

Between Friends

Edition 3 - 2018



Join our 2019 Great Wall Adventure

Following the success of our inaugural international fundraising challenge to Tuscany, we are thrilled to launch our next adventure to one of humankind's most impressive architectural feats – the Great Wall of China.

As part of this once in a lifetime adventure, you will spend time getting to know the ancient and modern contrasts of China. Explore Beijing's iconic sites like the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Temple of Heaven; as well as walk along the Great Wall of China as it winds between ancient rural villages and majestic mountains.

“ *We may have only been together for 10 days, but one of the most beautiful elements of the trip was the friendships I've made – it's 360 degrees – you're giving, but you are also receiving so much. Our bond was immediate and special and we will have the bond forever and a day.* ”

– Jillian

OTIS Tuscan Adventure participant

Download an information pack for full details at

otisfoundation.org.au/great-wall

Fast facts

-  Dates: 5 – 13 October 2019
-  Registration fee: \$770 (non-refundable)
-  Challenge grade: 3/5 (Moderately Challenging)
-  Fundraising target: \$3,500
-  Travel quote: \$2,850 (excluding flights)

Read about the 2018 OTIS Tuscan Adventure on page 4.

From the Office

As a Board member of The OTIS Foundation for the past 20 months, I am passionate about the incredible gift we offer to our guests. The premise of supporting our guest's psychological wellbeing by offering rest, relaxation and social connection is such an integral part of healing.

Recent internal changes have provided the Board with an opportunity to reflect on the future planning for the organisation. I have been tasked with examining the strategic direction of OTIS and am very pleased to report that the OTIS narrative is very much about growth.

As a team, we are focussed on expanding our property network to service more people with breast cancer Australia-wide. We aim to increase the number of people we serve to represent 10% of those diagnosed by 2021 and to reduce our significant waitlist to as close to zero as possible within the same timeframe.

This is a big proposition for our small team. It requires increased income and growth in properties across the country.

One of the key pillars in achieving this growth is through expansion of our Corporate Partnerships. The establishment of a recent partnership with Classic Holidays has directly provided an increase in our ability to offer stays to guests in our areas of highest demand, such as Queensland. Classic Holidays is passionate about giving back and being a leader for positive change within the accommodation industry and, together with its members, has already provided 45 weeks of stays to OTIS guests. Our partnership and complementary visions have potential to do good for many people. We truly value all of our generous donors, both corporate and individuals. You can read more about our property donors on page 3 and 5.



Lisa

Lisa Farrar
Interim CEO

Help us reduce newsletter waste

Did you know every edition of *Between Friends* is also distributed via email??

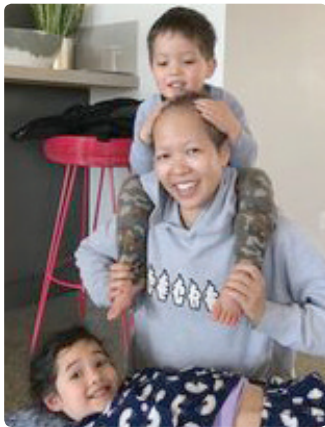
We are aiming to significantly reduce the waste of printed newsletter copies that go into landfill. Future editions will transition to electronic distribution where possible. Make

sure to include our email address - marketing@otisfoundation.org.au - to your address book to avoid your copy being caught in clutter or junk folders.

If you would prefer to continue to receive hard copy versions of *Between Friends* mailed to your door, let us know at info@otisfoundation.org.au or call (03) 5444 1185.

Run for OTIS

Three cohorts of avid and active OTIS supporters were among the 7,000 entrants to take part in the 2018 Melbourne Marathon festival. Together they raised over \$5,000.



Maria urged her supporters to donate to her fundraising page saying that her stay at Kez's Hideaway was a tender time where she shared relief with her family after finishing chemotherapy. "It was heart ache knowing a woman just like me passed away of breast cancer and she inspired her husband to create this space."



After committing to run the Melbourne Marathon for OTIS in 2015, an injury prevented John from competing. This year he made amends, raising \$3,000 individually.



These three Barclay brothers have stayed at Bramare with their mum and wanted to do something to give back. In tribute to Noah's picture of a cancer eating dragon, they decided to run as "The OTIS Dragons".



