



# Breast and Prostate Cancer

Association of Qld Inc.

Supporting Rural and Regional Queensland



IA13326

Breast and Prostate Cancer Association of Queensland Incorporated | Newsletter | Autumn 2021

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the BPCAQ Newsletter. A little about myself as the fourth President of the organisation since 1994.

Since moving to Brisbane, after 20 years on a rural cattle property in 1997, I have been involved in various voluntary organisations, and for the past 20 years with the BPCAQ.

I am in my third term as a Trustee of the Q'ld Art Gallery, and about to step down as a Board member of La Boite Theatre after 10 years. Our family has a Foundation which enables us to grant funding to support communities and people in regional, rural & remote parts of Q'ld and Northern Territory. Our guidelines have 3 headings under Arts, Education and Community. It can give the country communities the opportunity to experience events in the arts and education, that may otherwise be unavailable.

Since being involved with the BPCAQ I have helped organise many of the Rural Seminars, where health

professionals volunteer their expertise to speak at the information day which have been most successful. I was Treasurer for 12 Years. I am keen that the Board continue the important work that we do, and deliver results supporting our country equally.

The eleven sub committees work hard in their community to raise funds to support patients and nurses in their area. They have incredibly positive fundraising projects, and their communities are strong and protective of their community.

The Board has ten members and we are all conscience of the meaningful work that the BPCAQ delivers, and we appreciate contributions from fundraising, and donations.

I am keen that the BPCAQ can continue the good work, and excellent outcomes, offering correspondence courses through La Trobe University in breast and prostate cancer; rural seminars / information day; research; assistance



*Gina Fairfax*  
President

packages for patients; fund nurses to upgrade skills, and to attend conferences, and connect rural nurses to support each other; to support and be a link between doctor and patient.

We wish to pass on our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Emma Montgomery and the Weengallon Pink Ladies Day Committee. Emma sadly lost her battle with breast cancer on the 1st of March. Emma is well known in the South West districts as a lead organiser for the WPLD Annual Luncheons, she fought hard for the cause and we are grateful to Emma and the WPLD committee who are to be credited for providing much of the funds that assisted us in the establishment of the breast care nurse in St George and Toni Jakins position in Goondiwindi plus provide for patient assistance grants and the other services that BPCAQ provide. The St George subcommittee have included a tribute to Emma.



Photo by Rachel Walker Photography  
Weengallon Pink Ladies Day Committee 2019.  
Emma pictured front and centre.

## PROFILE - VICE-PRESIDENT AND FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR



*Sandy Cassidy*

**Vice-President & Fundraising Director**

I started my Fundraising career at the Bindi Centre in Alice Springs in May 1983 – as Commercial Manager/Community Relations Officer/and Fundraiser working with children and adolescents with disabilities – which was extremely rewarding in every sense as Alice Springs is my hometown – I was born in Alice Springs and my family were pioneers having had to walk away from their first cattle property.

I was asked two years later if I could re-locate to Darwin to take on the role of State Manager of the Miss Australia Quest (NT) which was run by the N.T Spastics Association in Darwin – I thoroughly enjoyed travelling around the N.T to find amazing young women to enter the state competition from all parts of the Territory and set up committees for them to fundraise for the Association.

In 1986 I was approached by the Mrs Australia/Queensland Board to take on the role of State Co-ordinator which also meant travelling around to form committees and I was there until joining the Heart Foundation in 1990 as Regional Development Manager – Queensland Division. Some of the voluntary boards I have been part of include; Founding Member Zonta International (Alice Springs), Executive board Member Quota International (Darwin), Fundraising Director Qld Crime Stoppers Ltd (Brisbane), Board Member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia (Brisbane), Executive Member Community Supporting Police (Brisbane), Member of Executive Committee for Ethnic Affairs (Brisbane), Chairman of Police Blue Hearts Award Qld Police Service (Brisbane), Vice Chairman of Victims of Crime Assoc (Brisbane).

