



Bribie Weekly
Friday 19/03/2010

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Sufferers seize the day for a cure

By **SHEREE ECHLIN**

SUSANNE Wain knows the physical and emotional pain of living with epilepsy, but she hasn't let it get her down.

And now she wants to help others.

After reading about Joe Maver and Caboolture Realty's mission to raise the profile of epilepsy awareness in the community through Purple Day, Susanne wanted to contribute.

Susanne sustained a substantial head injury after falling from a highchair at a young age. Her parents were told that she would suffer seizures for the rest of her life. But it wasn't until Susanne was 25 and pregnant with her first child that she suffered a massive grand mal seizure, one that caused her to lose her memory for three days.

"It was a very confusing time," Susanne said shrugging her shoulders. "It took me a couple of weeks to get myself together again."

It hasn't been an easy ride for Susanne who lost her partner 22 years ago, leaving her with two

young sons. Susanne found casual work and kept her family going and just when it felt like life was moving along normally her eldest son was diagnosed with cancer.

With the combined stress of dealing with her son's diagnosis and managing her sister's bakery Susanne suffered another grand mal seizure right in front of customers.

Following this seizure Susanne had to revoke her driver's licence which meant she could no longer travel to work. She felt like she was letting her family down but her biggest concern was for the health of her son and now more than five years later he is clear of cancer.

Last year Susanne made a decision that has made a big difference to her life, she had surgery, a decision inspired by rugby league legend and television presenter Wally Lewis after she met him last year.

"I haven't had a seizure in nine months which means I could soon have my licence again," Susanne

said with a big smile.

"It's a big difference to know I could study and work and just have a life again.

Caboolture Realty principal Joe Maver said having someone like Susanne come on board to help raise the profile of awareness had made it all worthwhile.

"Hopefully what we are doing has an impact on the community," he said. "Epilepsy can affect anyone at anytime, in fact most people know someone whether it's a family member of friend affected by this disorder."

Joe said he would love to see people wearing purple or lavender on Friday March 26 in support of epilepsy awareness

In the lead up to Purple Day Joe and his team have organised a bucket brigade to visit businesses in Caboolture from March 22 to 26 and on March 22 there will a balloon release in Caboolture and on Bribie Island. If you would like to contribute or become involved in Purple Day phone John Denman on 0438 791 004.

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GIVING A HELPING HAND: Caboolture Realty's Joe Maver with Susanne Wain.

Photo: Jason Dougherty