



**24 Hr FIGHT AGAINST CANCER MACARTHUR INC
CHAIRPERSON REPORT
TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
22ND May 2017**

It's a true honour to present to you the Chairperson's Report for the Fight Against Cancer Macarthur Inc.

We all loved Fred Borg and he did an outstanding job in starting this amazing charity. His death, in December 2016, was sudden and a great shock. I know we all feel like he's going to walk through that door any minute, and I wish he would. His recognition through the Australian Honours List, being awarded an AOM, was very well deserved.

Although he's gone, I believe he is still with us in spirit and that he would want us to continue his great legacy. He has taught us well, so I know we will be able to do it!

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate the whole committee and all our sponsors for their help in bringing Macarthur together to raise an amazing amount of money to help our local hospitals.

I'm proud to announce that in 2016 the Fight Against Cancer Macarthur raised \$320,000. This is a staggering achievement for a not for profit organisation, run totally by volunteers.

And to put it in perspective, our community has raised a fantastic \$3.7 million in 12 years. With your continued help and determination I'm sure we will reach \$4 million by this time next year.

Every single dollar raised is put to work helping cancer patients in our Campbelltown and Camden hospitals at the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre, the Oncology Ward, the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit and the Camden Palliative Care Unit.

The generosity of our local business and service club sponsors, in covering our costs, makes that possible. The sponsors' invest valuable time and money year after year. This support from sponsors is priceless.

We are always pleased to be able to fulfil the wishes of the health professionals for state of the art equipment and services for our family and friends who have to deal with this disease. The items they get from 24Hr funds support the best cancer treatments in the state, and are just not available from other sources, so congratulations Macarthur!

In 2016 we were able to provide a wide range of equipment and services that were much needed for patient care, comfort and education. Last year alone, the 24Hr Fight, on behalf of the people of Macarthur donated \$323,030 to Campbelltown and Camden hospitals to benefit patients with cancer.

To name just a few things purchased:

- Two Naso-video-endoscope systems at a cost of \$30,000. This equipment will allow specialists to better diagnose gastrointestinal cancers without using sedation on the patient. They will make outpatient services more efficient and allow more cancer patients to be seen.
- Continued funding for the employment of a Bowel Cancer Care Coordinator, Bobbie Elston at a cost of more than \$120,000 per annum. Bobbie liaises between doctors and patients with bowel cancer to ensure their treatment runs smoothly. Bobbie also runs the Macarthur Bowel Cancer Support Group.
- Specialised cooling caps for use during chemotherapy to help save patients' hair. These cost \$70,000 and we are going to hear more about this item at our upcoming Launch of the 2017 fundraising year.
- Purchase of three breast boards at a cost of \$47,000 which improves patient comfort during MRI and CT scans. This equipment reduces the risk of shoulder injuries in people undergoing these tests.
- The Patient Transport Bus donated by 24 Hr continues to make life easier for those receiving chemotherapy and radiation, by picking them up for treatment and taking them home. For your information, the 24HR bus made 2022 trips in 2016 and travelled over 27,741 kms last year alone. This means it has done over 280,306 kms since our purchase in 2007.

Remember that every small donation, even a \$2 raffle ticket, makes a big difference because it is put towards an important piece of equipment or service. All those \$2 donations add up.

But there is still so much more we can do. The number of people diagnosed in our local area with cancer increases every day. We will continue to work hard as a community for that reason. With the passion and dedication we have shown so far, I know we can continue to provide even better services.

I have had the privilege of watching a special man, take a dream that he had, and make it grow and grow into a huge movement. The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size but by the depth of their commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. Macarthur has many thousands of volunteers with huge hearts.

Thank you to the Macarthur community and for your support in keeping this great charity going for the people of Macarthur.

Warren Morrison
Acting Chairperson
22 May 2017