



24 Hr FIGHT AGAINST CANCER MACARTHUR INC

CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2019 LAUNCH Clintons Toyota, Campbelltown 21 June 2019

It's a pleasure to officially Launch the 24 Hr Fight Against Cancer Macarthur campaign for 2019 – for this, our 15th year. It's fitting that we are here at Clinton's Toyota in Campbelltown who are a Foundation sponsor and have been on board since Day 1.

Welcome to Country

I would like to acknowledge in attendance today:

- Clr Karen Hunt, representing the Mayor of Campbelltown and our Patron
- Dr Mike Freeland, Federal Member for Macarthur
- Greg Warren, State member for Campbelltown
- Anoulack Chanthivong, State Member for Ingleburn
- And all of our sponsors and supporters.

Thank you ladies and gentleman for leaving your busy lives and businesses and taking the time to be here this morning. Your interest in being a part of the 24Hr 'Family' is what makes this great charity so successful.

Just like a family, we have grown over our 15 years together. There's been many changes, we've lost people we love and we've welcomed new people into the fold, but what is constant is that we have remained a grassroots volunteer organisation.

With your help, we have worked hard to improve the services available for local people with cancer receiving treatment at the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre, the Oncology Ward and the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit both at Campbelltown Hospital and the Palliative Care Unit and its outreach services at Camden Hospital.

One of the main purposes of a launch is to report to the community on what we achieved last year.

I'm extremely proud to announce that in 2018 the 24Hr Fight Against Cancer Macarthur raised **\$300,000** bringing the total raised since 2005 to **\$4.3million**. In this economic climate, the achievements of our community have been outstanding.

For a local, not for profit organisation, totally run by volunteers – this is amazing. It was possible because of the support from all of you - our local business sponsors, service organisations and the very generous Macarthur community.

As a business person and a family man, I understand that there are many worthy causes that you would like to support, but there is a limit to how much you can do.

Our founder, Fred Borg OAM clearly understood that people would support an organisation where every dollar donated is put to work locally, helping cancer patients in our Campbelltown and Camden hospitals. 100% for Macarthur – By Macarthur. Fred Borg was a great man who demonstrated passion and commitment to this cause. We miss him greatly and we work hard to ensure his legacy lives on.

The contribution that 24Hr funding has made to local people dealing with cancer is immeasurable. We have provided a range of medical equipment, staffing and support resources during 2018. I can't list every thing but some notable examples include:

- A new fully accessible patient transport bus costing approximately \$80,000. There it is – isn't it beautiful?

It replaces our previous bus purchased in 2011 which had travelled 300,00kms in Macarthur and delivered thousands of patients to chemotherapy and radiation treatment. We thank Clintons Toyota for negotiating the best price for us.

- Extra occupational therapy time and equipment for the Lymphoedema Clinic. This extra support will greatly reduce waiting time and allow patients to get help from this serious and painful condition which can follow cancer surgery. We will hear more from our guest speaker, Deanna Applitt about this soon.

- Six recliner chair/beds for the Palliative Care Ward at Camden Hospital valued at over \$2000 each. These chairs will allow family and friends to spend important final time together with their loved ones in greater comfort.
- The continuation of wellness programs for cancer patients through the ENRICH program. This program provides a dietician and physiotherapist to assist patients with exercise programs. Again, the results have been reported as outstanding. Nicholas and Athena Borg, sponsors from Macarthur Natural Health also provide massage and acupuncture treatments for patients.

It's important to remember that **NONE of these things** were available from any other source. They are all **EXTRAS** that help to make our local cancer services one of the forerunners in patient care in the State.

We continue to be able to fund **100% of the requests** made to us and Dr Stephen Della Fiorentina will be able to tell us later what that means in terms of patient care.

It's important that today we acknowledge all those groups that make these results possible. Firstly, our **hardworking committee**.

Behind the scenes, there are endless hours of personal time given by each and every member to ensuring that all of our events run smoothly. I'd like to thank them, new and old, for the skills they bring and for their willingness to give from the heart – often without recognition or reward.

Please show your appreciation for the committee members able to be present today (ask to stand)

Bernadette O'Neill, Phil Fleming, Christine Edge, Dot Lechner, Karen Burgoyne, Sue McGarrity, Fiona McKinnon, Paul Borg, Dave Eckford, Jeff McGill, Brian Laul,

Then of course, we have our **local businesses** - the people who cover the costs involved in running our fundraisers and make it possible for us to ensure that every donation we receive can be allocated to the hospital wishlist items.

Most have been with us for a long time. We'll acknowledge them individually in a moment but for now, I'd like to introduce you to our five new shirt sponsors for 2019 and 2020:

- Pineapple Marketing and Promotions
- Intergen Property Group
- Wests Tigers
- Tharawal Aboriginal Services, and
- Campbelltown Motor Auctions.

We started 15 years ago with a little white shirt with only a few sponsors and the number continues to grow. Thank you, one and all for your community minded spirit.

Also, I acknowledge our **service organisations**, like Rotary Ingleburn, Rotary Macarthur Sunrise and Rotary Campbelltown; Campbelltown Quota and the Rapid Relief Team, who donate their resources and time every year at such a high level.

And then there's the **extraordinary Macarthur community**. Over 1200 people participated at our signature event at the Campbelltown Athletics Stadium in October, and even the downpour before the Reflection Ceremony didn't dampen our spirits. Many thousands more participated in our other fundraising events throughout the year.

Let's have a look at some of our highlights from 2018:

..... [Watch video](#)

Thank you to Brian Laul, Proprietor of the Oz Funland and also one of our Foundation sponsors, and a hard working committee member, for preparing that great promotional video.

Together we have built 24Hr into one of the **largest and most successful charities** in Macarthur. We try to have fun in all we do and enjoy our time together and I think it shines through in those images.

Now looking ahead:

2019 is the first year of a new two year 'shirt cycle'.

The colour to be chosen caused a lot of spirited debate amongst the committee and the Facebook community but...here it isvibrant blue.

Thanks to Peter from Direct Uniforms, another Foundation sponsor – he looks after our shirt design and orders.

Just let me say in conclusion, you should ALL be very proud of the special part you play in this great charity. Remember that your **contribution makes a difference** in peoples' lives and there are many people in this room who can personally attest to the extras that 24Hr funding has provided for them or their friends and family at a very difficult time in their lives.

I am really looking forward to all the 2019 events and to making it a year to ... in terms of money raised, community spirit developed and fun had in working together for a great cause.

Thank you again to our sponsors, volunteers, supporters and the people of Macarthur.

Warren Morrison, Chairperson

21 June 2019