



MEDIA RELEASE

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One woman's personal race for research.

Being a participant in this year's Avon race for research means something special to Maureen Conroy of Hamilton South.

Maureen was 58 years old and enjoying retirement when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in February this year following a routine mammogram. Having followed a healthy lifestyle, and with no family history of cancer, the diagnosis came as a complete shock to her.

Maureen had surgery in May and will take the drug tamoxifen for the next five years. On the eve of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she wants to share her story in the hope of helping all women to be aware of breast cancer and the importance of having a mammogram every two years.

"When I joined the BreastScreen program I didn't think it was likely that I would test positive for breast cancer," said Maureen. "Every woman needs to be aware that you don't have to have a family history to be diagnosed with breast cancer."

Maureen will join runners, joggers, walkers and families of all ages in this year's Avon race for research. The 5km fun run/walk will be held on Sunday 26 October on the Newcastle Foreshore.

All proceeds from the race will support research conducted by the Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group. This Group, proudly located in Newcastle, conducts a national clinical trials research program for the prevention and cure of breast cancer.

Maureen knows the value of breast cancer research, particularly in protecting the future of her daughter and grandchildren, and says everyone in the community can make their own contribution simply by participating in Avon race for research.

"I encourage everyone to enter this event. It is a positive and fun way to help raise valuable funds for research and give hope to women now and in the future."

Avon race for research is open to men, women and children of all age groups, in a variety of categories, including family and corporate teams. Everyone who completes the course will receive a free sunscreen and lip balm, generously provided by Avon.

People can enter the event online at www.bcia.org.au. Entry forms are also available at Newcastle Permanent or by contacting the Breast Cancer Institute of Australia on 4925 3022. Entries close Monday 20 October.

Avon race for research is proudly sponsored by Avon, Newcastle Permanent, The Herald, Southern Cross Ten and NXFM.

**For further enquiries or to interview Maureen Conroy, please contact:
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