



**raise the gong**

*Annual  
Report  
2010-11*

**Our Platinum Sponsor:**

Fairy Meadow Community Bank® Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**

Phone 4284 8277

Prepared by the Management  
Committee of Raise The Gong Inc.



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# Contents

<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Presidents Report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Management Committee Members</i>	6
<i>Committee Structure</i>	8
<i>Meetings &amp; Attendance</i>	8
<i>Strategic Planning</i>	9
<b>General Meetings</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Legislation &amp; Policy</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sponsorship &amp; Grants</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Health Promotion</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>Chemo Care Kits</i>	13
<i>Stress Less Sunday</i>	13
<i>Trivia Night</i>	14
<i>First Aid Courses</i>	14
<b>In The Community</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Fundraising &amp; Events</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Community Fundraising</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Our Members</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Marketing &amp; Communications</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>IT &amp; Web Development</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Future Directions</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Sponsors &amp; Supporters</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Notes of Appreciation</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Ways to Assist</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>30</b>



## ✧ Mission Statement ✧

Raise The Gong Inc. is a non-profit, health promotion charity based in Wollongong NSW, established in February 2006.

With an extensive scope, our dedicated and passionate volunteers, along with the assistance of our valued members and sponsors, Raise The Gong Inc. aims to raise money for a wide variety of health issues that affect local women directly, through promotion and education relating to women's health issues, as well as assisting women who suffer hardship as a result of ill-health.

This could be through any identified health issue, including but not limited to, cancer, disability and mental illness. We do however maintain a strong focus on the promotion of prevention and support of women's cancers in our local region.



# Presidents Report

As we complete our fifth year of operation, I can't help but smile when I think of how far Raise The Gong has come in such a short time.....despite the extra grey hairs!

We entered into our third and final year of sponsorship from Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow – a sponsorship that has allowed us to flourish and grow, and get nearer and nearer to our goals. The board and I are genuinely appreciative of the funding we have received from Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow over the past three years, particularly as a lot of our projects would not have eventuated without this support.

I feel that our biggest achievement this year was the long-awaited launch of our Chemo Care Kit program. This program delivers care packages free of charge to all women who enter into chemotherapy for the first time at either of the two treatment facilities in the Illawarra. This program has been in planning for over 12 months, with some heavy duty fundraising occurring just to get these kits out! The support we have received has been phenomenal, with local and national businesses coming on board to provide free items, discounts for recipients, and financial support to ensure that Chemo Care Kits can be ongoing to the women that need it most. And it wasn't just businesses! Several of our members helped us pack, move, store, distribute and plan for these kits. We are very grateful to everyone who was involved in making this a success.

The successes of Raise The Gong can be directly attributed to the team of wonderful women who have, over the past five years, given up their time after hours and on weekends to act as the management committee. This year saw some big changes in the board, 2010 having the highest turnover of board members than any year prior. This was largely due to extenuating external circumstances – some of us left to pursue university careers, some had babies, some got new and exciting job opportunities, some moved interstate. For the first time ever, it wasn't a struggle to fill our vacant positions. Potential replacement board members began to come forward one after the other– some new to Raise The Gong, others existing members, some past board members. It was great to see some fresh faces round the boardroom table (read: my lounge room), to re-energise the rest of us and provide fresh new ideas to the team. At the moment, the team is stronger than ever, and I am looking forward to seeing what our next year will bring.

Behind the scenes at Raise The Gong is often hectic. The team has limited time together, meeting only once per fortnight, to complete planning and organising for our events and campaigns. Each and every person coming through has shown tremendous passion and dedication to their role, and even though all positions are undertaken in a voluntary capacity, it's really, really amazing to see what a bunch of eight enthusiastic women can achieve together! I have been President for five years now, the entire time of Raise The Gong's operation. I can't say it's always been easy, but one thing it has been is FUN! I've met some great people along the way, and am thankful each day for the fabulous women who sit beside me and make Raise The Gong such a rewarding endeavour.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, and in particular my wonderful Mum, for all the support, not just for Raise The Gong, but for everything I take on in my life. The idea for Raise The Gong started because of my Mum, and the mothers and fathers of the other founding members who all suffered with cancer. As I watch Mum continue to battle her cancer, I am continually inspired and awed by her strength, positive spirit and unfaltering sense of humour. I hope that just a little of these have been passed onto me, because I am certain that with these traits, and the attributes of the team of 2010/11 - Melissa, Alicia, Amy C, Kay, Gemma, Kate, Tina, Jenny, Amy P, Alison, Bianca, Melanie, Lisa, and those that came before them and will possibly come after - we will continue to accomplish great things for Raise The Gong and the women of the Illawarra.



Chelsea Cappetta  
*President*  
**Raise The Gong Inc.**



# ☞ Governance ☜

Raise The Gong continues to be governed by a Management Committee of eight volunteer board members. This year saw several changes to the board – resignations, new board members and changes to positions.

## Management Committee Members

The following outlines the qualifications and positions held of members of the Management Committee (board) of Raise The Gong Inc. during the 2010/11 financial year.

### President:

**Chelsea Cappetta**

**Feb 2006 - current**

Chelsea holds a BSc Psychology degree with Honours, and Masters in Information Technologies and Communications in Education. Working as an education consultant for the local health service, she has extensive experience in project management, event coordination and marketing. Chelsea is a founding member of Raise The Gong Inc.

### Vice President:

**Melissa Jenner**

**Feb 2006 - current**

Melissa holds a Certificate III in Secretarial skills and a Statement of Attainment in Business Administration. Melissa has extensive experience in account and property management, and is the lead on any corporate sponsorship matters within the organisation. Melissa is a founding member of Raise The Gong Inc.

### Secretary:

**Kay Tiyce**

**December 2009 – current**

Kay has a strong background in human resources, training, policy development and occupational health and safety. Kay returned to the board in a temporary capacity as Acting Treasurer, and was nominated in a more permanent position as Secretary at our April 2010 AGM.

### Treasurer:

**Amy Craig**

**June 2008 - current**

Amy recently completed a Bachelor of Communications and Media, and currently works as Marketing Assistant. She travels from Sydney to attend Raise The Gong meetings each fortnight. Amy was nominated as Treasurer in April 2010 and has maintained this role since.

### Membership Services Officer:

**Alicia Wesley**

**February 2011 – current**

After resigning in 2009 and moving to Western Australia, Raise The Gong this year welcomed back Alicia to our team. Alicia has previously acted in the treasury role, and also as an Executive Board Member, and is now turning her hand to our Membership Services. Alicia has a strong administrative background.

### Executive Committee Member:

**Gemma Curci**

**September 2010 - current**

Gemma joined the board in September 2010 and brings to Raise the Gong sound organisational and planning skills, knowledge of legislative requirements, and strong interpersonal skills. She holds a Bachelor of Human Resource management, and is working towards an Advanced Masters of Business Administration. Gemma works for BlueScope Steel as a Senior HR Advisor and is a member of a number of professional networks across the Illawarra.

### Executive Committee Member:

**Kate Angelucci**

**November 2010 – current**

Kate joined the Raise The Gong team in January 2011. She has recently completed a Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in Health Promotion.

### Executive Committee Member:

**Tina Moreton**

**December 2010 – current**

Tina joined the board as an Executive Board Member in December 2010. She is currently working in hospitality management.



**Resigned Member:**

**Melanie Butler**

**April 2008 - April 2010**

After participating on the Raise The Gong board as both an Executive Board Member and Secretary, Melanie resigned from the board at the previous AGM in April 2010. Melanie was a wonderful, enthusiastic member of the team.

