

Towns turn pink for passionate cause

GEMMA ROWLEY

AS the month of October comes to a close, the Wedderburn, Inglewood and Bridgewater communities continue to show their love and support for the Jane McGrath Foundation, dressing in pink and raising funds.

On Friday, the Wedderburn Country Women's Association set up shop at the front of Wedderburn's 24 Karat Café, armed with a pink wing selfie station, memorial tree and pink raffle.

The wider community embraced the cause with Wedderburn College VCAL students hand delivering cupcakes and other sweet treats they made during the week in support of the cause.

CWA president Rosie Isaac said the pink display for the community was a great opportunity to support an "incredible cause".

"The CWA's purpose is to primarily support women and children, so it was a great opportunity to support a cause that directly affects so many women," Ms Isaac said.

"The McGrath Foundation is very close to our hearts, because breast cancer doesn't discriminate and I think we all know someone who has been affected."

The selfie station was popular for residents and visitors who wanted to honour loved ones.

"The idea was to take a photo with the wings, to represent the remembrance of someone who has passed away from breast cancer," Ms Isaac said.

"Those who unfortunately passed away, we call them the angels who have left us."

The fundraiser also featured a memorial tree which allowed the community to write love notes to honour the "tough battle so many women face".

"The memorial tree was created in memory of people that have passed, who have survived and those who continue to fight," Ms Isaac said.

"We hope further research and having more breast care nurses available will make that fight a little easier."



Messages of love and hope were written on the memorial tree to honour those who have died, survived or continue to fight breast cancer. Pictures: GEMMA ROWLEY



Wedderburn College VCAL students Holly Winslett and Elliot Reeves baked cupcakes and other sweet treats in support of the cause.



The Wedderburn CWA ladies donned their pink in support of the cause.

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(288156_v1) (7/01/2016)

Tuohey promotes planning

Jenny Denton

TERRICK Terrick mixed farmer and former VFF president Peter Tuohey has been named the new Victorian Rural Assistance Commissioner.

His appointment to the part-time job, which was created by legislation in 2016, was announced last Wednesday.

Mr Tuohey is the first farmer to be given the role and described his selection as representing a shift by the government to a more "practical" approach.

The previous commissioners were public servants Richard Bolt and Emily Phillips.

Mr Tuohey said initially, his main task would be to ensure the state government's recently announced \$31 million drought package was rolled out and was meeting the needs of farmers, particularly in the targeted areas of East Gippsland, the Millewa and the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

"They've appointed me...to work with farmers and rural communities to see if the current drought funding is working properly and if there's anything extra that needs doing in getting the message out and trying to liaise between the government and the farming community," Mr Tuohey said.

He said an important part of his role would be promoting long-term planning to adapt to changing climate conditions.

"I think most people realise that climate change is here to stay and you need to prepare a bit better for some longer periods of downturn," he said.

"In our area, over a five-year period you'd have one good year, a couple of average years and maybe a dry year and a drought, now it's two droughts, an average year and maybe a wet year.

"So things are certainly different to what they used to be."

Grants for business planning, which will be made available as part of the government's package, will enable farmers to look at strategies for managing through droughts and dry seasons and assessing whether their current farm business needs changing.

"There'll be more money becoming available for that planning," he said.

"That's the way of the future."

Mr Tuohey, who was president of the VFF from 2012 to 2016, is currently also the director of the Victorian Ports Corporation and is the chairman of the Melbourne Market Authority, the Victorian Grains Logistics Taskforce and the V/Line Freight Advisory Council.

He rejected criticism published in a recent media report that he "has his snout in the trough", saying that income figures in the story were incorrect.

"There's always criticism by people who think you're doing the job because it's a well paid job," he said, noting that was not his motivation.

"And I think there was a bit of misunderstanding about the role being competitive with the VFF," he said.

"It's actually all quite complementary to the VFF."



Terrick Terrick farmer Peter Tuohey is the first farmer to be appointed Victoria's Rural Assistance Commissioner.