



Chair of the GV Health Foundation Board of Trustees Stephen Merrylees thanked the generosity and support of the community.

Melissa Gilmour, Goulburn Valley Health Medical Oncology clinical director Dr Javier Torres and Goulburn Valley Health Foundation ambassador Vicki Scott spoke on a panel to share the importance of women's cancer services.

**"The event exceeded our expectations."**

- Stephen Merrylees

# LADIES WHO LUNCH



Ladies Who Lunch committee member Amy De Paola and GV Health Foundation brand and donation officer, and one of the event organisers, Jaimee Squires were all smiles as they celebrated a successful day.

## A day to remember

RIVERLINKS EASTBANK IN SHEPPARTON WAS FILLED WITH LOVE, LAUGHTER AND GENEROSITY ON SUNDAY AS THE COMMUNITY GATHERED AT LADIES WHO LUNCH, RAISING MONEY FOR ONCOLOGY SERVICES AT GOULBURN VALLEY HEALTH.

The inaugural event was a resounding success, with 750 people attending, helping to raise more than \$100,000. GV Health Foundation ambassador Vicki Scott said the event was a testament to the generosity and spirit of the Goulburn Valley community. "When I arrived at the event, there was a big element of excitement," she said. "There has been so much work go in by so many people behind the scenes, so to see it come together is where the excitement comes in. "I would like to thank the Ladies Who Lunch committee as a whole for organising the event and the community for wrapping their arms around the event and for their generosity." GV Health Foundation Board of Trustees chair Stephen Merrylees was equally

thrilled with the event's success. "The event exceeded our expectations," he said. "There are needs in our community and funding doesn't always meet that need, so it gives us an opportunity to step in and fill a really critical and important gap that touches so many people's lives." Stephen said while the event was centred around raising money, it was a great opportunity for people to come together and share in the joyous occasion. "Coming out of COVID-19, opportunities like these are really important for the Goulburn Valley," he said. "The event allowed the community to unite and raise money specifically for women's health and raise money that will stay local, which is important.

"I want to thank the Ladies Who Lunch committee who picked this idea up and ran with it; they are a very talented group of women, which is awe-inspiring." Stephen said Ladies Who Lunch demonstrated the commitment of the community to improving the lives of those in need. "You can't have these events without the generosity of people, so I want to thank each and every sponsor for their donations and assistance with the event," he said. "They're not doing it for themselves; they're doing it for a higher cause, which is really noble." Peter Copulos Cancer and Wellness Centre nurse unit manager Linley Smith said the funds raised would go a long way in providing vital support to female patients. "The money raised will go towards

equipment and providing a service that women can utilise without having to go to Melbourne," she said. "It will also go towards their family because we know that women are quite often the ones that are keeping everything together and organised in the family, so if they are suddenly unwell, it becomes life-changing for everyone." Linley said the event demonstrated the impact of a community coming together to support a worthy cause. "Our community amazes me," she said. "I appreciate what they do and the support they give to our oncology services at GV Health. "We provide a service at the Peter Copulos Cancer and Wellness Centre that is partly provided by the community, for the community, which is incredible."



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