

Club to the rescue

Amy Walker

A MELTON man's battle for life is being helped by some big-hearted friends.

The CityWest four-wheel drive club will hold a charity swap meet and auction for club member Geoff Lake (pictured) who was diagnosed with prostate cancer last October.

The 50-year-old needs to raise \$10,000 to receive chemotherapy treatment.

Each round of Taxotere (docetaxel) costs more than \$1400.

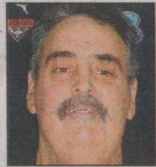
The drug is not covered by private

health insurance or Medicare for prostate patients but it is for breast cancer patients.

Mr Lake is now in Western Private Hospital and has insurance through Medibank Private.

Son Robert said his father's diagnosis came as a shock to the family and that his treatment was not covered by insurance.

"Our biggest concern is trying to get money so dad can have the medicine that he needs," he said.



Federal Department of Health and Ageing spokesman Neil Branch said the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme considered the medical conditions products were available for.

"Taxotere (docetaxel) is currently available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for the treatment of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and non-small-cell lung cancer," he said.

The drug was also registered for use by prostate cancer patients, but as yet is still unavailable under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Medibank Private spokeswoman Libby Woolnough said the drug was registered for the treatment of hormone refractory prostate cancer but had been rejected by Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for use in prostate cancer more than once.

Four-wheel drive club member Leigh Woodberry said all money raised from the auction and swap meet on August 12 at the Mt Cottrell Bowls Club would be donated to Mr Lake.

For details, visit www.citywest4x4club.org.au/ or phone Mr Woodberry on 0412 146 100.