**Resigned Member:**

**Alison Bradford**

**September 2009 – July 2010**

Alison resigned from the board in July 2010 after participating as an Executive Board Member during her time with Raise The Gong. Alison was a key member of our event planning team, and with her strong organisational skills was the lead for our Stress Less Sunday event, and our liaison with local Metal for The Gong organisers.

**Resigned Member:**

**Bianca Carboni**

**April 2010 – September 2010**

Bianca left our board in September 2010 to concentrate on family and work commitments. Bianca currently works for the Leukaemia Foundation and is very passionate about fundraising for charity and health promotion. She was an active volunteer before joining the committee, assisting with our 2010 Stress Less Sunday event.

**Resigned Member:**

**Lisa Lole**

**February 2009 – April 2010**

Lisa joined the board as an Executive Board Member, and acted as Membership Services Officer for the last few months of her time with Raise The Gong. Lisa resigned from the board in April 2010 to concentrate on her PhD studies, and to start a family!

**Resigned Member:**

**Amy Porritt**

**April 2010 – November 2010**

Amy joined the board in April 2010 as an Executive Board Member whilst studying at Wollongong University. Amy acted as media liaison and worked on marketing and promotions for Raise The Gong. She recently resigned to undertake an overseas study program in the UK.

**Resigned Member:**

**Jennifer Denham**

**April 2010 – February 2011**

Jenny is a founding member of Raise The Gong, and has held various positions on the board since the establishment of the organisation in 2006. Most recently Jenny was our Membership Services Officer, returning to Raise The Gong in April 2010 after a year off to concentrate on family commitments. Jenny has recently commenced a Bachelor of Arts degree and has resigned to focus on completing this via distance education.



## Committee Structure

The committee structure of Raise The Gong remains the same. After a reshuffle of positions and reporting lines in 2009, we have now found the best structure for the organisation!

Separating the secretarial portfolio into general secretarial and membership services has been very successful, with a fairer distribution of workload and a better service provided to our members!

Over the next year we will see clearer reporting lines between the Treasurer and Vice President role.

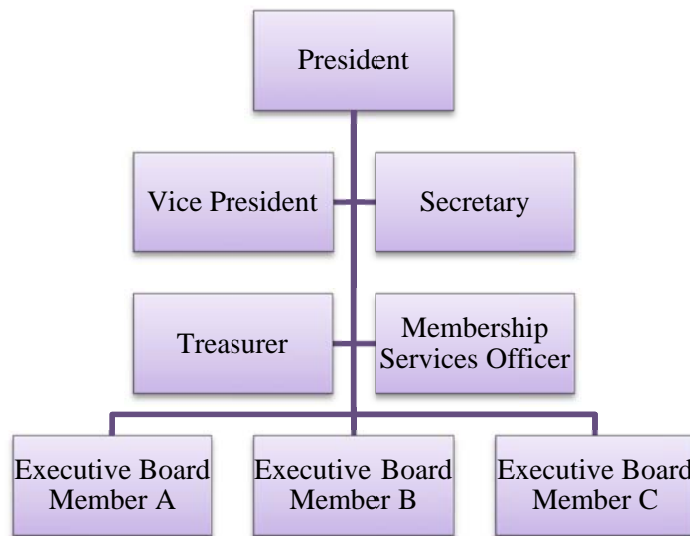


Figure 1: Committee Structure

## Meetings & Attendance

There were 27 meetings held within the 2010/11 financial year. These included four general meetings and two extraordinary meetings for event planning and preparation. The terms of the Raise The Gong constitution state that 80% attendance of eligible meetings is required from all board members. All but one board member met the required target.

This year the Raise The Gong committee established a formal leave policy, which takes into account planned absences. Board members are now required to complete a leave form for any known future absences.

The table below outlines attendance of each board member for this financial year:

Table 1: Board Member Attendance

Board Member	Eligible	Attended	%
Kate Angelucci	5	5	100.0%
Alison Bradford	11	9	81.8%
Melanie Bush	5	5	100.0%
Chelsea Cappetta	27	27	100.0%
Bianca Carboni	14	8	57.1%
Amy Craig	25	20	80.0%
Gemma Curci	11	11	100.0%
Jenny Denham	25	21	84.0%
Melissa Jenner	27	23	85.2%
Lisa Lole	5	5	100.0%
Tina Moreton	5	4	80.0%
Amy Porritt	17	15	88.2%
Kay Tiyce	22	18	80.2%
Alicia Wesley	2	2	100.0%

For the first time in the history of Raise The Gong, there were several board members who achieved 100% of their target attendance. We are hoping that this trend continues into the 2011/12 financial year.



### What is an eligible meeting?

This year Raise The Gong implemented a formal leave policy so board members would need to request leave. Meetings that occur during approved leave periods do not count towards the total 80% required attendance.

In the coming 2011/12 financial year, event attendance will also be included, making sure our Management Committee remains accountable to our members.

Also, some board members resigned part way through their term, and so they have a smaller number of eligible meetings.



## Strategic Planning

The board of Raise The Gong held a planning day in February 2011 to develop a Strategic Plan for the upcoming 2011/12 financial year. Board members who were present put their thinking caps on and contributed to a plan that outlines the goals and aims of the organisation over the coming 12 months – including:

- ☞ Quality improvement strategies for Raise The Gong’s management committee
- ☞ Increasing our presence both online and in the community
- ☞ Making changes to our website to better promote our board members as “real people” and give our members an opportunity to find out who we are
- ☞ Improve business process to better manage the time of our volunteer board members
- ☞ Setting timeframes for each of our objectives

This is the first time Raise The Gong have developed a formal plan for the future, so we look forward to reporting back next year on the progress and achievements we have made!



# General Meetings

As per our legislative requirements, Raise The Gong held three General Meetings during the 2010/11 financial year, to which all members, friends, sponsors and interested parties were invited to attend.

## June 2010 – Supporting Women with Cancer

The first of our general meetings for 2010/11 financial year was held in June. All members, supporters, sponsors and friends were invited to attend this event and have their ideas put on the Raise The Gong agenda for the coming year.

Approximately ten people attended, and we discussed a range of items including our prior year's health promotion activity and our future plans for the current year, giving those in attendance an update and advising that we would be looking to distribute the finalised chemo care kits into the Illawarra Treatment Centres by the end of 2010.

Also discussed at this meeting was the success of events including our annual Trivia Night held in May, Stress Less Sunday, held in March 2010, which saw great community participation, and Sex and The City 2 movie premiere, which was a resounding success. Sponsors for these events were publicly thanked at the meeting.

A representative from the Illawarra Women's Health Centre attended and spoke to members about mental Health issues and facilities and resources available to Women through their service and this topic was used as the health promotion component of the meeting.

## October 2010 – First Aid for Parents

This meeting was held at the University of Wollongong – Campus East. Our preliminary plans for First Aid Training were officially launched at the October General Meeting, and this topic was used as the health promotion component of the meeting. Members attended to discuss this campaign and helped us form ideas about how the First Aid Training could be distributed among local women most successfully.

Events including Hollywood Gala Night and Metal for the Gong were discussed and RTG advised that these events were greatly supported, with a good number of people in attendance. Sponsors for these events were publicly thanked at the meeting.

## December 2010 – Christmas Celebrations!

The Raise The Gong annual Christmas dinner was combined with the December general meeting and was held at the Hellenic Club, Figtree. Ten members attended, along with the regular board members, plus family members and children were also invited. Our Christmas dinner meeting is always a great chance for members to meet the team at Raise The Gong, and also for all of us to let our hair down and celebrate our achievements for the year.

