

Report to the NSW Chapter Teleconference 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 from the Nepean/Blue Mountains Prostate Cancer Support Group Inc.

Prostate Cancer Awareness month was a resounding success in our area. We had two representatives at the launch of "The Difference is you" at the Overseas Passenger Terminal on the 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a great night for networking and congratulations to the PCFA for the excellent organisation.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> August we had 10 members involved in the awareness activity at the North Penrith Bunnings store, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> September we had a similar number handing out brochures at the Minchinbury (Mt Druitt) store. We were able to use our new pull-up banner at this store and it was well received by persons coming into the store. The Bunnings staffs at both stores were most helpful.

Our Group had been very successful in being able to get the Mayor of Penrith City to place an article in his column on Prostate Cancer awareness. We also had 4 articles, in different papers published in the local media on prostate cancer.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> our Group presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Great Community Transport to assist in the purchase of a dedicated vehicle to transport cancer sufferers to the Nepean Cancer Care Centre for treatment. That vehicle has now been purchased. By way of explanation, our Group since its inception has determined that any funds raised will go towards providing equipment to better assist and support cancer sufferers within our area. Some of the equipment has been a bladder scanner, self injecting pain relief pumps and the furnishing of a "Quiet" room dedicated for the use of palliative care patients.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> our members assisted in handing our material on prostate cancer at a local shopping centre which had been sponsored by one of the local papers.

Our range of activities has not stopped at September. We are putting 20 prostate cancer survivors' bums on seats in a dragon boat competing in the Dragons Abreast event to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Darling Harbour. Our Group also participated in last year's event. Our Group is extremely disappointed at the lack of response to requests for participation from other Support Groups.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October our Group is again providing the 30 plus scrutineers for the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic due to start from Windsor at 4.30pm. (This will be our 9<sup>th</sup> year of undertaking this task). The paddlers then traverse the 112 kilometres to Brooklyn overnight. All paddlers are handed a brochure on prostate cancer. Last year we had two refusals, one a doctor from Gosford Hospital and the other a pharmacist from Hornsby.