



Caboolture News Wednesday 17/03/2010

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A purple patch

Campaign lifts epilepsy profile

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 through Purple Day, Susanne wanted to contribute.

Susanne sustained a 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 hasn't been an easy ride for Susanne, who lost her partner 22 years ago, leaving her with two young sons. She found 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 she had to revoke her driver's li-

cence, which meant she could no longer travel to work. But her biggest concern was for her son and now, more than five years later, he is clear of cancer.

In 2009, Susanne had surgery, a decision inspired by rugby league legend Wally Lewis.

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

A bucket brigade will visit Caboolture businesses from March 22-26, and there will a balloon release in Caboolture and on Bribie Island on March 22.

Inquiries phone 0438 791 004.

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PURPLE DAY: Helping raise awareness of epilepsy in the community, Caboolture Realty's Joe Maver with Susanne Wain.

Photo: Jason Dougherty/c15666