New board members were officially welcomed at this meeting. It was advised that the Chemo Care Kits had now been distributed to the two Illawarra treatment centres and that this would be an ongoing project for Raise The Gong. We also discussed the First Aid Training, which we had launched at our previous meeting and the plans for these to be held in 2011, these topics forming the health promotion component of the meeting.

We look forward to meeting our members at general meetings and sharing our future directions. We are always keen to hear about new ideas for health promotion and fundraising. For the coming year, our General Meetings for 2011 have already been scheduled and these will be published on our website and distributed to members.



# ⌘ Legislation & Policy ⌘

## Policies

Raise The Gong implemented several new policies for the 2011/12 financial year. These include:

- ⌘ RTG-13 - Community Fundraising Policy
- ⌘ RTG-14 - Volunteer Management Policy
- ⌘ RTG-16 - Committee Member Leave Policy
- ⌘ RTG-17 – Selling Raffle Tickets in Public Spaces

## Legislative Compliance

### **Associations Incorporation Legislation**

Raise The Gong continue to comply with the rules of the Associations Incorporations Act, and new the Associations Incorporations Regulation 2010. This regulation was in draft last year, and was ratified this year, making it a legislative requirement for Raise The Gong to comply.

Changes to the current Act will result in the following changes being made to the processes of Raise The Gong:

- ⌘ The official address of the organisation will no longer need to be the residence of the public officer, and may be a place of business or employment
- ⌘ A common seal is no longer required for documentation, but instead the signatures of two (2) directors
- ⌘ Board members will be required to disclose any conflicts of interest, and the board must establish a process for addressing any identified conflicts
- ⌘ Board members resigning from the board are required to handover all items belonging to the organisation within 14 days of ceasing to hold office.
- ⌘ Raise The Gong will be classed as a “Tier 2” organisation under the new Act and will no longer require an audit, but will still need to provide a statement of all financial affairs each financial year

### **Charitable Fundraising Act 1991**

Raise The Gong was granted a five (5) year Authority to Fundraise from the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing. This authority is current until 2014 and will enable Raise The Gong to continue its fundraising efforts. Raise The Gong complies with this legislation by:

- ⌘ Keeping costs for raffles and prize draws within the percentage guidelines as outlined in the Act
- ⌘ Keeping records of all fundraising campaigns, including outlining expenses of administration of campaigns as a ratio to total proceeds of those events

### **Liquor Licensing**

Raise The Gong complied with conditions of the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing and applied for a temporary liquor licence to serve alcohol at the Sex and The City 2 Movie Premiere event in June 2010. We also arranged for board members to receive training in Responsible Service of Alcohol.

## Insurance

Raise The Gong this year continued policy for Public Liability Insurance – enabling the organisation to improve community services and allow larger scale events to be held. We also purchased Volunteer Protection Insurance for the first time in 2009 – providing a safer “workplace” for all volunteers associated with Raise The Gong.



# ☞ Sponsorship & Grants ☜

## **Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow Sponsorship**

The sponsorship agreement between Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow and Raise the Gong Inc. is now in its final year. Raise the Gong will receive a payment of \$8,000.00 for the 2010/2011 financial year.

The continued sponsorship of BBFM over the past three years has allowed RTG to continue our charitable work within the community as well as enabling us to afford to implement such things as Insurance, purchasing of administrative supplies and being able to buy much needed equipment and items to be able to host many of our fundraising events.

Raise the Gong have been extremely appreciative of the BBFM generosity and the support that they have provided over the years at our events and programs. It has been a wonderful partnership, who's support has allowed Raise the Gong to move forward and increase both our profile within the local community.

## **Community Development Support Expenditure (CDSE) Funding**

Raise the Gong applied for a grant this financial year through Clubs NSW Community Development Support Expenditure (CDSE) scheme, to assist us to implement a First Aid program for our members and the general public. We were approved for the funding with donations from both City Diggers and also Wollongong RSL Bowling Club, and received a cheque for \$1000.00 from each of these clubs. We are currently in the planning stages for these courses with our partner sponsor Wollongong First Aid.

Read more about this program in the Health Promotion section of this report.

## **Corporate Sponsors**

This year Raise The Gong implemented a Corporate Sponsorship program, to better keep track of large donations and support that is received from businesses throughout the year.

With a specific Sponsorship Package in place, businesses can clearly see where their financial and product donations will go, and also have the option to sponsor specific programs, projects or events. We have designated the task of managing corporate sponsors to the Vice President, to ensure that there is a single point of contact for businesses, and so that Raise The Gong can keep accurate records of the support we receive.

A full list of sponsors can be found in the Sponsors & Supporters section of this document.



# Health Promotion

## Chemo Care Kits

In November 2010, approximately 100 Chemo Care Kits were distributed across Dr Clingan's Rooms, and the Illawarra Cancer Care Center of Wollongong Hospital.

The wonderful nurses at both clinics tell us that patients have been accepting the bags, and we have received positive feedback from both the nurses who are giving the bags out, and the patients who have been receiving the bags!!

A number of patients have already made the most of the voucher books, whether it be heading into La Belle Beauty at Albion Park to have their nails painted for free, or getting their Laundry done at a discounted rate at Wollongong City Laundromat. The rest of the goodies in the bag – aimed at reducing the burden on women undergoing chemotherapy for the first time – are said to have been a great hit so far!!

Approximately 40 kits have been distributed since November to women receiving chemotherapy for the first time in the Illawarra. Suppliers continue to provide Raise The Gong with products for inclusion in the kits, and the Raise the Gong Board members are continually looking for new ways to improve and add to the kits!

Our Chemo Care Kit program is the major focus of Raise The Gong, as we continue to support our local women. At this stage we envisage distributing approximately 150 kits every 12 months, and continued funding will allow us to maintain the distribution of the kits for the foreseeable future.

## Stress Less Sunday

Stress Less Sunday 2010 was the second of these events for Raise The Gong. This year, however, we created the event with a festival type atmosphere, with stalls, activities and live entertainment. It also tied in with the local International Women's Day celebrations. Over 100 people attended Stress Less Sunday, including members of the Indian Australian Cultural Association who put on an impromptu Bollywood dancing lesson for all of our guests!

Members were given free Stress Less Kits and we had a pamper tent offering free massages and manicures to our local women who came along. A jumping castle, face painting and craft activities kept the kids amused, while the adults relaxed and enjoyed some live local entertainment.

The success of the event has cemented Stress Less Sunday as a regular event on the Raise The Gong calendar, and our 2011 event is set to be bigger and better.



## Trivia Night

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night for Women's Cancer Awareness was held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010. For the fourth year in a row, City Diggers Wollongong has donated the use of the auditorium for this event. The focus this year was on raising funds for our ongoing Chemo Care Kits and also to purchase equipment specifically for cancer services in our region.

The evening was a great success and we had over 120 people participating in the trivia event, and we also received several new memberships and renewals on the night.

In total the night raised \$3411.20 in ticket sales and door takings, and from raffles and games held on the night. These funds went directly towards the production of Chemo Care Kits for local women and to support our cancer services in the region.



## First Aid Courses

With the assistance of the CDSE grant, Raise the Gong are currently in the process of scheduling dates and times to provide free, First Aid to our members in the community that may be at a disadvantage or unable to attend training under normal circumstances. This will assist in increasing the health, safety and well-being of our members and their families. Our target groups are young women, and particularly for the First Aid for babies, toddlers and children. This will assist women, parents or grandparents with the confidence in knowing what to do in an emergency. We will also be providing crèche-type childcare and children's activities.

