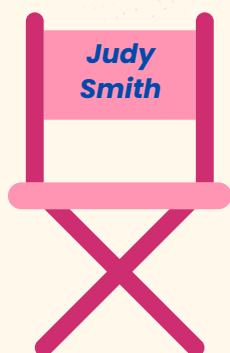




NTBCV NEWSLETTER

December 2023



A word from our Chairperson

2023 has been an interesting and busy year for NTBCV. The AGM was held earlier (February) than in previous years due to committee members commitments. As the incoming Chairperson the official start for the new Committee didn't really begin until April.

The end of 2023 is now upon us and there is still much to be done. Before we know it we will be celebrating the beginning of 2024!

I would like to thank members and advocates for your support in 2023. As an original Founding Member of NTBCV it seems almost surreal that 25 years have passed since our formation. A lot of water has passed under many various bridges over those years and there have been many very proud achievements but there is always still more to be done.

25 Years Celebration

On my return from an overseas trip, there was a mad rush to negotiate and organise a Parliamentary Reception to help celebrate our 25 years! More than 60 people attended; some newly diagnosed ladies through to many of the long term members and some wonderful supporters. The Parliament House Protocol staff did an amazing job considering the short term available for the planning.

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) was visiting Darwin at the same, to host a Practitioners Dinner later the same evening and to deliver a Forum the following day!

Both were great networking opportunities and a chance to make and renew enduring relationships with the BCNA personnel visiting.



NTBCV's aim this year, has been to hold a range of Open General Meetings. We had hoped to hold more than has been realised. However, the Open Meeting that was held with Chloe Oliver (Clinical Psychologist from the Allan Walker Cancer Care Centre) was well attended and accepted. It was generally agreed that further sessions with Chloe would be valuable, which unfortunately so far have not been possible due to unexpected outside factors. However, hiring a Digital Projector for the Chloe Oliver session fortuitously led to an unexpected offered Sponsorship with the owners of 'The Venue'.

There was also an Open session for a Stand Up Paddling (SUP) session – those attending had a great time and are keen for further sessions to be organised.

This year's Luncheon at Government House was a lovely variation on previous years. There was a slow response from members, which in turn led the Government House staff to offer a Luncheon in the formal dining room. A real treat!

To round out the year a 25th Anniversary Celebration High Tea was hosted and held at 'The Venue'. Thank you so much to our Sponsor.

Many behind the scenes meetings have been held for a variety of reasons, some of the more beneficial meetings were as follows:

- With the existing and new McGrath Breast Care Nurses – establishing our respective relationships with each other.
- Marg Lavery as the Clinical Trials spokesperson, outlining where the NT stands in the big picture. Clinical Trials are still in their infancy in the NT, so plenty to be done.

- BreastScreen NT – agreeing to work together for greater benefits of promoting breast cancer awareness
- Organising Committee for the Mother's Day Classic – further opportunities for promoting breast cancer awareness (this led to 2 of our members being given the opportunity to brave the Cage of Death at Crocosaurus Cove – a promotion of breast cancer awareness).

The end of 2023 is now upon us and there is still much to be done. Before we know it we will be celebrating the beginning of 2024!

As our Mission Statement says:

'NTBCV aims to provide information and ensure the continual improvement of services and wellbeing for all Territorians affected by a breast cancer diagnosis.'

As it becomes increasingly obvious that the "breast cancer cause" is competing with all the other worthy causes (bowel cancer, prostate cancer, brain cancer, kidney disease etc etc) the need to continually promote our cause is very real.

25 years ago the rate of Breast Cancer diagnosis was 1 in 13. It is now 1 in 7! An alarming statistic. Let's work together to make change for the better.

Merry Christmas to all, hopefully enjoy time with your loved ones and please stay safe. Best wishes for 2024.

If you wish to contribute to a Newsletter or have something relevant and worth advertising, please feel free to contact NTBCV.

Have a wonderful Christmas and most of all a safe and Happy New Year.



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