**Local photographer lighting up our hearts**

Professional photographer Nicola Brander is brightening up the walls of Caloundra Health Service (CHS) Dove Palliative Care with 22 bespoke glass landscape prints.

Nicola said her 'Light up your heart project', aimed at brightening the walls of Dove Palliative Care, was in memory of her Dad who sadly passed away from cancer in July.

“My Dad spent quite a bit of time at Dove. The staff and care he was given was absolutely incredible! Without this service and facilities, I'm not sure what we would have done.

“Dad mentioned to me one day that there wasn't anything to look at on the walls, being a photographer, I knew I could change that.

“Before Dad passed away, I approached Dove to see if they were open hanging prints in all 16 rooms. Dad was over the moon when they jumped on-board and wanted his room number 7 sponsored by him and Mum.

“I wanted this to be a lasting legacy to my incredible Dad and the person he was. He was always about giving something back to those who helped him, very kind hearted and selfless”, Nicola said.

Chris Gardner, Nurse Unit Manager, Dove Palliative Care, said the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

“We’re so grateful for Nicola’s generous donation. Not just of her amazing images, but also for the time and energy she has dedicated to sourcing sponsors and organising the impressive glass prints, some of them as large as 1 metre wide.”

“Each image draws you in. Providing something our patients and their families can focus on is invaluable, a little piece of serenity, calmness or a smile.

“We are so fortunate to have so many caring and generous local community members who've donated artwork to CHS already, Nicola’s donation will compliment this perfectly,” he said.

Nicola said: “I captured a lot of the images on my toughest days while Dad was sick. These scenes helped me, I am hoping they will do the same for others.”

“If we can just help just one person, going through some of the roughest days of their lives, have a better day it'll make me so happy and be amazing legacy to my Dad,” she said.

Nicola’s donation adds to the other artworks donated by community members to CHS facility
MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Nicola will be available for interviews and photographs. Palliative Care Registered Nurse Wendy will show us some of Nicola’s work in the communal area.
Where: Meet at CHS main reception
When: 10am 14 January 2019

ENDS

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