This program will enable us to provide local women with the opportunity to attend short courses which provide all the skills and information that they would receive if they undertook a Senior First Aid certificate – but at a fraction of the cost! We have also planned a short course specifically for First Aid of Babies and Toddlers. We will continue to apply for these grants in future years as they assist our organisation in achieving health promotion in the community.

The General First Aid courses will be open to anyone who wishes to attend, however we plan to promote these to carers and supporters of those with Cancer as our target market.



# ✧ In The Community ✧

## Relay for Life

Raise the Gong participated in the Illawarra Relay For Life on September 18th- 19th, raising just over \$300.00 for the Cancer Council. Relay For Life is an annual event held by the Cancer Council where teams join together to complete the mammoth 24-hour relay, keeping at least one member walking the track at all times.

Although we walk under the banner of Raise the Gong, we are actually individuals walking for personal motives and the opportunity to assist another charity. The team consisted of around 20 people all up, including some of our board members, members, friends and children. Our team walked an average of 15 laps an hour, totaling around 144km over the weekend.

The Candlelight ceremony saw Raise the Gong members light eight candles in memory of loved ones and the people who inspire us. There was great member participation, and we'd like to acknowledge Silvana Cappetta who participated in the opening survivors walk for Team Raise The Gong, and 10-year-old Georgia Denham as our highest individual fundraiser for the day. A huge thank you to all our dedicated walkers, helpers and fundraisers!

## RTG Goes Green

With the help of Green Solutions, our Raise The Gong Goes Green fundraising campaign was launched in June 2010. Green Solutions donated \$5.00 from every home assessment booked through Raise The Gong. These free home sustainability assessments were a government initiative. Members and their friends helped Raise The Gong earn \$100 from Green Solutions.



## Judo Sponsorship

In December, Raise The Gong were the proud sponsors of Jessie Sheridan from Wollongong Judo, sponsoring her end of year trophy for all her efforts and achievements throughout the year. Jessie is just the kind of person we love to support at Raise the Gong, as not only is she doing brilliantly in Judo (she's a green belt!), but she also dances professionally, studies musical instruments and is going great with her studies at school! Jessie's coach, Sensei Mick tells us Jessie has competed in a few interclub events, and was awarded Junior Club Person in 2010. Raise the Gong are thrilled to support such a talented young lady!!

## Volunteering Illawarra

Raise the Gong became a member of Volunteering Illawarra this year. We became Gold members for a period of 12 months. This allows us to be able to list our charity on the Illawarra database and also to seek volunteers for events when additional help is needed. Some of the benefits of the membership have been; discounted training for the Community Development and Training Calendar, personalised volunteer management assistance, professional assistance in governance and related Management Committee matters and guidance and assistance on volunteer recruitment and retention.



## A Sad Farewell...

The team at Raise The Gong were saddened to hear about the passing of Ritva Jantti in August 2010, and we send our condolences to her family and friends. Ritva, aged 66, passed away after a battle with ovarian cancer. She fought the illness with great courage, going into remission for six months after her initial treatment before the cancer returned.

The Raise The Gong team met the gracious Ritva in 2009 whilst she was undergoing chemotherapy at the Illawarra Cancer Care Centre when we visited to present them with a wheelchair being donated from the proceeds of our prior trivia night.

Ritva was a joy to be around and kept a smile on her face the whole time, through shots, poses and questions – definitely the star of the article that appeared in the Advertiser newspaper. After this article, Ritva continued to support Raise The Gong, and was a familiar face at our Annual Trivia Night for Women's Cancer.

Thank you, Ritva, for being an inspiration to many – Raise The Gong are pleased to have known you.



# ☞ Fundraising & Events ☜

## Hollywood Gala Fundraising Dinner & Raffle



Raise the Gong held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hollywood Gala Dinner and Fundraiser on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2010 with the wonderful help and venue provided by Portofino International Wollongong. There were over 100 guests in attendance whom were greeted with a red carpet entrance and personally seated by our very own Marilyn Munroe and Charlie Chaplin.

The evening was a wonderful success with entertainment provided by Leila & the Belly Babes doing a Bollywood and Belly Dancing show and also getting our guests involved in a show of their own. Awards were given on the night for our sponsors and supporters as well as awards given for Best Dressed Male & Female. All guests enjoyed a 3-course meal, drinks and entertainment, with much dancing and music.

Our major prize raffle of 2 tickets to Los Angeles was also drawn on the night, the lucky winner being Chris Duker – a school teacher who bought just ONE ticket.

In total, the night raised \$6004.00 – which included profits from raffle ticket sales. A great night was had by all who attended with many promises of attending again for the next scheduled Hollywood Gala Night.

## Sex and The City 2 Movie Premiere

The long awaited and greatly anticipated sequel to Sex and The City proved to be yet another sell out fundraising event for Raise The Gong.

With a focus on safe sex, our Sex and The City 2 event, which was held on the premiere night on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Greater Union Shellharbour, saw over 200 local women attend, many of whom came dolled up like their favourite stars in a bid to win the Best Dressed Awards. The event raised a total of \$1752.29.

All attendees received a Raise The Gong kit, with information and items to help promote safe sex, plus other bits and pieces for pampering.



## Where, O Where have our Garage Sales gone?

2010 marked the year of our final garage sale – and our Raise The Gong gals breathe a sigh of relief! After 5 years of collecting people's unwanted items for our annual garage sale, this type of fundraising was becoming less and less lucrative. The decision was made to cease our garage sales and concentrate our efforts on our health promotion activities. Thanks to everyone who saved us items, helped us set up, pack up, move and sell. Over 5 years you helped us raise \$4061.86!!



# Community Fundraising

In 2010, Raise The Gong officially launched its community fundraising package – that is a set of documents available to people or groups in the general public that want to fundraise for, or on behalf of Raise The Gong. Our community fundraising partnerships are very valuable to us. They are events that are already organised, and raise much needed funds for our charity. This year there were two community fundraising activities held on behalf of Raise The Gong.

## Metal for the Gong

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 local music organisation Metal For The Gong held a fundraiser evening on behalf of Raise The Gong at Dicey Riley's Hotel showcasing some of Wollongong's finest local metal bands. All door charge proceeds were donated to Raise The Gong.

The event was well attended and raised \$480.00. Metal For The Gong's Lincoln Harlen's efforts in holding this community fundraising event was fantastic and the money raised has assisted Raise The Gong in supplying the local cancer care centres with Chemo Care Kits.

On behalf of Raise The Gong, we extend our appreciation and thanks to Metal For The Gong for their support of the charity.

## Women's Workshop at Links Shell Cove

In March 2010, Raise The Gong received a phone call from Maria, the Food Muse. Maria has previously volunteered her services, giving education on healthy eating for a general meeting, and is a great friend of Raise The Gong. Maria and her business women's group were holding a free seminar for women with all funds raised from raffles on the night going to Raise The Gong. The "Build Your Confidence – Feel Better, Move Better, Eat Better, Look Better" seminar was held at the Links Gold Club Shellharbour on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2010, to tie in nicely with International Women's Day.

The seminar consisted of:

- ☞ Feel Better - Victoria McPhillips is able to help you get the most out of life by preventing injuries, enhancing recovery, promoting relaxation and reducing stress.
- ☞ Move Better – Julie Galbraith is a Pilates and Gyrotonic instructor with over 10 years teaching experience.
- ☞ Eat Better - Maria Mitzikis is a Natural Food Therapist and runs Illawarra's Premier Cooking School, teaching others how to return to our natural foods to break the habits of unhealthy eating.
- ☞ Look Better - Tamsin's Beauty offers professional skin and body treatments.

