Jennifer won’t let new cancer blow beat her

Jennifer Fitzgibbins with two of her four children - Riley, 8 months, and Logan, 2. A community fundraising effort is under way for the Fitzgibbins family to travel to Canada so Jennifer can see her family and continue cancer treatment.

By MARIA BILLIAS

IF anyone can beat unlikely odds, it’s Palmerston mum-of-four Jennifer Fitzgibbins.

Batting against triple negative cancer of the brain, lymph nodes and bones, doctors have told the 29-year-old she has just months to live.

But having proven medical specialists wrong once before, Mrs Fitzgibbins, her Defence Force husband Scott and their children will fly out to her native Canada this weekend in a bid to fight what will no doubt be the biggest challenge of their lives.

“I am hopeful. I want to say (to the cancer) ‘sorry but I’m not going to fit in with your guidelines ... your time frame doesn’t work with my lifestyle,’ ” said Mrs Fitzgibbins.

“There’s too much to do. I want simple things I’ve finish my degree, raise my kids.

“I know it can never be cured but there is always potential to buy more time. Hopefully if the treatment is effective and they can keep everything at bay, then that’s my goal.”

Mrs Fitzgibbins has already overcome slim odds when doctors first diagnosed her with aggressive breast cancer in 2010 and told her she would not be able to conceive any more children.

After a double mastectomy, chemotherapy and reconstructive surgeries, Mrs Fitzgibbins went on to have her two youngest sons Logan, now 2 and Riley, eight months, joining older boys Ethan, 7 and Connor, 5.

“After treatment they gave me less than a 2 per cent chance of ever having kids again so that’s why I am hoping that I can prove them wrong again and go for a holiday and come back,” she said.

Mrs Fitzgibbins said doctors confirmed the cancer had returned and spread to her brain just 10 days ago.

Her parents and siblings live in Canada where Mrs Fitzgibbins was raised, so the family will leave for her to receive treatment in Edmonton.

Friends have set up a fundraising website for the family.

People can donate at: mycause.com.au/page/84618/loveforthe Fitzgbibbins

Facility’s bearing fruit

A NEW hi-tech building and equipment will assist research targeted at boosting the quality of Northern Territory mangos and other fruit.

The fruit ripening facility at the Coastal Plains Research Farm is operated by the NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

The $9.6m building can record temperature, humidity, ethylene and CO2 levels.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Willem Westra van Holthe said this was a fantastic new initiative which would see huge benefits to industry.

“More than 5000 mangos are being ripened in the facility as part of a collaborative research project investigating the causes of resin canal defect in mangos and possible mitigation strategies,” he said.

Building site run-off risk

LOCAL builders are being reminded to prepare and implement erosion and sediment control measures.

Rain over the past two nights has caused significant erosion and sediment issues on a number of building sites.

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority chair Dr Bill Freeland said the sediment from building sites was concerning.

“Sediment inputs to Darwin Harbour are approximately double that expected under natural conditions,” he said.

“Building sites can release 100 to 1000 times the sediment released following construction and implementation of landscaping.

“This negatively impacts on the region’s waterways and potentially areas of Darwin Harbour.”

Imports lure car buyers

AUSTRALIANS are falling out of love with locally made cars faster than expected.

Figures for October show that sales of Australian-made cars have tanked and luxury cars are being bought in greater numbers.

And while sales of Australian-made cars are falling, imports lure buyers.

The Ford Falcon, once the country’s top seller, hit a record low of just 396 deliveries in October as the new-car market slowed for the ninth time in 10 months.

POLICE are on the lookout for a Victorian man who has not been seen since he checked out of an Uluru hotel last month.

Sergey Bezsmertny, 45, was last seen checking out of the Ayers Rock Resort on October 24.

His backpack was found the next day on a salt lake behind the Mt Conner Lookout on the Lasseter Highway, 10km from Yulara.

Police said he told his family in the days before he was heading to Darwin, but weren’t sure if he was travelling or moving permanently.

It’s also not known if he had a vehicle.

He is 176cm tall, skinny build with olive complexion, bald, with tattoo on the left side of his chest and another small tattoo on his middle finger.

He speaks with a Russian accent.

Anyone who may have seen Sergey or knows of his current whereabouts is urged to contact police on 13 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Inaugural Annual Hawkes Oration: The Missing Link: Future Steps Towards Gender Equality

Guest Speaker: Annabel Crabb (ABC1's Kitchen Cabinet)

Date: Thursday 19th November 2015

Time: 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Location: Double Tree by Hilton, 1st The Esplanade

Cost: Members $80 / Non-Members $90 / Tables of 8 available

For more information and booking visit www.nt.ipaa.org.au