



Tech savvy: Sue Jenness, left, talks with leading breast radiologist Sally Urry about the cutting edge technology now available. Photo: FIONA GOODAL

Early check made the difference

By Karen Kotze

Sue Jenness knows full well the value of breast cancer check-ups.

Two years ago, her world turned on its axis when she was diagnosed with “the big C”.

“I consider myself very fortunate that my cancer was picked up at such an early stage by a mammogram,” Mrs Jenness says.

She had delayed having a mammogram because she was busy – and then it slipped her mind.

“My husband, Warwick, nagged me to make the appointment as I have a history of breast cancer in my family. Both my grandmother and aunt had it,” she says.

There was no outward sign of the cancer, no lump, no change in the breast, no other symptoms.

“I was surprised to get the phone call instead of the usual ‘all clear’ letter,” she says.

“My cancer was only 7.5mm long and was classed as grade one.

My surgeon called it a ‘small early lesion.’”

Mrs Jenness had a partial mastectomy, followed up with 25 radiotherapy sessions. She continued to work throughout her treatment, and chose to stay positive.

“I know the value of check-ups and with this new equipment and technology we have an even better chance at finding the cancer early enough. There’s absolutely no excuse now not to go.”

She is a member of the Ascot Radiology Pink Dragons, a breast cancer dragonboat team.

“The Pink Dragons are my passion. Our whole team is made up of breast cancer survivors and we are solid support and encouragement for each other as we keep fit and take part in our dragonboating.”

The 22-strong team was formed in 2005 to empower breast cancer survivors to assume responsibility for their own health.