Each of these women donated their services as prizes and these were raffled on the night. Also included in the raffle were a \$50 voucher from Tom and Maria at Relish restaurant, Shellharbour, and a \$50 voucher from Julie at Green Poppy, Shellharbour.

About 30 women attended and made a gold coin donations to Raise the Gong. It was a fantastic and informative seminar with great food and an enthusiastic group of women. Through attendance, donations and raffle ticket sales \$468.00 was donated to Raise The Gong, and we are very appreciative of Maria's continued support of our organisation.



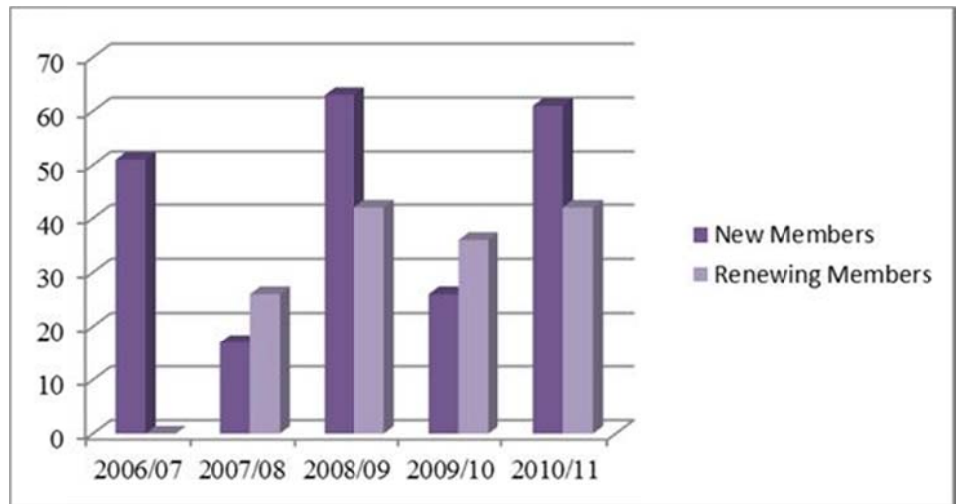
# Our Members

This year Raise The Gong retained a position directly for Membership Services, to provide members with a single point of contact for all queries relating to membership. This position worked closely with the rest of the team to establish new membership incentives and campaigns.

For the 2010/11 financial year there were 169 active members of Raise The Gong, 58 new members (compared to 26 for the 09/10 year) and 43 renewing members (compared to 36 for the 09/10 year). This is up considerably from the 2009/10 financial year. Possible reasons include the influx of new members received at numerous events plus increased public awareness of Raise the Gong Inc.

This has been a very successful membership year for Raise The Gong, matching our previous records for new and renewing members. With the implementation of our new 3-year memberships, the expectation was that our renewals may show a drop over the next couple of years. We are pleased to report that after a slight drop last year, our renewals were once again at the highest levels they have ever been! We now have many members that have been with us since our start in 2006, and we certainly hope to continue the trend of keeping our members long-term.

Figure 2: Annual Comparison of Membership



Raise The Gong held various membership drives throughout the year, offering healthy prizes to those lucky enough to win the member draws. In May 2010, we began a slow cooker promotion, to encourage healthy cooking in preparation for the winter months. In October 2010, we gave away two tickets to Jamberoo Recreation Park, to help promote active lifestyle for the coming summer months. These promotions helped boosted our membership numbers, and we will continue to hold membership drive promotions from time to time.

Other events that resulted in a spike in new memberships for this financial year were the premier of Sex and the City 2 at Greater Union Shellharbour, Stress Less Sunday, our annual trivia night, and our annual Hollywood night. Raise The Gong continues to promote membership options at all events receiving positive feedback and results from each event.

In December, all current members were issued with a Raise The Gong trolley token key-ring, which doubles as a membership token. This membership token will be used in our upcoming Membership Benefits program. We are currently gathering a list of local businesses who are willing to support the members of Raise The Gong by providing a freebie, discount, special or other offer to our members. We plan to launch and develop our Membership Benefits program throughout the coming year.

Raise the Gong are continuing to use GiftWorks software to manage our membership details. This has had a positive impact on membership services with the ability to automate processes such as renewal letters and birthday greetings.



# Marketing & Communications

## Facebook

Raise The Gong implemented Facebook as a group communication tool back in July 2007 – at a time when we had to twist the arm of several of our board members to join – wow, haven't we come a long way! Raise The Gong maintain a "page" and a "group" on Facebook – each with around 700 people attached to it. Facebook is now a primary communication and promotion tool for Raise The Gong, allowing us to notify our "friends" and followers of upcoming events, campaigns, ticket sales, photos, and general information about the organisation.

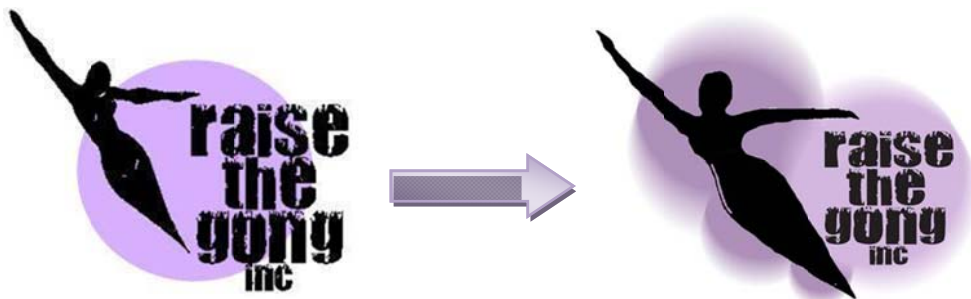
The board members of Raise The Gong also have a private Facebook group that is used for shared conversations and communications whilst we investigate the best options for online collaboration.

## Newsletter

Raise The Gong continued to publish "The Raiser" newsletter at regular intervals throughout the year. With a change in our website, the formatting of the newsletter became a little more difficult to manage, and so we have just made a purchase of Newsletter Manager software – a program that allows for HTML emails to be sent directly from the internet. We are hoping that such a system will streamline the delivery process for our newsletters and information.

## New Logo and Branding

At the end of 2010, Raise The Gong launched a new logo, to bring us into the new year. After five years of operation, we felt it was time to "refresh" our look. Our new logo is a little softer around the edges, not unlike some of us! All our documentation is slowly being changed over to the new logo, but you might see our old one pop up from time to time as we move through this process. In addition, our standard template documents, such as letterheads, have also been updated.



# IT & Web Development

## IT Equipment and Software

This year, Raise The Gong was in a financial position to purchase additional equipment, laptops and software for our volunteer board members – largely thanks to the funding we received from Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow! Each board member now has a designated laptop, which contains all the documents and products necessary to perform their tasks as a member of our management committee.

## New Look Website

In July 2010, Raise The Gong launched a new look website. Our new website was designed to be more user friendly, and have more information about our organisation and what we do. One of the things our board was eager to do this year was to “put a face to a name”, and provide a more personalized site for our visitors and members. To do this, we added a board member page, with mini-bios and photographs of all our current board members. We also added galleries of photographs of our events and campaigns.

## Web Statistics

As has been the case with past years, the [www.raisethegong.org.au](http://www.raisethegong.org.au) website gets significantly more traffic when there are events or campaigns on. There are obvious peaks in April and May as we started selling our Sex and The City Movie Premiere tickets, and also in July and August when our Hollywood tickets were on sale.

This year, on average there were 200 unique visitors to our website per month, and an average of 3909 hits per month.