To find a fun run or marathon near you visit otisfoundation.org.au/run-for-otis

Guest story

Dear OTIS Foundation,

We really appreciate you guys letting me and my family stay in this wonderful bush house. We are having lots of fun exploring the outside world and the beautiful trees out side in the back. Last time we came here it was me My Brothers and Mum but this time we have introduced Dad to the house. We are having such an awesome time in bramare and we are really thankful of you and your organisation letting us have this retreat from home and spend some time out in the bush.

From Edward

9 years old.



Are you following?



@TheOtisFoundation



@theotisfoundation



@OtisRetreats

Stay across what we are up to via our social platforms

Annual photo competition



A huge thank you to all those who entered the annual OTIS photo competition. It is such a privilege for our team to see our guests experiencing time away together at OTIS properties.

It is obvious from the photos we received that spending time with loved ones is an integral part of an OTIS stay.



Q&A with a property donor

The Skipper and Schmidt families generously donate time at their timeshare property in Port Macquarie (NSW) for the use of OTIS guests - we asked Juliet Schmidt about their motivation.

Our family is fortunate enough to own quite a few timeshare weeks at Vacation Village, Port Macquarie in NSW. My mother's uncles built the resort in the late 70's! We wanted a charity to make use of our holiday weeks and when we heard about OTIS in 2015, it seemed ideal.

Not only does The OTIS Foundation specifically organise time away, they do this for those who are dealing with the challenges of breast cancer - physically, emotionally and financially. My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 61 (she's now 83) and I was diagnosed at 50, so we are passionate about helping others who have been through a similar situation. We donated our first lot of holiday weeks in 2015 and I love liaising with OTIS via email and phone from Sydney. Our family donates around 30 weeks per year. The OTIS staff are so friendly and helpful, so this makes my "job" of booking the weeks, such a pleasure.

We hope the OTIS guests have a relaxing break away with their partner and/or families. Hopefully



Vacation Village in Port Macquarie

they can have some much needed "time out" during or after their treatment. I first stayed in the resort when I was about 16 and later with our four children. Each time I book I can imagine how the OTIS guests will love their time at Vacation Village.

Read more of Juliet's story on our website at otisfoundation.org.au/juliet-schmidt



The Skipper and Schmidt families donate time in Port Macquarie

We are looking for more generous property donors - particularly in NSW and Queensland. To find out more visit otisfoundation.org.au/donate-time

Ciao to Tuscany and Nǐ hǎo to China

The OTIS Foundation recently undertook its first international fundraising challenge through the beautiful countryside of Tuscany, Italy. The Tuscan Adventure was run as a new and major fundraising initiative, with 22 participants collectively fundraising an incredible \$113,000 for OTIS.

The 10-day trip included a five day walking challenge which totalled close to 100km in length, through some of the most spectacular landscape in Europe.

The adventure began in Florence, before meandering through many historic medieval, walled cities and concluding in picturesque Siena.

Due to the success of this trip, we are very excited to announce our destination for next year, The Great Wall of China! If you have ever considered ticking this off your bucket list, whilst making a valuable contribution to those in need, we would LOVE to hear from you!

Download an information pack on the 2019 OTIS Great Wall Adventure at [otisfoundation.org.au/great-wall](https://www.otisfoundation.org.au/great-wall)

Watch the video and read the full blog from the 2018 OTIS Tuscan Adventure at [otisfoundation.org.au/blog-otis-tuscan-adventure](https://www.otisfoundation.org.au/blog-otis-tuscan-adventure)



What our guests are saying

“ I just wanted to say thank you so much, it was perfect. I was able to balance my family coming up and spending a long weekend with me and also then spend four days on my own. It was exactly what I needed, some time out on my own to reflect and get in touch with nature. I felt like I had no control in my life, especially with weekly chemo, work and raising 3 teenagers while having metastatic breast cancer. Once again thank you so much for this opportunity. ”

- Melinda

“ I would sincerely like to thank you for allowing us to have a wonderful break at the Police Point Cottage. The cottage and surroundings were very peaceful and I have returned home feeling rested and refreshed. It was a real blessing to be able to have this holiday as a family. ”

- Ellen Lee

“ Thank you for allowing us to spend special time as a family at Forge Creek. “Thank you” does not seem enough for the amazing home and peaceful surroundings we encountered. ”

- Aileen

Corporate Partnerships

Corporate partnerships are an integral piece of OTIS' success and ability to offer our unique service to more than 700 guests and their loved ones each year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our partners (full list on back page) for their ongoing support and commitment to OTIS.



