



Committee
Wendy Nolan
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Girls Night Out

Wednesday December 22nd, 2010

GIRLS NIGHT OUT RAISES \$23,000

The 2010 *Girls Night Out* (GNO) *Christmas Cheers* event has been declared a resounding success, raising more than \$23,000 for Echuca Regional Health's oncology department.

More than 400 women attended the December 3 extravaganza which was held in honour of founding GNO committee member Michelle Noelker.

Ms Noelker passed away on September 30 this year, aged 38 years.

GNO committee member Leonie Canham said the event was a celebration of life and of girlfriends and was a touching tribute to a special young woman.

"Michelle was the inspiration for Girls Night Out from the beginning and she will continue to be our inspiration into the future," Ms Canham said.

"She has left us with a beautiful legacy and that legacy is to learn to love the journey, not the destination."

Ms Canham said one of Ms Noelker's great philosophies was that life is to be celebrated.

"GNO embodies that philosophy through providing a forum to celebrate women – to celebrate the joy they bring to one another and to acknowledge the amazing work they do in their relationships, in their families, in their communities and in their own lives," she said.

The proceeds raised at the *Christmas Cheers* event takes the total fundraising efforts of GNO to \$80,000 since 2008.

"If you combine that with the additional \$20,000 raised at two separate events by the Boys Night Out committee, it equates to a massive \$100,000 in less than three years," Ms Canham said.

"That money is going directly towards assisting men, women and children in our community whose lives have been affected by cancer."

Ms Canham said GNO had become a special institution to Echuca-Moama and district women since its inception in 2008 and the small committee was overwhelmed that so many had embraced the concept and the cause.

"It really is the most awesome experience to see what the power of local women can achieve," she said.

"These events would be nothing without the ongoing support of women in the community and the incredible generosity of local businesses that sponsor Girls Night Out and we are extremely grateful for their support."