Figures 3 & 4: Visits and hits to [www.raisethegong.org.au](http://www.raisethegong.org.au)

## Online collaboration

One of the things we struggle with as an organisation is the lack of an IT server, or shared online space that we can use to collaborate on tasks and issues. This year we continued to use Google Groups as our shared space, however, to our dismay, Google have now discontinued the functionalities that we use!

We are currently looking into getting a licence to use Google Apps – an online collaboration system that includes e-mail, calendars, contacts, discussion boards and space for shared documents. We are hopeful that this will provide a solution to our current IT issues.



# Financial Report

Table 2: Balance of Accounts 2010/11

Balance of Accounts		
<b>General</b>	<i>Bendigo Bank Account</i>	\$ 20,728.50
	<i>Bendigo VISA Debit</i>	\$ 733.10
	<i>Gift Fund</i>	\$ 641.85
<b>Sub-total</b>		\$ 22,103.45
<b>Cash on Hand</b>	<i>(incl. unbanked cheques)</i>	\$ 8,899.50
<b>Petty Cash</b>		\$ 83.30
<b>PayPal</b>		\$ 73.42
<b>Monies Owing</b>		\$ 15.00
<b>Ebay Credit</b>		\$ 7.23 <sup>a</sup>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 31,181.90

## Notes to Financial Report

The notes below refer to the financial report, both balance of accounts above and income and expenditure statement on the following page:

<sup>a</sup> A total of \$7.23 remains in credit in eBay online services. This cannot be withdrawn and remains an account credit until such time as the eBay account is reopened.

<sup>b</sup> Trivia Night total does not include deductions for general administrative expenses for items that were purchased for this event. Actual total in for trivia night after expenses is \$3411.20.

<sup>c</sup> Stress Less Sunday falls at the end of financial year annually, therefore we will report on two figures for expenses and income occurring within two financial years.

<sup>d</sup> Members contributed \$5.00 per head towards Xmas Dinner function.

<sup>e</sup> Donations include additional donations made when members join, or any general donations

<sup>f</sup> This income is from Community Fundraising, where members of the community fundraise on behalf of Raise The Gong and donate proceeds.

<sup>g</sup> CDSE is Community Development Scheme Expenditure funding provided by Clubs NSW. Raise The Gong were receipts of \$1000.00 each from City Diggers, and Wollongong RSL Bowling Club.

<sup>h</sup> This figure includes premiums for two policies - for Public Liability and Volunteer Protection Insurances

<sup>i</sup> Postage costs include inventory of stamps and postage packs to the value of \$12.50

<sup>j</sup> Carlisse expenses include monies owed by Raise The Gong for shoes, handbags and children's clothes, from consignment sales occurring in 2008-09.

<sup>k</sup> A quantity of 1000 member tokens were purchased this financial year. This inventory is expected to last for several financial years, so this cost will not be recurrent.

<sup>l</sup> Sale of Inventory includes monies owing amount of \$15.00 for goods from garage sale.

## Declaration

As Directors of the Board of Raise The Gong Inc, we hereby declare these reports to be a true and accurate account of the financial status of the association/charity.



**Chelsea Cappetta**  
President



**Melissa Jenner**  
Vice President



Table 3: Income &amp; Expenditure Table

Income			
<b>Memberships</b>			<b>\$ 2,780.00</b>
	<i>New Members</i>	\$ 1,470.00	
	<i>Renewing Members</i>	\$ 1,310.00	
<b>Campaigns</b>			<b>\$ 14,070.00</b>
	<i>Hollywood Gala</i>	\$ 7,020.00	
	<i>Hollywood Gala Raffle</i>	\$ 7,050.00	
<b>Health Promotion Income</b>			<b>\$ 10,502.25</b>
	<i>Trivia Night</i>	\$ 4,431.20 <sup>b</sup>	
	<i>Sex and The City 2</i>	\$ 5,497.50	
	<i>Stress Less Sunday 2010</i>	\$ 463.05 <sup>c</sup>	
	<i>Stress Less Sunday 2011</i>	\$ 10.50 <sup>c</sup>	
	<i>Member Xmas Dinner</i>	\$ 100.00 <sup>d</sup>	
<b>Donations</b>			<b>\$ 2,367.40</b>
	<i>Donations</i>	\$ 478.90 <sup>e</sup>	
	<i>Links Women's Seminar</i>	\$ 468.65 <sup>f</sup>	
	<i>BHP Billiton GiveWell</i>	\$ 501.85	
	<i>La Belle Fundraiser</i>	\$ 265.55 <sup>f</sup>	
	<i>Metal for the Gong</i>	\$ 480.00 <sup>f</sup>	
	<i>Donation Boxes</i>	\$ 172.45	
<b>Bank Interest</b>			<b>\$ 323.50</b>
<b>Bank Account Rollover</b>			<b>\$ 7.33</b>
<b>Sale of Inventory</b>			<b>\$ 16.10<sup>g</sup></b>
<b>E-bay Credit</b>			<b>\$ 7.23<sup>g</sup></b>
<b>Sponsorships</b>			<b>\$ 10,500.00</b>
	<i>Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow</i>	\$ 7,000.00	
	<i>CDSE – NSW Clubs Funding</i>	\$ 2,000.00 <sup>g</sup>	
	<i>Event Sponsorships</i>	\$ 1,500.00	
			<b>TOTAL \$ 40,573.81</b>
Expenses			
<b>Health Promotion Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 12,544.41</b>
	<i>Chemo Care Kits</i>	\$ 3,778.42	
	<i>Relay for Life</i>	\$ 514.90	
	<i>Stress Less Sunday 2010</i>	\$ 3,064.72 <sup>c</sup>	
	<i>Stress Less Sunday 2011</i>	\$ 962.76 <sup>c</sup>	
	<i>Sex and The City 2</i>	\$ 3,732.61	
	<i>Judo Sponsorship</i>	\$ 150.00	
	<i>Member Xmas Dinner</i>	\$ 341.00	
<b>Marketing and Promotion</b>			<b>\$ 2,587.70</b>
	<i>Printing and Stationery</i>	\$ 1,358.54	
	<i>Promotion</i>	\$ 1,229.16	
<b>Business &amp; Administration</b>			<b>\$ 6,812.27</b>
	<i>Telephone and Fax</i>	\$ 129.95	
	<i>Computer and Internet</i>	\$ 4,077.90	
	<i>Subscriptions &amp; Licences</i>	\$ 106.00	
	<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$ 783.92	
	<i>Insurance</i>	\$ 1,490.00 <sup>h</sup>	
	<i>Postage</i>	\$ 224.50 <sup>j</sup>	
<b>Campaign Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 8,379.00</b>
	<i>Hollywood Gala Fundraiser</i>	\$ 6,113.00	
	<i>Hollywood Raffle</i>	\$ 2,016.00	
	<i>Carlisse</i>	\$ 250.00 <sup>j</sup>	
<b>Donations</b>			<b>\$ 159.90</b>
<b>Furniture and Fittings</b>			<b>\$ 2,017.00</b>
<b>Fees and Charges</b>			<b>\$ 389.49</b>
	<i>Bank Fees</i>	\$ 127.94	
	<i>Merchant Charges</i>	\$ 261.55	
<b>Volunteer &amp; Member Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 2,552.46</b>
	<i>General Expenses</i>	\$ 150.00	
	<i>Gifts</i>	\$ 121.45	
	<i>Uniforms</i>	\$ 396.46	
	<i>Member Tokens</i>	\$ 1,428.90 <sup>k</sup>	
	<i>Volunteer Meals</i>	\$ 360.65	
	<i>Training</i>	\$ 95.00	
			<b>TOTAL \$ 35,442.23</b>
<b>Balance Forward (rollover from 2009/10)</b>			<b>\$ 26,050.32</b>
<b>Income</b>			<b>\$ 40,573.81</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 35,442.23</b>
		<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$31,181.90</b>



## Comparison Tables

The following table shows the growth of Raise The Gong over the past five years. The organisation has shown a significant increase over the past few years. This year the increase was not so prominent, but this was mainly due to the additional expenses incurred in completing the business set-up of the organisation, e.g. purchase of computers for all volunteer board members, etc. It is expected that expenditure in future years will reduce, now that we have established our assets and business processes.

