



# Between Friends

Spring - Summer Newsletter 2017

## From the Office

Welcome to an extended version and new look edition of *Between Friends*. We continue to increase our *available nights*, involve ourselves in new initiatives and welcome more guests – so there is plenty to share with you.

Our focus is very much on the 2017 Biennial Ball to be held on Sunday, 19 November. This is the most significant fundraiser for The OTIS Foundation, so I encourage you to join us for an amazing night.

I'd like to particularly acknowledge the Bendigo Bank, Alinta Energy, Arthur J Gallagher and Lexus of Blackburn who have already secured Platinum sponsorship for the event. Their support is fundamental to the event's success - where every \$50 raised will allow us to provide one night's accommodation at no cost to those experiencing the challenges of breast cancer.

I am also thrilled to be able to announce our upcoming journey to Tuscany in September 2018. This inaugural fundraising adventure is incredibly exciting for OTIS, ten days spent in one of the most beautiful destinations on earth.

In essence, this trip is a sort of pilgrimage, to a destination that shares so many synergies with OTIS - picturesque natural settings reminiscent of many of the locations where our network of properties are situated.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge you – our guests and supporters. Unwaveringly, you support the work of OTIS and understand the importance of the gift of time and space we provide. I speak on behalf of the entire OTIS team when I say that we are proud of what we do and delighted that in the last financial year we were able to increase our occupied nights by an incredible 32%.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Between Friends*.

Warm regards

*Rachel*

**Rachel Mason**  
General Manager



## Join us for a Tuscan Adventure

The breathtaking scenery of Tuscany, Italy, will be the backdrop to The OTIS Foundation's first international fundraising adventure. This amazing 10-day adventure begins in Florence, before journeying through the heart of Tuscany.

Hiking over five days across scenic undulating hills and woodland, you will challenge yourself in ways you never thought possible whilst helping OTIS provide retreat accommodation at no cost to families with breast cancer.

🏠 Visit [bit.ly/OTISTuscany2018](http://bit.ly/OTISTuscany2018)

## *A Night For Nights*

### THE 2017 OTIS FOUNDATION BALL

*Every \$50 donated to The OTIS Foundation helps to provide one night's accommodation at no cost to those experiencing the challenges of breast cancer.*

**SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER**  
**THE PALLADIUM AT CROWN**  
6:30pm for 7:00pm start  
Black Tie - \$295 per ticket

**MC**  
Angela Pippas,  
Journalist, TV & Radio  
Presenter and Author

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Harrison Craig,  
DJ Claire Elliott and  
Chloe Maggs

[otisball.com.au](http://otisball.com.au)

## Our Retreat Partners

Our Retreat Partners support the expenses associated with providing our properties at no cost to OTIS guests. Each year we are able to make close to 4,000 nights available thanks to their generosity.

Thank you to the Northern Territory Government and Ettalong Bowling Club (NSW) who have recently provided funding to support Cullen Bay retreat and Pearl Beach retreat respectively.



Hannah from Pearl Beach Real Estate recently accepted a cheque from Ettalong Bowling Club – the \$5,000 contribution will support Pearl Beach retreat for 12 months.



To find out more about the OTIS Retreat Partnership Program visit the Adopt a Retreat page

 [otisfoundation.org.au](https://otisfoundation.org.au)

## Vale Noel Burley AM

Dr Noel Burley, who passed away in June after a short illness, was loved, greatly respected and admired by those who surrounded him.

Noel had a long and incredibly personal involvement with The OTIS Foundation, which was inspired by his daughter, Judy.

The OTIS Foundation was established following Judy's passing from breast cancer in 2000 when she was just 36. Since that time, Noel has been a strong supporter of Judy's vision, including spending time serving on the Board of The OTIS Foundation (2002-2006). Together with his wife, Joan (dec.) Noel was generous with his time, support and encouragement of the unique gift provided by OTIS.

Noel maintained a strong relationship with OTIS Founder and Judy's husband, Andrew Barling, and had immensely enjoyed the time he spent visiting Andrew and Judy's family home, Bramare, in Mandurang near Bendigo [now used as an OTIS Foundation breast cancer retreat]. Noel shared this respect for Andrew and The OTIS Foundation with many Burley family members – with his son, Richard Burley, and daughter, Sandy Dikschei, currently serving on The OTIS Foundation Board.

