



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service

BreastScreen WA

Issue 63 October - November 2021

Kambarang

Keeping abreast of BSWA News

Update from the Medical Director



The old adage goes the only constant is change. BreastScreen has had the opportunity to welcome 4 new radiologists to the service, over the last couple of months, Dr Sebastian Buzynski, Dr Padma Menon, Dr Ansu Abraham

and re-welcome Dr Deepthi Nanayakkara. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Professor Christobel Saunders, and we will before Christmas be farewelling, Heather Boyle and Cynthia Leal, who have made massive contributions to shaping BreastScreen WA into the service we are today. Heather and Cynthia leave huge shoes to fill. This is a complex time for the program losing such influential and pivotable colleagues and simultaneously preparing for a service configuration realignment, with the creation of a level 10 Operations

Manager role.

I would also like to make special mention of Eva Witheridge's contribution to the service as an invaluable member of the BreastScreen WA Finance and Administration team. Eva will be transferring to King Edward Memorial Hospital

(KEMH) finance team, and I would like to say, how lucky I believe KEMH finance team are to have such a kind, capable and professional join their team, we will miss her. The next newsletter will be the Christmas one.

Dr Liz Wylie

Pink Ribbon Breakfast 2021

BSWA's Pink Ribbon Breakfast 2021 was held on Monday 25 October at Fraser's Function Centre in picturesque Kings Park. More than 130 guests were treated to an inspiring Welcome to Country by Marie Taylor who told a wonderful dreamtime story about butterflies.



Marie Taylor Noongar Elder



MLA Mr Simon Milman

MLA Mr Simon Millman opened the event, acknowledging BSWA's achievements over the past year which included the opening of two new clinics in East Perth and Albany and the expansion of services in Mirrabooka and Bunbury.

MLA Mr Simon Millman also spoke of the proposed opening of the new screening and assessment centre in Joondalup in 2022, and the success at Every woman Expo with the introduction of the Boronia mobile unit to the Expo for the first-time. Mr Millman spoke highly of the mobile services provided by BreastScreen WA reaching women in remote communities and for the first time this year the mobile unit visited the Aboriginal remote communities of, Bidyadanga, Lombadina and Warmun.



Guest speakers Dr Richelle Douglas Medical Director of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service and Dr Sally Edmonds Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Western Operations, inspired the audience with stories from their professional and personal lives while guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast. The event also provided the opportunity to thank the staff, colleagues and friends of BreastScreen WA who attended and continue to support the annual breakfast.



Pictured left to right: Rose Bryant, Prof. Christobel Saunders, Dr Anita Bourke, Dr Liz Wylie, Dr Sally Edmonds, Dr Richelle Douglas

The Groovy Booby Bus Pulls into Albany

Breast cancer survivor Donna Falconer is on a mission to save lives, educating as many women as she can about the importance of screening and early detection by travelling around Australia from her home in New South Wales in her Groovy Booby Bus.

In 2009, Donna was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer at the age of 44.

Once declared cancer free Donna made it her life's mission to educate as many people as possible about breast awareness and breast cancer stating that "life was too short, and I sold my house, threw in my job and bought an RV. I'm totally self-funded. It's all about spreading awareness."

Donna took time in October to visit BreastScreen WA's recently opened Albany clinic where she met with clinic staff, spoke to local community



members and directed ladies to go and have their screening mammogram done in the newly established clinic.



Donna will soon return home to Dubbo where she is a part time receptionist at BreastScreen NSW, charity worker and doting grandmother.

Pink Hijab Day



On Sunday 31 October Heidi Wyss from Fremantle Women's Health Centre and Sonya Schultz from BreastScreen WA (pictured above) teamed up to talk to women about the importance of regular screening mammograms for the early detection of breast cancer and breast awareness for all women. More than 110 women attended the Pink Hijab Day, hosted by the Muslim Women's Support Centre in the beautiful Swan Valley.

Increasing screening access for working women



Boronia Mobile Unit outside Parliament House

During October and November, the Boronia mobile unit pulled into Parliament House, King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) and QEII as part of the initiative to increase access to screening for working women. This initiative was well received screening a total of approximately 441 women across all three locations. The visits to Parliament House and KEMH coincided with breast cancer awareness month. Having the Boronia mobile van in such prominent locations during this time was a fantastic reminder for women to keep up to date with their screening mammograms. The visits were so successful and over subscribed that longer visits are scheduled to take place next year.

Aboriginal LEAD Program

During 2021 Kelly Cameron Aboriginal Program Officer at BreastScreen WA was involved in the Department of Health Aboriginal Leadership Excellence and Development (LEAD) Program. This program brought together 12 Aboriginal leaders from all different aspects of health to help empower, guide and show how Aboriginal leaders can make a change by leading the way. Kelly said "It was a wonderful 12 months with a great group of strong minded Aboriginal people and I can see great changes coming."



Farewell to Professor Christobel Saunders OA



Professor Christobel Saunders farewell dinner was held on 4 October 2021. Professor Saunders OA has left Perth to take up a new prestigious role at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as The James Stewart

Chair of Surgery, located with The Department of Surgery, Melbourne Medical School, at the University of Melbourne.

Congratulations and best wishes to Christobel from all her colleagues in Perth who celebrated her achievements and contributions over her time working within WA Health. Christobel has always been a great supporter of breast cancer screening in WA.

Pride Fairday

Hayley Campbell who is a Health Promotion Officer here at BreastScreen WA attended the Pride Fairday and the following is a direct account of her experience at this wonderful event:

"The day was hot and sunny, perfect for a rainbow festival of food, music, entertainment, education and pride celebrations! It was wonderful speaking to such a diverse community around breast health and eligibility for screening, as well as factors in the health system that they felt were a barrier to screening or other health check-ups as a LGBTQI+ identifying person."



BSWA Staff members Hayley Campbell and Dr Glen Lo

North Metropolitan Health Service's three cancer screening programs presented a united front at the Pride Fairday on 14 November to promote a 'Screening Saves Lives' message.

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, BreastScreen WA and the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program teams worked with local LGBTQI+ community members to create WA specific information to highlight the importance of cancer screening and the eligibility criteria for each screening program. Please see next page which displays the resources created.



BSWA Staff member Susan Greenwood



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**NATIONAL
BOWELCANCER**
SCREENING PROGRAM



NATIONAL
CERVICAL SCREENING
PROGRAM
Allied Australia, State and Territory
Government Programs

Screening Saves Lives



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service



Breast screening saves lives



Is bowel screening for me?

✓ Are you aged 50 - 74 years?

✓ Do you have a bowel?

For more information visit:
health.gov.au/nbcsp
or scan the QR code



Is breast screening for me?

✓ Are you a woman aged 50-74?

✓ Are you a trans man aged 50-74,
with chest tissue?

✓ Are you non-binary, assigned female
at birth, aged 50-74?

For more information visit:
breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au
or scan the QR code



Is cervical screening for me?

✓ Are you aged 25-74 years?

✓ Do you have a cervix?

✓ Have you ever been sexually active?

For more information visit:
healthywa.wa.gov.au/cervicalscreening
or scan the QR code