Table 4: Annual Rollover Comparisons 2006-11

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<b>Rollover</b>	\$ -	\$ 3,248.39	\$ 4,360.07	\$ 9,843.18	\$ 26,050.32
<b>Income</b>	\$ 8,182.03	\$ 4,930.47	\$ 16,570.36	\$ 28,668.40	\$ 40,573.81
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 4,933.64	\$ 3,818.79	\$ 11,087.25	\$ 12,461.26	\$ 35,442.23
<b>BALANCE</b>	\$ <b>3,248.39</b>	\$ <b>4,360.07</b>	\$ <b>9,843.18</b>	\$ <b>26,050.32</b>	\$ <b>31,181.90</b>

The other consideration for Raise The Gong in future years is the ongoing costs involved in production and distribution of our Chemo Care Kits. This expense will be ongoing and we have strategised to ensure fundraising occurs each year specifically to cover these costs.

## Income & Expense by Category

Figure 5, and Figure 6, below show a percentage breakdown of income and expense by category. The majority of Raise The Gong's income comes from campaigns such as Hollywood Gala Fundraising dinner and the accompanying Hollywood raffle. This accounted for almost 35% of all income. Health Promotion income, from events such as Trivia Night and Stress Less Sunday; and Sponsorships accounted for approximately 26% each.

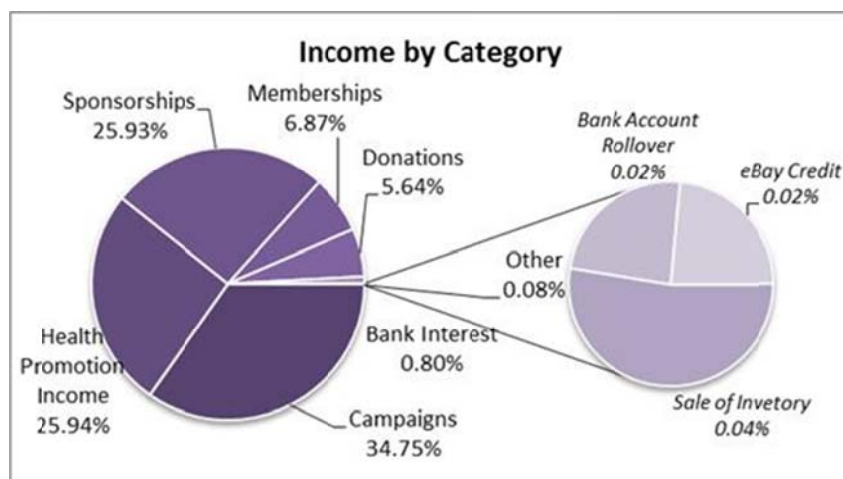


Figure 5: Income Categories by Percentage

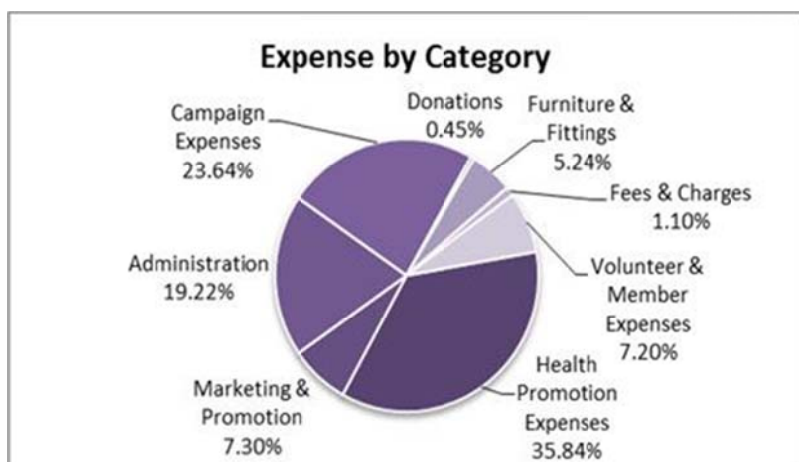


Figure 6: Expense Categories by Percentage

Overall, health promotion expenditure accounted for around 36% of all our spending this financial year. Campaign expenditure includes costs associated with running campaigns, such as hire and lease expenses, ticket costs etc. Raise The Gong receives reimbursement for these costs from attendees who attend our fundraising events, so although this figure shows expenses of around 24% of total spending, most of these funds are returned. For example, total campaign expenditure was \$8379.00, and campaign income was \$14070.00, creating a profit of \$5691.00 from this year's campaigns.



# Future Directions

## Berkeley Rugby League Football Club Charity Partnership

Raise the Gong are currently in negotiations with Berkeley Sports Rugby League Football Club (BSRLFC) to develop a charity partnership with their Women's Rugby League Team. This partnership will see a relationship built between Raise the Gong and the BSRLFC, with us proudly supporting the Women's team as they go into the 2011 football season. More information on this will be provided upon agreement being reached.



## Stress Less Sunday

Once again our annual event, Stress Less Sunday will be held at Stuart Park, Wollongong on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. The event aims to promote awareness of the signs of stress, reduce the impact of stress in our lives and aims to give community members strategies to overcome stress. Free 'Stress Less Kits' will be given to members and also new members who signed up on the day and sponsors will be given a VIP kit. A 'Kids Corner' including a jumping castle and face painting will allow parents to de-stress in peace by receiving a free massage or manicure in the pamper tent while the kids are happy playing under supervision. Huge marquees and bean bags will aid families to relax in comfort this year while listening to our live entertainment and watching our live performances including the Envy Boutique catwalk and TJ Viney's Zumba. Our volunteers will play a big part in the day by running a book stall, selling raffle tickets and organising our entertainers, among other tasks. After a great Stress Less Sunday 2010, it is hoped that 2011 will be just as successful!

## Regular Events

### Annual Trivia Night for Women's Cancer Awareness

Approaching its 6<sup>th</sup> year, our annual Trivia Night will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at City Diggers. As our next Trivia Night falls on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, the night will have a "spooky" theme with attendees encouraged to wear costumes and answer lots of spooky and kooky questions. The event aims to raise awareness of women's cancers, and includes a health promotion component.

### Hollywood Gala Fundraising Dinner

After the wonderful success of our second Hollywood Night in 2010, the event is planned to be held again in 2011. As usual, there will be a Hollywood raffle run in the lead up to the event, with the major prize being a travel voucher to the value of \$2000 to be spent on travel to wherever the winner's heart desires!



# ☞ Sponsors & Supporters ☜

## Major Sponsor

Raise The Gong would like to thank the board and staff of **Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow** for their ongoing sponsorship, now in its third year! The contribution from Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow has allowed us to purchase equipment and establish our organisation with a good foundation for future growth. We sincerely appreciate it.



Special thanks to **City Diggers, Wollongong** and **Wollongong RSL Bowling Club**, both of which nominated Raise The Gong to receive community funding from their clubs. These funds will go towards our first aid classes for our members and supporters.