On Australia Day 2017, Noel was honoured as a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia. He received the award for significant service to the community through social welfare initiatives, to engineering, and to scientific research and development.

Noel was 90 when he passed away and is survived by three children; Richard, Sandy and Michael, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Noel pictured with daughter, Sandy Dikschei, receiving his AM on Australia Day 2017.

## Welcome to the West

We are thrilled to announce Eden Hollow retreat in Denmark as our first Western Australian property.

Located in the Great Southern region of Western Australia (4½ hour drive from Perth), Denmark is surrounded by dramatic coastlines and unforgettable scenery – an idyllic location for OTIS guests to take some time away with their loved ones.

Eden Hollow is a quaint cottage which sleeps four and is set within 26 acres of forest. The property is made available to OTIS through the generosity of the Hearn family.



# A Night For Nights

The 2017 OTIS Foundation Ball is fast approaching with more than 1,000 people expected to attend this fundraising evening to support OTIS' national network of breast cancer retreats.

The biennial event, themed 'A Night for Nights', is the most significant fundraiser for The OTIS Foundation and is essential to enable OTIS to provide the unique gift of retreat accommodation at no cost to women dealing with the challenges of breast cancer.

The event will be hosted by media personality and author, Angela Pippas, at the Palladium at Crown on Sunday, 19 November. Winner of The Voice Australia, Harrison Craig, will entertain guests along with Chloe Maggs accompanied by DJ Claire Elliott. Tickets are \$295 and available at [otisball.com.au](http://otisball.com.au)

Get a table together for  
A Night For Nights. Visit

[otisball.com.au](http://otisball.com.au)



Former Miss Universe Australia and volunteer Ambassador for The OTIS Foundation, Olivia Wells, joins OTIS Board member, Richard Burley, at Crown Melbourne. Images courtesy of Sustainable Image.

## Valkyrie provides parting gift

The Valkyrie Care Group is winding up its huge production line of special care bags after 17 years. Valkyrie's dedicated volunteers have sewn bags and items to help with the discomfort of cancer treatment for guests at OTIS' Bendigo properties and other local Bendigo health services since 2000. Since that time, an incredible 200,000+ items have been individually sewn, providing a practical and thoughtful gift.

As a generous final gesture, Valkyrie has donated funds to refurbish key pieces at St Jude's and St Hannah's retreats, including recliner chairs, floor rugs, bedding and kitchenware.

Thank you to Val Pratt and the Valkyrie volunteers for their amazing contributions.

## Check out our new look website - [otisfoundation.org.au](http://otisfoundation.org.au)

We have recently launched a new website to help our guests and supporters quickly and easily find the information that is important to them.

The new website allows guests to filter our properties based on location, number of guests and other relevant requirements. It's also easy to follow our latest news, upcoming events, create your own fundraising campaign and read stories from our guests and supporters.

See it for yourself at [otisfoundation.org.au](http://otisfoundation.org.au)

**OTIS**  
THE FOUNDATION  
BREAST CANCER RETREATS

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FUNDRAISE DONATE

### Give a night of rest & relaxation

Each year The OTIS Foundation makes close to 4,000 nights available across its network of retreats at no cost to people living with breast cancer and their families.

## Guest story

In July, Jane and her family travelled the 90 minutes from their home on the NSW South Coast to our Tingira retreat in Bawley Point (NSW) hopeful for some special time away together.

Dear OTIS team,

Thank you so so much for our lovely four days at Bawley Point last week. It was absolutely perfect weather and the perfect house for a large family to relax. We could even see the children on the beach from the front verandah, which made everything so easy.

We saw whales and seals and really benefited from the beautiful natural environment.

My sister and I have been battling breast cancer together. We both inherited the BRCA 2 gene mutation. Sadly, Rachel passed away

on the 10th of June at the age of 42 after a brave fight with advanced metastatic breast cancer, which returned three years ago. One month after I had finished chemotherapy for early breast cancer.

Rachel has left me her two precious children and my husband and I will bring them up together with our two children. We all had tears in our eyes when we stepped into the house and saw how beautiful it was. We felt so humbled by the owner's generosity and your vision.

