

# Media Release

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## 2009 HAIR BALL – PINK CABARET FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

The 2009 Hair Ball held in the prestigious Civic Theatre on Saturday 24 October, proved to be a major success, raising over \$70,000 for cancer care and research initiatives at the Mater.

This year the funds raised will be used to purchase the latest in surgical based ultrasound equipment that will help to improve outcomes for women with breast cancer as well as new wigs for the hospital's free wig service and a cancer research grant for Mater researchers.

"The success of this year's hair ball is down to the generous individuals and organisations who contributed their time and money to this great cause," said Ingrid Grenell, Calvary Mater Newcastle's Public Affairs & Communications Manager.

"We are absolutely delighted with the amount of money we have raised this year and the fact that we will now be able to purchase such an essential piece of equipment for our patients – it is outstanding.

'We could not have achieved this level of success without help from our major sponsors including: Domayne Kotara, The Jewellery Affair, Southern Cross Ten, The Junction Hotel, EAO Entertainment, Peach Advertising, Colourpac Design & Print, Newcastle City Council, McGuigan Wines and Carlton & United Breweries.

"Thank you to all who donated prizes for our silent auction and donated their time and services to assist us on the night – we couldn't have done it without this considerable contribution!"

The Hair Ball, now in its eighth year, is one of the region's most prestigious fundraisers, known for its stylish themes, great entertainment and amazing raffle and auction prizes.

Some of the biggest auction prizes that went under auctioneer Sam Dawe's hammer this year were, a lunch for six people with Brian and Fay McGuigan, two weeks in a beautiful French Chateau courtesy of Jeanne and Greg Walls, and a stunning 18ct white gold designer dress ring complete with large pink jewel and champagne and white diamonds.

The magical evening began with guests sipping pink champagne on the pink carpet before entering the beautifully decorated Civic Theatre that was lit up in a glamorous shade of hot pink and included a large Sydney Opera Company chandelier suspended on stage.

Charli Delaney (ex Hi 5) did a wonderful job of hosting the ball and keeping the audience entertained in between the fantastic cabaret style line-up of the Irrawang High School Drummers, Ultra Swing Lounge, well known Newcastle band The Cruisers, Jarrod & Cameron and Newcastle nightclub regular DJ TP.

One of this year's highlights was the involvement of the local hairdressing community of Newcastle. Ten hairdressing models wearing grand wigs and theatrically themed costumes acted as 'live art' in the foyer area of the Civic as well as being on display from the Juliette boxes during the night. The coordination and styling of the decorative wigs and the funds raised from the hairdressing community was thanks to Charlestown hairdresser, Kirstie Saunders of Woohoo who lost her father to cancer last year.

**-ENDS-**

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