We are thrilled to announce our newly formed partnership with Classic Holidays, a leading timeshare company that has been family owned and run for over 40 years.

Ramy Filo, the CEO of Classic Holidays, said the company's partnership with OTIS would build on their efforts to help those in need. "We are passionate about giving back and being a leader for positive change within the timeshare industry and for the community in general".

The partnership has been communicated to over 65,000 members to encourage them to donate their timeshare usage to OTIS guests. Along with its members, Classic Holidays has been able to offer 45 weeks of stays to OTIS guests in just the first two months of our partnership.



Collaborative partnerships can create huge impact – as was the case when OTIS was recently filmed alongside Little Blue Towels and the Bendigo Bank for Channel 7 breakfast program, Sunrise.

The piece links the sale of Little Blue Towels in every Victorian Bendigo Bank branch during October and November and the culminating financial support these sales will have for OTIS.

Sandra Davey and Melanie Barclay are two past OTIS guests who speak on camera about their experience and the impact created by a stay at an OTIS property. Through their insight, so many others will gain an understanding into the unique positive impact OTIS offers.



Our retreat partnership program offers an opportunity for corporate partners, community organisations and individuals to adopt their local OTIS breast cancer retreat. This supports the costs associated with providing stays at a property for our guests.

COX Architecture's Canberra Studio has recently joined the OTIS family through its partnership with Creekside retreat, Thredbo (NSW). With a business practice integrating architecture, planning, urban and interior design, they are an ideal fit for such a stunning alpine property. Each year we provide stays for up to 20 families at Creekside, now thanks to the generous support from COX Architecture.



OTIS Interim CEO, Lisa Farrar (pictured right) celebrating our partnership with Classic Holidays.



Know a business who may be able to help OTIS achieve its mission to provide sanctuaries to nurture those with breast cancer? Let us know at info@otisfoundation.org.au

Sports Trivia Night

Handle Bar, Bendigo

6:00pm - 9:00pm | Friday 7 December 2018 | \$20pp or table of six \$100

Tickets online at otisfoundation.org.au



Add special meaning to Christmas and help The OTIS Foundation achieve its aim to grow and provide more nights of retreat accommodation, at no cost, to those with breast cancer.

Your generous gift to a stranger will allow them to relax, reconnect and create special memories with family and friends in a beautiful environment.

We will provide you with a donation certificate which can be personalised to give to friends and family acknowledging the unique gift you have donated in their honour.

Buy online at
 otisfoundation.org.au

Events & Campaigns Guide

24 November 2018 – Bendigo Spirit Pink Round

Watch the WNBL Spirit take on Townsville Fire as part of the annual Pink Round to support OTIS.

7 December 2018 – Sports Trivia Night

Think you know your sports? Join us for a fun night of sports trivia at Handle Bar, Bendigo.

December 2018 – Gift a Night Christmas Appeal

Support families dealing with breast cancer this Christmas by donating to our Gift a Night appeal.

June 2019 – End of Financial Year Appeal

Make a tax deductible donation to support the OTIS End of Financial Year Appeal.

5-13 October 2019 – OTIS Great Wall Adventure

Join us for an incredible adventure that will see you conquer the steps of one of humankind's most impressive architectural feats – the Great Wall of China.

 otisfoundation.org.au/great-wall


9 November 2019 – OTIS Biennial Ball


Save the date for OTIS' premier signature fundraising event to be held at the prestigious Palladium at Crown in 2019.

Ongoing – Run for OTIS

Be active and healthy and raise important fundraising dollars at the same time. Join one of the many fun run or marathon events and fundraise for OTIS.

 OTIS event

 Way to support

 Events supporting OTIS

Principal Partner



Major Partners



Program Partners

We would like to thank the following companies for their contribution to our newsletter:



We will only ever use the information you provide to us in accordance with our privacy policy. From time to time we may send you information we believe may be of interest to you, including invitations to events or our newsletter. Details on how you can opt out of receiving this information can be found on our website otisfoundation.org.au under the link, privacy policy. Also please let us know if you are moving so we can ensure you continue to receive Between Friends.

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