Retirement didn't fit easily and a friend of mine sent me a Newsletter from the then BCAQ asking for a volunteer to take over the Fundraising role and the rest is history so they say! Christmas Luncheons once a year Dinners. Cocktail Parties Race Days, Fashion Parades, Trivia Nights and High Teas were very well patronised by our friends and family- Esk Race Days were particularly popular and we had some hilarious experiences involving the Public Relations students I had recruited from all the Universities! St.Lucia Golf Club has always been my first choice for the dining experiences and it would be remiss of me not to mention that we are having a **Dinner Extravaganza at St.Lucia on the 7th of October this year – our first big fundraiser for quite a while due to the Coronavirus – I have recruited two of the former Ten Tenors to sing for us under a beautiful old tree lit up for the occasion while we consume canapés and then a wonderful three course meal in the Rose Room and listen to more from the Ten Tenors' wonderful range of songs – as well as a three hour drink package!**

To sum up I have been lucky enough to have a great career with many wonderful people on the way but none more rewarding than working with the fantastic young women from our Qld country committees many of whom I have known for years – going back to the first country committee in Emerald when we travelled up to Emerald for the first of their wonderful formal dinners which have raised an amazing amount of money over the years as have our other committees.



## RESEARCH NEWS

### Report by Associate Professor Jyotsna Batra

**Expected Outcome:** is to improve prostate cancer diagnosis and prognosis. This in turn will be clinically vital as a predictive tool to aid diagnosis, prognosis, treatment decision making and capable of distinguishing clinically significant prostate cancer from indolent disease that does not require additional treatment.

We have achieved the following:

**Progress for our proposed Aims.** To develop a targeted mass-spectrometry based (MRM) approach to detect PSA and the genetic variants encoded proteoforms, we have optimised the MRM analysis set up and runs using our customized labelled synthetic peptides that are highly specific to PSA variants. We have tested the detection ability of these synthetic peptides (with >95% accuracy) to each variant in the whole proteome of cell lines (endogenous levels) and overexpression cell line models.

We then optimised detection ability utilising the labelled synthetic peptides in prostate cancer serum samples and observed that the

serum proteins cause background interference in detection. We therefore have adapted serum depletion assays of prostate cancer patient serum samples (n=50) to remove the excessive serum proteins for the efficient detection of PSA protein. We are currently undertaking the depletion assays to deplete the abundant proteins that interferes with testing such as albumin. We have in addition included a novel splice variant of PSA expressed at higher levels in patients to improve the predictive outcome.

Procurement of additional patient samples (n=200) from the local cohort (APCB) and two international cohorts (MDC and VIP Swedish cohorts) are currently in progress.

### Involvement in programs to enable commercialisation and clinical translation of the project outcomes:

To enable the commercialisation and increase impact, the team has enrolled in to the "Translation & Entrepreneurial Training Program" 2020.

We would like to acknowledge and give sincere thanks to all of the subcommittees who contributed towards the funding of this grant.



*Associate Professor Jyotsna Batra*

## NURSE NEWS

The Queensland Health Rockhampton Prostate Cancer Nurse Judy Cornick has recently retired, Judy has worked as a nurse for 45 years. She attended and spoke at many of our seminars in Rockhampton and the central west regions and she will be sorely missed. We wish Judy all the best for her retirement and we thank her for her wonderful help and support over the many years. Sally Minto-Stewart is now working in Judy's position and can be contacted at the Cancer Care Services, Canning Street Rockhampton, PH: 4720 5825.



### Scholarship Award

We are pleased to announce that a scholarship has been awarded to Bronwyn Jones in Rockhampton to undertake further studies in prostate cancer via La Trobe University distance education, which she will commence in Term 2, 2021. The funds were provided by the West'n' Breast & Prostate Cancer Support Group, our Barcaldine Subcommittee.

Bronwyn had received a scholarship towards her studies in breast cancer last year and hopes to work in both breast and prostate cancer departments. Many patients from the Central West region of Queensland travel to Rockhampton for treatment and Bronwyn will be able to utilize her gained knowledge to support many patients from Rockhampton to right across the central Queensland districts.

I am honoured to be the recipient of a scholarship to undertake the Prostate Nursing Care Course through La Trobe University to commence in August 2021.

This course will enable me to develop advanced knowledge and skill in the specialist practice area of prostate nursing care to provide evidence-based care and support to anyone affected by prostate cancer. This will also support my future aspirations in cancer care services to develop ongoing support and information programs including health prevention and promotion strategies as well as survivorship care planning. This will focus on enabling individuals to take greater control of their health for an improved quality of life after a cancer diagnosis.

