



14<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## *Girls Night Out Raises \$22,000 For Echuca Oncology*

Echuca Regional Health has established a fund for the hospital's oncology unit in response to the outstanding success of the recent *Girls Night Out* fundraising initiative.

Almost 400 women attended the event at the Moama Bowling Club on January 31 and together raised a massive \$22,000.

The money will be invested in the new fund this week to support the work of staff in the hospital's oncology department and to provide practical assistance to cancer patients by way of counselling, look good/feel good sessions and the provision of travel vouchers and wigs.

*Girls Night Out (GNO)* committee member Leonie Canham said the organising team was thrilled the inaugural *GNO* fundraising event had resulted in the establishment of a special oncology fund.

Ms Canham said the move meant the community could be satisfied that all proceeds raised at the function and through future *GNO* fundraising events would be utilised by the oncology department for its intended purpose.

She said the fund would also provide members of the community with an avenue to directly support local cancer services by making personal donations to the fund.

“When we set about organising the Girls Night Out, never in our wildest dreams did we anticipate such a huge response or imagine raising so much money.

“We are so very grateful to the women of Echuca-Moama and surrounding districts for embracing the event with so much enthusiasm and for helping make the night the fantastic success that it was.”

Ms Canham said the *GNO* provided women of all ages with a chance to celebrate life and the many amazing women who live in the community.

She said the night also aimed to acknowledge the caring staff at ERH's oncology department.

“So many of us have been affected by cancer in some way or another and many of our loved ones have been supported by the staff at Echuca's oncology department throughout their cancer journey.

“We are delighted to be able to provide them with the proceeds from our event to assist them in carrying out their very important role.”

Ms Canham said the committee was grateful for the support of corporate sponsors Ray White Real Estate, Workways Association and Stubberfields Group.

Other organisations to donate auction and raffle prizes on the night included George Santos Moama Bowling Club, Bella Casa Houseboats, Deeluxe Riverspa Apartments, Trac Ioriannis Hair Co, Kahli Freeman Beauty Therapy, Reece Plumbing, Paul Weller MLA, Leading Edge Music, Evans Shoes and Lushious Fashion.

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