

Postie wins an Australia Post Community Champion Award

By Denise Deason
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HOPPERS Crossing postie Donna Hansen has won an Australia Post Community Champion Award for her work raising money for breast cancer research.

Ms Hansen, 48, was recognised for her fundraising work on behalf of Amazon Hearts, an organisation that provides adventure programs and social-impact initiatives for women living with breast cancer.

A breast cancer survivor herself, Ms Hansen said she was “very emotional” when she heard she had won the award.

“We work hard at fundraising so that, hopefully, one day a cure will be found for the disease,” she said.

"I was diagnosed at 40 with breast cancer and, when I got that call, my life stood still," she said.

"Since then, I've had three operations resulting in a full mastectomy.

"While this was an incredibly difficult period in my life, I was fortunate enough to have the support of my family, friends and work colleagues."

Ms Hansen joined the Amazon Hearts motorcycle adventure group in 2004 and met a whole new group of friends who had shared similar experiences.

She, personally, has raised more than \$10,000 for breast cancer research and education by going on motorbike rides, and selling chocolates and raffle tickets.

Ms Hansen believes it's the social interactions within the group that changes lives for the better. "The girls have such a bond," she said.

"You feel that someone else understands and that's very important.

"Being able to share our collective experience is a great healing force and gives others hope."

Ms Hansen was one of 15 national Community Champion Award-winners selected from 76 entries.

She received \$1000 to donate to her favourite charity, which she has given to Amazon Hearts.

Ms Hansen, who lives with her partner and their dog, Rosie, in Hoppers Crossing, is now preparing to head off on a Harley Davidson bike for another fundraising ride, Amazon Thunder, from Melbourne to Adelaide in October.