Raise The Gong would also like to acknowledge the support and contributions of the following businesses, who supported, donated or assisted us during the 2009/10 financial year:

## Local Sponsors and Supporters

- ☞ Attitude to Burn
- ☞ Austbrokers City State
- ☞ Bendigo Bank Board
- ☞ Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow
- ☞ The Cheesecake Shop, Dapto
- ☞ Chickos
- ☞ City Diggers
- ☞ Coastline Printing
- ☞ Flagstaff Print and Mail
- ☞ The Food Muse – Maria Mitzikis
- ☞ Greater Union, Shellharbour
- ☞ Green Solutions
- ☞ Guru Coffee, Shellharbour
- ☞ Hotel Illawarra
- ☞ Infinity Productions
- ☞ Jamberoo Recreation Park
- ☞ Just Cuts
- ☞ Kollaras Group
- ☞ LaBelle Beauty Therapy
- ☞ Lagoon Seafood Restaurant
- ☞ Leila and The Belly Babes
- ☞ Leisure Coast Fruit Market
- ☞ Lorraine Lea Linen
- ☞ Mystique All Body Beauty
- ☞ Oporto, Wollongong
- ☞ The Personal Touch Lingerie, Kiama
- ☞ Portofino Function Centre
- ☞ Rekrete Ladies Fitness
- ☞ Relaxamedial Therapies
- ☞ Ryans Dry Cleaners Kiama
- ☞ Sensis Wollongong
- ☞ Southern Cross TEN
- ☞ Southern Medical Day Care Centre
- ☞ SupaGas, Cringila
- ☞ TDK Corporation
- ☞ Vanessa Pike-Russell Photography
- ☞ Verekers Lawyers
- ☞ Video Ezy, Figtree
- ☞ Wollongong Cancer Care Unit
- ☞ Wollongong City Laundromat
- ☞ Wollongong First Aid
- ☞ Wollongong Judo



## National Supporters and Sponsors

-  Albury Enviro Bags
-  BIG 4 Holiday Parks
-  Book Margins
-  Bridgeclimb
-  Capilano Honey Ltd
-  Captain Cook Cruises
-  Corban & Blair
-  Crown & Andrews
-  DFO
-  Film Ink Magazine
-  GlaxoSmithKline
-  Glyde Health
-  Health Directions
-  Kumfs Shoes
-  Little Wrap Bags
-  Mars Foods
-  Mary Kay
-  Mish Mash Soaps
-  Mitchell's Cap Co.
-  MTA Travel
-  News Magazines
-  Platinum Liquor
-  Real Foods Pty Ltd
-  Rubi Rocket
-  Staedtler Pacific
-  Sydney Technology Solutions
-  THQ Asia Pacific



# Notes of Appreciation

The board of Raise The Gong would like to make special mention of the following individuals and businesses, who have help us throughout the year:

- ☞ To the **Management & Staff of Bendigo Bank Fairy Meadow**, who provide us with sponsorship that allows Raise The Gong to keep doing work in the community.
- ☞ To **Adam Rippon of Sydney Technology Solutions**, for providing the most valuable IT support ever, and for dealing with our multitude of questions....
- ☞ To **Manuel & Team at Portofino Function Centre**, for supporting our events by providing a great venue, and always supplying us with spectacular food!
- ☞ To **Dean Hyatt from Infinity Productions**, for doing all the hard yards to make sure our Hollywood event is the success it is.
- ☞ To **Robbie Rodwell of City Diggers**, for providing the room for our Trivia Night without cost or question, and always being available to assist us.
- ☞ To **Belinda & Laurelle at La Belle Beauty**, for their ongoing support of everything Raise The Gong, from prize donations to membership, from volunteering to community fundraising – we thank you immensely for all that you have done!
- ☞ To **Ken Tugrul of TDK Corporation**, for use of board room facilities and being a great supporter of all our campaigns and events.
- ☞ To **Valerie Hussain**, for stepping in as our official photographer at Hollywood night, and taking some amazing photos of an amazing evening!
- ☞ To **Vic Cuoco of Verekers Lawyers**, for always supporting our raffles and events, and providing us with many leads and contacts to help us out.
- ☞ To **Lisa Bahamondes** of MTA Travel, for being so helpful with organising our major travel prizes for our Hollywood raffle.
- ☞ To **Lincoln Harlen**, for appealing to a whole new crowd by organising the first ever “Metal for the Gong” and raising funds for Raise The Gong.
- ☞ To **Maria Mitzikis, The Food Muse** – for organising a workshop for local women in the community and fundraising for Raise The Gong
- ☞ To **Silvana & Lou Cappetta**, and **Peter & Susy Cama**, for helping us through every garage sale we’ve ever had, and still being there for our very last one....don’t think we didn’t hear the sighs of relief!
- ☞ To **Denis Verner**, for providing temporary storage for boxes upon boxes of Chemo Care Kits!
- ☞ To our dedicated members **Sarah Zarembo, Ros McIntyre, Tania Nichamin** and **Olivia Kelle**, who are always willing to help in preparation for our events and activities.
- ☞ A special thanks to the businesses that supported our Hollywood Gala Fundraising, by organising tables of staff to attend – thank you **NAB Business Banking Wollongong, RMB Lawyers Wollongong**, and **The Beaveridge Family & Team at Coastline Security**.



# Ways to Assist

There are several ways to assist Raise The Gong Inc in their mission to promote women's health, and assist women's cancer services:

## Membership

Joining Raise The Gong is the best way to show your support. Membership is \$20.00 per year, or \$50.00 for three years and contributes to the costs of maintaining and running the organisation. Members receive a regular newsletter, discounts on fundraising campaigns and invitations and discounts for special events. Information on how to join is available on the website, [www.raisethegong.org.au](http://www.raisethegong.org.au), along with downloadable membership forms.

## Sponsorship

Raise The Gong welcomes enquiries from businesses who wish to support the efforts of a local charity. We are often seeking one-off sponsors for specific events and campaigns, and always ensure that our sponsors are promoted at every opportunity. Please contact [fundraising@raisethegong.org.au](mailto:fundraising@raisethegong.org.au) for more details.

## Supporting Fundraising Campaigns

Raise The Gong often hold sweeps and raffles also, and welcome participants in these events. All proceeds of any drive or fundraiser go directly to the charity, and assist in our efforts towards health promotion.

## Volunteer!

Volunteering to assist Raise The Gong allows us to continue to run our programs and events. Each year we open nominations for board members and encourage any persons interested to raise their hand for these positions. We also keep a register of people who are willing to cover temporary board vacancies, for board member leave periods or resignations that occur prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Events often need extra people to make them run smoothly. If you can't commit to a regular volunteer role on the board, you can still assist as a volunteer at our events. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact us at [info@raisethegong.org.au](mailto:info@raisethegong.org.au)

## Donations

Financial support is most welcome, and contributes to the "gift fund" of Raise The Gong, which goes towards projects, programs and directly assisting women in need throughout the Illawarra region. Most donated funds go towards the development and distribution of our Chemo Care Kits, that are distributed free of charge to all local women who enter into chemotherapy treatment for the first time.

## Event Attendance

By attending the events held by Raise The Gong, you help women and the promotion of women's health in our region. Our regular events include: Stress Less Sunday, Trivia Night for Women's Cancer Awareness, and Hollywood Gala Dinner. There are other smaller events scheduled throughout the year.

## Spread The Word!

The best way to promote Raise The Gong is to let others know that we exist. As a small, and 100% volunteer run health promotion charity, we work hard to make our organisation one that will work towards promoting women's health, and creating fun events for the community to participate in. Tell your friends!



## ☯ Contact Details ☯



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