



Between Friends

Edition 1 - 2018



Past OTIS guests husband and wife, Steve and Mary-Ann Holt have both faced their own breast cancer diagnosis.

OTIS welcomes men

148 males are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia this year.

This figure is dwarfed by the estimated 18,087 Australian women who will also face a breast cancer diagnosis. However, like their female counterparts, these men will face the many physical and emotional challenges which come hand-in-hand with the disease.

Access to stays at OTIS properties is unconditional and anyone diagnosed with breast cancer is eligible for a stay at no cost.

Whilst male guests are rare, we welcome their bookings and encourage them to take time out with their loved ones, courtesy of The OTIS Foundation.

To enquire about booking a stay at an OTIS property, contact our Bookings Team

☎ (03) 5444 1184

✉ bookings@otisfoundation.org.au

Statistics sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

From the Office

Welcome to the first edition of *Between Friends* for 2018.

As always, the start to the year is incredibly hectic as we focus on the upcoming OTIS Annual Golf Day on 25 March, our signature Mother's Day event to be held on 11 May and, of course, the finale of the annual Murray Charity Meander.

Over the past 13 years, the Horizon Committee has supported OTIS through the Murray Meander. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to them and each of the individuals who have participated in the event – their contribution will total close to \$900,000.

We feel honoured that the Horizon Committee will continue its support of OTIS through the Little Blue Towels initiative – providing proceeds from the sale of recycled surgical towels to OTIS.

The OTIS Biennial Ball last November was certainly a highlight for 2017 and one I am very proud of. We are indebted to our Ball committee, led by Almila from White Knight Events, along with our volunteers, OTIS staff and, of course, the attendees and event sponsors.

Our fundraising effort remains a priority for the OTIS team. It is always a challenge to raise the money required to sustain our amazing national service, but it is one we are very committed to.

Our most significant fundraising initiative for 2018 will be our Tuscan Adventure. I will be walking in memory of our beautiful OTIS Ambassador and dear friend, Karlee Thorpe, who lost her own battle late last year. Karlee inspired us to establish this adventure and we know that were she able, she would have been the first to register.

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

Warm regards

Rachel

Rachel Mason
General Manager



OTIS Mothers day

Tickets \$50 

Friday, 11 May 2018 
From 5pm

CELEBRATION The Exchange Bendigo 

Canapes • Live music • Sparkling on arrival

 otisfoundation.org.au/events

Q&A with Nola Tranter

Nola Tranter is often the only contact our guests have with OTIS and her beautiful, caring manner epitomises the organisation.

What is your role with OTIS?

As the Bookings Manager, I am the person answering the calls and emails from the guests enquiring about a stay at one of our retreats.

How long have you worked at OTIS?

Almost right on three years.

What do you most enjoy about speaking to OTIS guests?

Speaking to the guests is the most enjoyable part of my day. I hear of the challenges they have been through or are still going through and gather insight into their family situations. I feel privileged to be included in this very personal journey and love having these conversations.

What is the most challenging part of your role?

Sometimes, due to the high demand in some states, we cannot always place a guest when they first contact us and we may need to place them on a waiting list until a property becomes available. This is not the most ideal outcome, particularly when they are really in need of a stay.

List the top three things you love about working at OTIS

1. I love being able to help such amazing women, who have been through so much.
2. I quite often hear "You've made my day" and actually the feeling is mutual.
3. I love working with the amazing women that make up the OTIS team - we are a bit like a small family.



OTIS Bookings Manager, Nola Tranter.

OTIS Tuscan Adventure

There are still a few places remaining on the OTIS Tuscan Adventure, departing in September 2018.

Departing from Florence on 1 September, 2018, you will spend 10 amazing days travelling along the Via Francigena, an ancient road and pilgrim route that runs from France to Rome. You will discover a range of mesmerising towns, from the hilltop town of Monteriggioni to two impressive UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The breathtaking town of San Gimignano with its medieval towers and the magnificent Siena - an historical, artistic, cultural and gastronomic gem - you will experience it all.

Your adventure will come to an end with a half-day sightseeing tour of Siena, where you will visit medieval monuments filled with collections of Siennese art, the Piazza del Campo and Museo Civico.

