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## Blackwood field of hope for women

HEALTH 11 OCT 11 @ 08:33AM BY NADINE BISHOP

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Helene Hipp's battle with breast cancer has inspired her to help others.

HELENE Hipp underwent two lumpectomies, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and hormonal drugs when she was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago.

"It was pretty tough as my husband was running his own business at the time and, of course, I couldn't work as I was quite ill," Mrs Hipp, 54, says.

"They found it through a routine mammogram but thankfully it was caught very early so the prognosis was good."

Mrs Hipp is using her experience as a breast cancer survivor to raise awareness and offer support to those affected by breast cancer.

The Coromandel Valley resident will plant 100 miniature pink ladies in the Blackwood roundabout this Saturday (October 15) as part of Blackwood's Mini Field of Women event. "People can put luggage labels around the neck with a message for people who are survivors or as a memorial to celebrate the life of those who have died from breast cancer," Mrs Hipp says.

The event will be hosted inside the Blackwood Uniting Church and feature a guest speaker, zumba classes, an afternoon tea and medical and support information.

Mrs Hipp wanted to bring the event to Blackwood after her trip to the Melbourne Cricket Ground in March last year to participate in the national Field of Women event.

"It was on my bucket list so I went along with my mother," she says. "We got all dressed up in our pink ponchos and it was quite emotional seeing all these women there together for the same reason it really was a

fantastic experience.”

This is the second year Mrs Hipp has organised the event after the success of her first attempt in October last year, which was attended by 130 people.

“The main purpose is to raise awareness and to show women that lots of things are possible,” Mrs Hipp says.

“A diagnosis is not a death sentence there is fantastic support available from all sorts of avenues.”

The Blackwood Mini Field of Women event is at Blackwood Uniting Church, 266 Main Rd, Blackwood, on Saturday, October 15, from 1-4pm.

Entry is \$5 with all proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Network.

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All times ACST