



editor's letter

From left to right: Josephine Brouard, Rachel Black, Tim Richman, Melisande Clarke and Ilana Rabinowitz

PINK 

EDITOR

Josephine Brouard

ART DIRECTOR

Rachel Black

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Melisande Clarke

PICTURE EDITOR

Ilana Rabinowitz

COPY EDITOR

Tim Richman

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Mark Jones

ADVERTISING SALES

Linsey Bamping

Sarah Easson

Barbara Hayes Short

PUBLISHERS

Mark Kelly and Sue Murray

Photographs by Uri Auerbach and Anthony Horth

Pink Ribbon is published by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Level 3, 18-20 York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. Please direct all Pink Ribbon enquiries to 02 9299 4090 or email nbcf1@nbcf.org.au



Appreciating wonderful women as I do, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2005 *Pink Ribbon* issue, jam-packed with news, views and stories from a veritable crowd of exhilarating and inspiring women. One of my favourite stories in this year's issue is that of 82-year-old Frances Reynolds who was diagnosed with breast cancer 51 years ago. Told by her medico all those years ago that her choice was to have a mastectomy or do nothing, she chose to do nothing. "It was in the back of my mind for a while," she recalls on page 88, "but I didn't get sick as the years went by, so I thought I must have beaten it." Her breast cancer journey is unusual, to say the least, as many of you reading this would know. Is there anyone out there, after all, who hasn't been touched by breast cancer? I've

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been fortunate to report on the phenomenon for a number of years without any personal experience whatsoever; late last year, however, my younger sister was diagnosed with breast cancer and I have since witnessed for myself the physical jolts and emotional swings that typically punctuate a patient's course of treatment. It's not pretty! *All Saints* star Tammy Macintosh, also profiled in this issue, knows what I mean. She saw cancer ravage her best friend Marty's body, but Marty rejected pity and laughed and joked until the end. Following her experience, Tammy has sage advice for those of you going through the journey yourself, or for those of you helping someone you love to weather the experience. Check out Tammy's story on page 76. Other news, as we report on page 161, is that more women than ever before are surviving breast cancer and ultimately rediscovering that feeling of being 'in the pink'. With this sort of rose-tinted optimism in mind, we asked a host of wonderful Australian women to join us in a pictorial tribute to breast cancer survivors. See our lineup on page 52. *Pink Ribbon* is about so much more than breast cancer: it's a celebration of life in the fullest sense. Everyone who buys this magazine is contributing to breast cancer research, so do a good deed, and enjoy a good read!

Josephine B