Walk with us to make a practical difference in the lives of people dealing with breast cancer.

Fast facts:

- **Dates:** 1 – 10 September 2018
- **Trip duration:** 10 days
- **Challenge duration:** 5 days (walking)
- **Registration fee:** \$770 (non-refundable)
- **Fundraising target:** \$3,500 (excludes travel)
- **Travel quote:** \$3,150 (excludes flights)
- **More information:**
inspiredadventures.com.au/events/Otis-Tuscany-2018



The OTIS Foundation's Tuscan Adventure aims to raise \$100,000 – to cover 2,000 nights retreat accommodation at no cost for people dealing with breast cancer. Join us to make a difference.

Bendigo Cycling Classic

Congratulations to the participants, organisers and sponsors of the inaugural Bendigo Cycling Classic, held in October 2017. The wonderful event attracted close to 400 riders and raised more than \$40,000 which was shared between OTIS and children's charity - Give me 5 for Kids.



A night to remember

The prestigious 2017 Biennial Ball, *A Night for Nights*, was held at Melbourne's impressive Crown Palladium on Sunday, 19 November. More than 850 guests celebrated the spectacular night with colleagues and friends.

We would like to acknowledge the significant support provided by the events sponsors, prize donors and volunteers who all made the night an amazing success.



Voice Australia winner, Harrison Craig, performs



Pink n Teals breast cancer support group with MC, Angela Pippas, and founder, Andrew Barling.



Bendigo Bank volunteers



Guests seated in the impressive Palladium at Crown, Melbourne



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At Bendigo Bank, our customers create change every day. A change for good.

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bendigobank.com.au



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lexusofblackburn.com.au



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THE OTIS FOUNDATION ANNUAL GOLF DAY SUNDAY 25TH MARCH 2018



The OTIS Annual Golf Day will celebrate its 15th year when it is held at the Bendigo Golf Club on Sunday, 25 March.

The signature fundraising event is open to teams of four players who compete for thousands of dollars in prizes, including both team and individual awards.

To find out more about the OTIS Annual Golf Day and the range of tailored business sponsorship packages visit the [Events page](#)

🏠 otisfoundation.org.au

✉ events@otisfoundation.org.au

The OTIS Annual high-end raffle will be drawn as part of the Annual Golf Day.

Tickets are limited to the first 200.

Exclusive prizes include:

- Corporate box package for a 2018 AFL season match
- Behind the Scenes at Flemington
- Two night's accommodation for eight adults in Sorrento (Vic)
- \$500 restaurant voucher to Masons of Bendigo
- A mixed dozen bottles of regional wine
- Champagne and ice bucket hamper.

\$250 per ticket. Tickets available at

🏠 otisfoundation.org.au

Nunyarra Treehouse, QLD

Nunyarra Treehouse is a stunning two bedroom cottage which has recently joined the OTIS property network for guests in Queensland.

Situated within the magnificent setting of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Nunyarra Treehouse is a welcome addition to the Queensland property portfolio and will assist us to provide a stay to Queensland guests currently on our waiting list.

Owner, Jenny Wright, has her own personal experience with breast cancer, surviving the disease but, sadly, losing her sister to what she describes as a "wretched disease".

Jenny found out about OTIS when she was in the recovery phase of her own battle with grade three breast cancer and distinctly remembers being touched by the fact that people would offer their holiday homes as retreats and vowed to join the movement at a later date.

Jenny, along with her family led by her son, Derek, have recently completed construction of Nunyarra Treehouse adjacent to their family home and will generously make it available to OTIS guests for two stays each month.

Jenny says that her family hopes their cottage can help lift spirits and provide some peace for those struggling through this journey.

“They need to know they're not forgotten and that strangers care.

- Jenny



Queensland properties are currently restricted to Queensland residents to manage the existing high demand for stays.

Dry July supports WA and QLD

The Dry July Foundation has again supported OTIS through its grants program. The funding will assist our current Western Australian property, Eden Hollow, as well as our existing Queensland properties and help fund an expansion of available stays within the state.

The grant will also enable OTIS staff to meet breast cancer professionals in WA and Queensland and attend key networking opportunities with other breast cancer professionals.

