

Team Artarmon saves over 100 lives - new players welcome!

By Robert Newman

Another year, another blood-drenched season! The results are in for **'Team Artarmon'** in the **Chatswood Blood Bank's Club Red Program** 2009/10 season.

After a fast paced second quarter, where we scored 13 donations, we suffered a setback in the third quarter when a ski-fields vacation injury put one of our plasma donors out for two months. But the **'Team Artarmon'** donors managed to hold their own and achieve 4th place with 34 donations overall this year, up from last year's 9th place with 31 donations.

The top position was taken by the team from **SKM** with 85 donations, and last year's winner **HMAS Waterhen** managed 2nd place with 60 donations. Positions 4 to 6 had scores of 34 to 28, so just one or two donors can make a big difference to the final score.

The success of **'Team Artarmon'** can be attributed to one member who was a plasma donor and so managed to contribute over 21 to the final score despite injury, plus 13 donations from other players including a second plasma donor recruited from the local SES unit.

Well done to **Cage Security Alarms** from the Artarmon Industrial Area who came 9th with 23 donations, up from 10th place last year.

The 2010/11 round has now commenced, so fresh blood and fresh players are more than welcome. All you need to do is walk into the Blood Bank at Chatswood, which is located in Albert Street, and less than an hour later you leave. If you are an existing donor you will be used to this. If you don't have an appointment, or it is your first donation, it might take a little longer. If you have never donated before you will be asked a few questions to ensure the quality of the blood supply.

Blood can be donated every 12 weeks and plasma can be donated every two weeks.

The Blood Bank has a saying that every donation helps save 3 lives, so if you donate every 12 weeks that is one life every month - so, as I asked last year, "Will you save a life this year?"

Register online to join Team Artarmon at the Red Cross Blood Service website or visit www.donateblood.com.au then click on Join a Club Red group online.