Losing her locks for leukaemia

At 22 years of age, Department of the Chief Minister Print Management Officer, CAITLIN BENDER, has already seen leukaemia and cancer affect too many people in her life.

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o when her birthday came around this year, she wanted to mark the occasion with something meaningful to support those doing it tough. Next month Caitlin will shave her head as part of the World’s Greatest Shave event, which sees tens of thousands of people across Australia shave their heads to support the work of the Leukaemia Foundation.

The Leukaemia Foundation works to provide affected families with emotional and practical support, and invests in urgent research to help beat blood cancer. Thirty one people are diagnosed with leukaemia each day and 60,000 people are currently battling the disease in Australia.

Caitlin’s original aim was to raise $5000. However, after raising $800 on her first day of fundraising – and $2000 by the end of her first week, she’s been encouraged to set her sights on a much larger bucket of funds.

The local business community has shown special support through sponsorship of prizes and event venue. A recent funds drive at a local venue raised $8000 in one night.

Shaving off her long locks will no doubt be daunting for Caitlin. However she sees this as a small sacrifice compared to losing a loved one to leukaemia.

Caitlin is still on a fundraising mission before her head is shaved on October 3. A donation to Caitlin is a donation towards finding a cure for leukaemia, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Please visit Caitlin’s page to make donations: https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/FundraisingPage.aspx?RegistrationID=587912#panel1

How a friendly visit led to a career in Housing

MISTY Taaka wasn’t expecting to work in the community. She came to Lajamanu to visit a friend, decided to stay longer and landed a part-time job as a school attendance supervisor before starting work with a non-government organisation (NGO) as a community housing officer (CHO).

Misty spent about a year working in Lajamanu, in a role that saw her doing inspections and collecting documents and other paperwork from tenants.

The thing I loved about the job was getting out and meeting everybody in the community, then getting back to the office and communicating with Housing.”

Misty moved to Wadeye in March 2015 and soon after, applied for and won Housing’s tenancy contract officer role.

Misty is no stranger to life in remote locations, having worked in remote communities in New Zealand before moving to Australia.

“I love it,” she says of community life. “It just reminds me of home. People are friendly to me, they remind me of my people back home – the cultures are quite similar.”

To succeed in the work, you need to have a lot of patience and be very open-minded,” Misty said. “You need communications and people skills, and cultural awareness. I think everything else falls into place after that,” she said.

Northern Territory Firefighter wins innovation Award

NORTHERN Territory Senior Firefighter Bill Gleeson has been awarded the Australian Fire and Emergency Services Knowledge Innovation Award. Chief Fire Officer Steve Rothwell said the award recognised innovation and contributions of a person in the advancement of knowledge management within their agency.

“Bill has received this award for developing a Station Management System for the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS).”

The Station Management System has been designed to assist operational station officers manage their day to day protected activities. “Bill has been recognised for his personal ownership of the project and the significant impact the introduction of the NTFRS Station Management System has made to our systems of business.”

The award was presented to Bill at the recent Australian Fire and Emergency Services/Bushfires and Natural Hazards conference in Adelaide.

The award includes $2500 which will go towards Bill’s professional development.

This caps off a successful year for Bill – in June he was awarded the Northern Territory Career Firefighter of the Year award.