

# Laughing our Heads off and raising over \$133,000 for brain cancer patient support and care along the way

The Ballroom at Doltone House, Hyde Park on 21 June, was SOLD OUT! with 400 plus guests having some serious fun whilst helping raise serious monies for a serious cause – brain cancer awareness, patient support and care for SNOG, now known as The Brain Cancer Group (TBCG)-From Care2Cure.

**T**he Laugh Your Head Off (LYHO) Gala Dinner showcased leaders in the field of entertainment and comedy including, Dance Encore Performing Arts Studio (DEPAS), Speed Painter Brad Blaze, MC George Kapiniaris and stand-up comic Anthony Locascio had wowing the audience and having them in stitches throughout the night, whilst DJ Darcy had guests on the dance floor moving and grooving. Auctioneer, Tom Panos, helped generate charitable spend in auctioning off prestigious experiences, holiday accommodation and NRL memorabilia. The night was very informative, engaging and moving. Guests heard from specialist neuro oncology nurses about the significant challenges facing brain cancer patients and their carers, TBCG's CEO, Pat Wheaton explained how our fundraising dollars will be used in an immediate, real and tangible way, and personal testimonies from myself and Phil Reynolds (carer of a brain cancer patient) were also shared with the audience.

Leading up to the 'big bash' numerous and varied events also took place to bump up awareness and help raise monies. All the amounts raised and every donation, great or small, multiplied by the many, made a significant difference such that we exceeded our target of \$100K and got us to over \$133,000!

ALL of the money, going directly to fund a specialist neuro oncology nurse and provide 'seed funding' to kick start broader brain cancer patient support and care programs. The fundraising wasn't easy, but it was sure worth it!

Knowing that ALL monies raised will be utilised to fund a specialist neuro oncology nursing position is extremely satisfying and gratifying. These nurses require dire funding. These nurses play a pivotal role in providing a safe place for patients and their families to seek help and guidance to navigate the complex world of brain cancer – ensuring minimal distress and maximum quality of life for patients and their carers.

The LYHO fundraiser was exemplary in showcasing the generosity and kindness of business, individuals and local community from all directions and unexpected places coming together and donating auction and raffle prizes and the services required to package and present these items for the gala dinner.



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A massive thank you to EVERYONE of you that provided a gift, donation or service in support. Anything and everything provided made a difference. The Gala Dinner was a mammoth project. The burden of fundraiser made easier by the most benevolent and philanthropic sponsorship of ICON EYEWEAR HURSTVILLE, KING LIVING AND PARKVIEW CONSTRUCTION and the support of BANK OF SYDNEY and BETHANY COLLEGE HURSTVILLE.

A massive player in it all and to whom I remain forever grateful to is Billy Billiris from the VJB Group. An extraordinary gent, whom right from the start helped steer and direct our fundraiser with his talent, noble support and backing. His team's creative work, logo and branding giving way for the talented and creative website designer Natacha Saba from CXS. Her involvement helped bring to the fore our social media and online exposure.

These two donated much time, talent and effort to help us set up for all else that needed to follow.

I would like to especially thank my team