You can go Dry this July and raise funds for people affected by cancer.

🏠 dryjuly.com



Hautacam retreat is one of five Queensland properties which will be supported through Dry July Foundation's funding.

Guest story

In January this year, Melanie was a guest at Bramare retreat in Central Victoria, enjoying some time away with her three young sons. During their stay, not only was Victoria gripped in a 10-day heat wave, but Bramare retreat become home to a colony of micro-bats. Despite this, Melanie speaks of her visit with appreciation and fondness.

We are at Bramare at the moment and it's incredible. The house was very hot when we arrived and as soon as the temp started to drop at 7pm I opened every window and door (there are about 52627383992 lol) and have got the indoor temp down from low thirties to mid-twenties, which is comfortable.

Doors closed after a short while to fend off the bugs....will close all the windows in the morning and then do the same process tomorrow evening - totally manageable.

We went to the local outdoor pool this afternoon which the boys loved and they have seen kangaroos, we can hear the micro bats but haven't seen any yet (boys hanging out for that).

Thank you, this place is wonderful (it feels like we are in an episode of grand designs). Honestly just even thinking about The OTIS Foundation makes me emotional.

My young body has let me down and I need to pick up the pieces and enjoy my boys and



“My family all needs to heal from the trauma of the last six months and I can't imagine a better place to stop, reflect and focus on the good stuff.”

- Melanie

the simple things. The poor children attended their (young) great aunts funeral (BC also) only weeks before I was diagnosed, so you can imagine how they coped with my illness and the potential outcome.

Thank you times one million (maybe one trillion).

Melanie & co.

How you can help

While the OTIS team works tirelessly on various fundraising initiatives, we rely heavily on the generosity of many groups, businesses and individuals to make our unique service available to close to 800 families each year.

For each \$50 raised by our supporter network, we are able to provide one night **at no cost** to families dealing with breast cancer.

Your contribution, no matter how big or small, can make a genuine difference in people's lives like Melanie and her boys (article above).

Host a BBQ, a fundraising High Tea or even nominate The OTIS Foundation as your fundraising charity in an upcoming marathon or fun run.

Find out more on the
Help Us page at

 otisfoundation.org.au



Donating a small monthly amount to The OTIS Foundation can create a big impact over time.

Jump on the **DONATE** page

 otisfoundation.org.au



See the change your banking can make when you tag The OTIS Foundation in any new or existing Bendigo Bank account by visiting your local Bendigo Bank branch and quoting agent code 4419.

Bendigo Bank customers from anywhere in Australia can link their accounts to The OTIS Foundation Community Enterprise and OTIS will receive a monthly commission at no cost whatsoever to you.

Remembering Karlee Thorpe

It is with heavy hearts that last November we farewelled past guest and OTIS Ambassador – Karlee Thorpe.

Many of you would have seen Karlee speak and share her story. She did this many times on behalf of OTIS. As an OTIS guest and Bendigo Bank Ambassador, Karlee played a leading role in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for The OTIS Foundation and a passion and professionalism that helped to strengthen the relationship between OTIS and the Bendigo Bank.

Her determination to help OTIS succeed as well as her friendship and great sense of humour are incredibly missed. Karlee leaves behind a loving husband and two beautiful children.



Events & Campaigns Guide

March 2018 – Host a BBQ for OTIS

Gather your friends and host a barbeque 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

25 March 2018 – OTIS Annual Golf Day

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

otisfoundation.org.au/events

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 The Exchange Bendigo.

otisfoundation.org.au/events

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.

7 July 2018 – Dinner Dance

Fundraising dinner dance to be held in Braeside, Melbourne.

19 July 2018 - Movie night fundraiser

Mamma Mia Here We Go Again is the sequel to hit movie, Mamma Mia. This fundraiser will be held at Bendigo Cinemas.

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.

October 2018 - 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

28 October 2018 – Bendigo Cycling Classic

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

bendigocyclingclassic.com.au

Dec 2018 – Gift a Night Christmas Appeal

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

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



Program Partners

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



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The OTIS Foundation | PO Box 1191, Bendigo Central VIC 3552 | (03) 5444 1184