

Devonport Flagstaff Article

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The Torpedo Bay Café was full of chatter and laughter last Wednesday night as 60 local women gathered to celebrate breast health and raise money for Breast Cancer Support. The evening, which was organised by local women and professional body-casters, Gillian Scott and Cate Campbell, included both informative talks about breast cancer as well as an eye-catching display of decorated breast-casts made and decorated by Devonport women. All money raised from ticket sales and drinks purchased on the night was donated to Breast Cancer Support with the final tally exceeding \$1,000.

Gillian and Cate were inspired to organise the fundraiser by their experiences with some of the women with breast cancer they have created breast-casts for through their business, Body Casting NZ.

“ One thing I have realized is how incredibly important female friends and family are to people who are dealing with breast cancer” says Cate, “I guess it’s easier for other women to empathise with what it might be like to lose a breast - to your sense of self as a mother and a woman - as well as having to face having a potentially deadly disease. We wanted the evening to be a celebration of female friendship and support as well as raising money for an awesome volunteer organisation that provides positive encouragement and friendship to women with breast cancer”.

Breast Cancer Support is a volunteer organisation run by women who have experienced breast cancer. They offer services from simply having a coffee and a chat with women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer to

organizing support groups throughout Auckland. Deirdre Parr , a representative of Breast Cancer Support, spoke at the fundraiser evening about how important support services can be to women diagnosed with breast cancer as it can be a very lonely and isolating time.

Other Devonport women who helped make the night a success included Dr Sally Rushworth who talked about how women can reduce their chances of getting breast cancer, which prompted many questions and comments from the audience. Jo Eakin, part-owner of the Torpedo Bay Café lightened the mood with amusing and educational advice about how to find a bra that fits and flatters as well which included a display of the latest beautiful bra styles available at Devonport lingerie. Gregarious, Deb Cronshaw ably MC ed the evening.

The evening was concluded with a tally of votes for the most creatively decorated breast-cast. The winner of the competition was a well-deserved ‘Breast of British’ cast which was admired for it’s humour and skill with ‘Wonder Woman’ and ‘Floral shabby chic’ close runners-up. The winning breast-cast will be available to view at Devonport Lingerie for a limited time.

Next year Cate and Gillian plan to organize an even bigger and better event to raise money for a breast cancer support agency. In the mean-time they are proud to offer specialized DIY breast-cast kits for women with breast cancer through their website www.bodycasting.co.nz and specialized DIY pregnancy casting- kits through www.bellycasting.co.nz. They offer free delivery for all Devonport orders.



Pictured: Second place: Rebecca Tyler, winner: Sue Quinn and third place: Sarah Smith

