

Hello Members and Friends, It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Jessica Clark. Jessica passed away peacefully at 11.30 last night. We send our love and support to Steve and Amelia. We have Steve's blessing to pass on his message. ***The last 6 weeks have been very special. On most days, Jess was able to drop Amelia off at school and pick her up. She got to take Amelia to her first dance lesson. She got to go to Amelia's first parent information night. She started compiling a memory box with Amelia. Jess and I got to regularly share breakfast at the local café. We were able to take our last holiday together. She got to spend some quality time out with her sisters. She was able to have fun with her friends and her family. Together we said goodnight, each night knowing that it might be for the last time, and celebrated each new day as a fresh opportunity. Last night, at about 11:30pm, Jess peacefully passed away. After all her battles she finally looked at rest. I want to thank you all for your support. The gifts, the offers of help, the donations... all of these things have reminded me, as I hope they have reminded you, that we are not islands. We are all part of a thriving community made up of caring people from many different religions and ideologies. Regardless of what we all believe we all share the same longing to heal those in pain, to feed those in need and to comfort those who are sad. I couldn't be prouder that Amelia is growing up with such strong communal role models around her. I'll let everyone know as soon as we have settled on details for the service, but in the meantime could I urge people again not to send flowers but to instead donate the money to C5c [www.gofundme.com/jessclark](http://www.gofundme.com/jessclark). Your giving has already raised an absolutely incredible \$4480 for the ward which has taken such great care of Jess over the past year and a half.*** Jessica and Steve first came to our Club as members during the summer 2000/2001. At that time they were in their early 20's and "going steady" as girlfriend and boyfriend. They became engaged and went away to be married. Two years ago, they returned to Girraween Athletics Club as a family bringing along young Amelia. Besides the friendship the Clark family has developed with our members, Steve has been an absolute work horse within so many aspects of the organisation of the Club. As with any great man, there is a great woman supporting him ... and Jess was in the background supporting Steve even though her health was suffering. During Jessica's illness over the past 18 months, Steve has rarely missed a Saturday and was always deeply apologetic when he did. We are dedicating our final pre winter cross country event to Jessica and raise further funds for the C5c Ward at the hospital. I encourage all members to attend this event as a sign of support for the Clark family and to help raise funds for Jessica's ward.

"Run for Jess" will be held on Saturday 23rd March at Gipps Road Sporting Complex, Greystanes. The events will be 2km (3pm start) and 4km/8km (3.30 pm start). The cost will be \$5 per entry with BBQ and drinks to follow.

