medical achievement was just one of a number of ground breaking procedures developed by the small team of heroic clinicians at Auckland's Green Lane Hospital.

Helen recalls:

*'I was Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes' "golden girl", the first to go on the heart lung bypass machine in 1958. I was very sick before that and was one of six given the chance to have the first open-heart surgery. My parents had faith in the doctors and agreed to the pioneering operation. I remember Dr. Barratt-Boyes going to sleep in the chair beside me in those first few days. Apart from being my life-giving surgeon, he was also a fatherly, tender figure whom I trusted utterly, and a good friend to mum and dad. He has been a figure around which my life has pivoted. I have had quite a life*

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*since: three open-heart surgeries, three pacemakers, two strokes. I am now 70 and still here and very fortunate. I have three grandchildren and I walk my dog every day’.*

Helen Harris (nee Arnold), April 2017 (born 1947).

*Brave Hearts – The New Zealand Cardiac Story* will be open until July 26 2019.

[www.bravehearts.co.nz](http://www.bravehearts.co.nz)

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Location: Kumutoto Ki Tai Winter Pop Up Village, Lady Elizabeth Lane, Wellington Waterfront

Times: Wednesdays to Fridays from 11am to 3pm, Saturdays and Sundays 11am to 4pm. The exhibition will be closed on public holidays.

Dates: May 17<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup> 2019

Free admission