I wish to express my extreme gratitude to the Central West Subcommittee of the Breast & Prostate Cancer Association of Qld Inc, West'n' Breast & Prostate Cancer Support Group for providing the funds for this scholarship. As a health professional, it is encouraging to know these support groups value and acknowledge the need for further education towards specialised cancer care services in regional areas where services and support are not always readily available. I extend my thanks to each member for their dedication and commitment towards supporting and raising awareness and funds for those affected by breast and prostate cancer.

Thank you once again for this opportunity and I will endeavour to dedicate my learnings towards excellent individual experiences and health outcomes for those affected by breast and prostate cancer in rural and regional Queensland. - **Bronwyn Jones**



### Goondiwindi Nurse

Report Aug 2020 to March 2021 – Toni Jakins continues to support a number of patients in the region. She has also been assisting a patient who research the benefits of a keto based diet. Toni has taken some leave until the end of June.

The 3 year service agreement is due to finish on the 30th September and Toni has decided to relinquish the role.

#### Toni Jakins

**Clinical Nurse-Breast & Prostate Care –** Thursdays and every second Tuesday

Community Health, Goondiwindi Hospital

P: 07 45782440 | M: 0400 198 937

E: [Antonia.Jakins@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Antonia.Jakins@health.qld.gov.au)

## SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

### Fraser Coast / Wide Bay March 2021 Report

After a very quiet, due to necessity, 2020, we are up and running with our fundraising for 2021.

First fund raising activity for the new year is our Mother's Day Raffle. We have a total of 12 prizes ranging from our beautiful handmade quilt featuring owls, \$100 gift voucher from Bunnings, a Basket of Goodies, a handmade tote bag and matching wallet, various pieces of Tupperware and some other handmade items. The raffle will be drawn on 5th May.

We are also having a Father's Day Raffle this year with all the prizes already donated. A huge thank you to all for the donations.

So if you are interested in purchasing tickets in either raffle please contact Penny on **0427 137 865**.

We are also looking to hold a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Maryborough. The date for this is still to be finalised.

A reminder that if anyone is passing through Tiara, please call in to the Craft / Information Shop where we have a table with items for sale with all the proceeds going towards Fraser Coast / Wide Bay BPCAQ. Please come and support us.



Thank you to the community groups who have generously donated Boolboonda Hall Quilter, Tiara Craft Cottage, Burrum Heads Fishing Club and the Lioness Club of Maryborough for their kind donation on behalf of their late member Sandra Bradshaw.



## SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

### St George

The Weengallon Pink Ladies Day committee have been incredibly generous supporters of BPCAQ over many years and the St George Sub Committee wish to pay tribute to Emma Montgomery, who sadly passed away on the 1 March after a courageous battle against breast cancer.

Emma had devoted significant time personally to the breast cancer cause, as Coordinator of the Weengallon Pink Ladies Day. This annual fundraiser contributed significantly to the establishment of a BC nurse in St George and Toni Jakins position in Goondiwindi. BPCAQ and the St George Sub committee wish to express their sincere condolences to Emma's family and to the Weengallon Pink Ladies Day committee.



Preliminary discussions are underway about an Awareness Event in October at Dirranbandi. With such a supportive and dedicated community, this will be well worth attending with awareness and education being the main goal.

The annual Pink Golf Day scheduled for 23 March has been postponed due to much needed wet weather. The day, generously held by the St George Golf Club, sees teams of ladies of all golfing abilities dressed up in an assortment of pink costumes dotted around the golf course having fun in the great outdoors and enjoying a gourmet lunch afterwards. Hopefully the day can go ahead soon.



### Westn' Breast & Prostate Cancer Support Group Barcaldine Subcommittee

We would like to thank the Outback Barrell Horse Circuit for their wonderful support donating \$1,215 from an event which was held in Charleville in September. The Outback Barrell Horse Circuit hold events throughout the year and we are grateful for their ongoing support!

### Rockhampton

Helen Gudmann accepted a wonderful donation for the Rockhampton district from the Harley Owners Group Qld.

"As part of the Harley Owners Group Qld Rally held over Easter, a signed rally banner was auctioned to raise money for a local charity. In all, \$400 was raised the Rockhampton subcommittee of BPCAQ. The coordinator of the HOG rally, Nev Wilkings said "we were after a local charity where the money stays in the Rockhampton area. The BPCAQ is primarily run by volunteers helping people with cancer with financial and other support."