“*The atmosphere really helped in the grieving process and in the bonding of our new family.*”

I felt her presence so much last week as the children played in the sea and laughed a lot despite their great sadness. I know she would have wanted me to thank you on her behalf.

Best wishes

Jane

## Last financial year we.....



Provided stays to

**720** women and their loved ones



Offered close to

**4,000** Nights



Increased guest stays by

**32%**

## Some words from our guests

“*What a fantastic week we had. Planned between my 3 weekly Herceptin appointments. Couldn't have wished for anything better. Thank you so very, very much.*”

- Lyn

“*The weather was wonderful, the company was exceptional and all round it was one of the best breaks I have had.*”

Chris

“*It was a wonderful family trip and just what we needed to relax again and spend time with our beautiful children.*”

- Teresa

## Events & Campaigns Guide



### October 2017 - Little Blue Towels

Purchase a five-pack of Little Blue Towels from any Victorian regional Bendigo Bank branch during Breast Cancer Awareness month.

 [littlebluetowels.com.au](http://littlebluetowels.com.au)

### 18 October 2017 - Lovely Lady Lump

A theatrical romp through one comic's breast cancer adventure.

 [thecapital.com.au/Whats\\_On/Lovely\\_Lady\\_Lump](http://thecapital.com.au/Whats_On/Lovely_Lady_Lump)

### 23 October 2017 - Pink Ribbon breakfast

An annual fundraising breakfast held by breast care nurse, Lee Alexander, in a Melbourne location.

### 29 October 2017 - Bendigo Cycling Classic

An inaugural cycling event, departing from the Tom Flood Sports Centre in the heart of Bendigo.

 [bendigocyclingclassic.com.au](http://bendigocyclingclassic.com.au)

### 19 November 2017 - A Night for Nights - The OTIS Foundation Ball

Our signature fundraising event to be held at The Palladium at Crown. This prestigious gala evening is not to be missed.

 [otisball.com.au](http://otisball.com.au)

### 2 December 2017 - Bendigo Spirit Pink Round

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

 [wnbl.com.au/bendigo/home/](http://wnbl.com.au/bendigo/home/)

### 8 December 2017 - Christmas Concert

Join renowned harpist Alana Conway, her sister, Courtney Conway and many well-known friends for a Christmas concert at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

### Dec 2017 - Gift a Night Christmas Appeal

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

### January 2018 - Host a BBQ for OTIS

Gather your friends and host a barbecue to raise funds for OTIS.

### 24 February to 3 March 2018 - Murray Meander

Join the final Murray Charity Meander in 2018 as it journeys from Corryong to Echuca along the mighty Murray River.

 [murraymeander.com.au](http://murraymeander.com.au)

### 25 March 2018 - OTIS Annual Golf Day

Join one of Bendigo's most prestigious corporate golf days.

### May 2018 - Host a High Tea for OTIS

Invite girlfriends, neighbours and workmates over to help you fundraise for OTIS at your own High or Afternoon Tea.

### 11 May 2018 - OTIS Mother's Day celebration

Celebrate Mother's Day with friends at a beautiful Bendigo location.

### June 2018 - OTIS Corporate Breakfast

Join us for the inaugural Melbourne Corporate Breakfast, an express overview of a unique charity.

### June 2018 - End of Financial Year Appeal

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

### 1-10 September 2018 - OTIS Tuscan Adventure

Join us for the adventure of a lifetime in Tuscany. This is OTIS' inaugural Inspired Adventure international fundraising journey.

### 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

 Breast Cancer Awareness month



# Adelaide Survivors Abreast

Members from Adelaide Survivors Abreast Dragon Boat Club recently travelled to Italy to participate in the 2017 Vogalonga – an annual event raising awareness of the damage caused by motorised boats in the canals of Venice.

Exhausted but elated, was the feeling from members after being on the water for over six hours.

Their involvement in this event and fundraising in the lead up raised more than \$2,500 for OTIS. Well done everyone.



## #theotisgift



Thanks to all those who entered the inaugural OTIS Photo Competition. We have loved seeing and sharing photos of you enjoying your stay and creating memories with your loved ones.



### Principal Partner



### 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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