Dinner to fight child cancer

Mark Gertskis

MORE than three years after the death of her teenage son, Drummoyne’s Julie Sheridan has embarked on a mission to boost research into the cancer that took his life.

Together with husband Allen Greenhalgh, Ms Sheridan has set up Miles to Go, a charity dedicated to funding research into rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), a childhood tumour that usually appears in muscle tissue.

Ms Sheridan is putting on a dinner in Concord this Friday to help fund a study at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead into RMS drug resistance.

“We were looking to do something to raise awareness about the cancer he died from,” Ms Sheridan said.

“There is not much research done about it, unlike leukaemia.”

Miles Greenhalgh was 14 years old when he died from RMS after first complaining of back pain.

“You just don’t think cancer,” Ms Sheridan said.

“He was a 13-year-old boy. We thought it was a rugby injury. But by the time it was picked up, it had spread.”

The former student at Russell Lea Infants’ School and Drummoyne Public School underwent 16 months of chemotherapy, but died six weeks after going into remission.

“How you can help

Miles to Go fundraising dinner at Concord Function Centre, 138 Majors Bay Rd, Concord on Friday at 7pm.
Details: 0418 811 860 or allen.greenhalgh@gmail.com

“Hope lives in many forms,” Ms Sheridan said.

“He hoped he wouldn’t die. Our hope is that he’s remembered.”

The fundraising dinner will be the first time that Miles’s parents will speak about their loss in a public forum.

“For us, it has taken three years because it hurts so much,” Ms Sheridan said.

“There is no name for someone who loses a child because it’s so hard to talk about it.

“People stayed away from us because it was so hard to talk about it.”

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Photographed in December, 2006, Miles Greenhalgh, then 14, of Drummoyne, went surfing with champion surfer, Richie Lovett, before he died from cancer.

Photo: JAMES HORAN