*Foreground – Nev Wilkings handing over cheque to Helen Gudmann of BPCAQ. In the background left to right; John Passaris and Greg Rogers both HOG members and Luke Comollatti of Rocky Harley Davidson.*



Terry McBean and all those involved for organizing the Host Cup Golf Day at Links Hope Island in December 2020, raising \$6,870 in donations in support of BPCAQ! The day was held to remember fellow golfers Phil Waller and Michael Lynch who lost their battles with Prostate Cancer earlier in 2020. We are extremely grateful!

### Mackay

We would love to set up subcommittee group in Mackay. If you are part of a support group or have a group of friends who would like to volunteer and assist us to fundraise and help us to continue to deliver services in the region please contact our office.

## SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

*Thank you for your support!*

**We are grateful for the donations and support that we have received during the pandemic as affected our usual fundraising activities:**

PayPal Giving, donations received via Containers for Change

L Shimmers, ABC Staff, Good2Give, M Lum, P Ellem, P Hughes, S Maxwell, Entertainment Publications, Ritchies Stores, Goondiwindi Mahjong Group, K Brothers, G Powell, A Gibbons, D Rosser, A Norman, N & L Anifto, M McGuire, E Reilly, A Brett, Qube Ports, L & B Krosch, M Clues, R Botic, M Glasser, A Paramore, K Saunders, B Etienne, D O'Brien, A Hill, E Montgomery, J Neuendorf, Boonboonda Hall Quilters, A Sevil, G Cory, D Schellbach, J Bray, M Peters, Lochington Recreational Club, J Lahz, M Stevenson, J Kehl, A Shepherd, J Smith, J Kelly, J Steele, M Tuite, Tiaro Craft Cottage, C Cooper, P Meagher, P O'Sullivan, S Blake, C Wilson, R Wood, J Williamson, Burrum Heads Fishing Club, The Outback Barrell Horse Circuit, E Williams, R Thompson, M Liu, K Anning, J Murphy, P Bellamy, J Jakins, Lioness Club of Maryborough, Harley Owners Group Qld.

**DONATE YOUR CONTAINERS AND HELP US CASH IN**

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**C10011182**





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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Please join us in support of Breast and Prostate Cancer*

**Brisbane October Dinner Extravaganza**

**Thursday 7th October, 2021**  
**6:30pm to 9:30pm**

**At Hillstone St Lucia, Rosewood Room**  
**Carawa Street, St Lucia**

Tickets Cost: \$150.00/person  
Please RSVP by: 1st September, 2021  
Sandy Cassidy at Email: [enquiries@bcaq.com](mailto:enquiries@bcaq.com)  
Call Phone 0407 166 769 or 3666 0614  
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## About the Breast and Prostate Cancer Association of Queensland Inc.



In 1993 the Breast Cancer Association of Queensland Inc. was established with the purpose of using funds raised to benefit Research, Treatment, Prevention, Community Education and provide support for those with breast cancer and their families.

In February 2012 BCAQ received permission from the Department of Fair Trading to change our name and model rules to incorporate services for Prostate Cancer. Our Association is now called "Breast and Prostate Cancer Association of Queensland Inc".

A large membership in Queensland will increase the influence it has on governments and sponsors to assist in the search for better diagnosis, treatments and hopefully, eventual prevention.

Become a member now!

### DONATION AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Title	Given Names	Surname
Street Address		
Suburb/Town	Postcode	
Phone:		
Email:		

Method of Payment: ☐ Cheque ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa card

				/	
Card number				Expiry Date	CVV

Donations can be made via our website: [www.bcaq.com](http://www.bcaq.com)  
Email [enquiries@bcaq.com](mailto:enquiries@bcaq.com) for our bank details if you'd like to deposit by internet banking.

**Please enrol me as a Member of the BPCAQ. I enclose:**

☐ Membership Subscription Fee (2021-2022)  
Due from 1st July 2021 \$ 10.00

☐ I would like to make a donation:  
(Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete credit card details  
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Breast and Prostate Cancer Association of Qld Inc.  
PO Box 970, SPRING HILL, QLD 4004

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