

# Saved by a second opinion

## Brain tumour victim tells her experience

Charity | Danielle Crowe

IT WAS New Year's Eve 2006 when Sally White's life was turned upside down.

The 38-year-old mother of two from Wonga Park was at the beach with her family when she collapsed and was rushed to hospital.

Soon after, Mrs White was told she had a brain tumour and an undetermined time to live.

She said nothing could have prepared her for that moment, but she was determined to continue living and not just trying to survive.

Two years since being diagnosed, Mrs White has come a long way and has just released a book about her journey.

Having not only confronted her own mortality but also the medical profession, Mrs White wanted to tell her story and encourage others to do the same.

The book – *3 Quotes from a Plumber. How a Second Opinion Change the Life of a Woman with a Brain Tumour* – is about living with a life-threatening condition and navigating through the complex medical fraternity from the view of an "average mum".

"I hope to give other people the courage to challenge and question what is right for them and what choices they have," Mrs White



said. "I really wanted to create something positive and be proactive in the hope that people may be able relate in some way and draw something positive from my experience."

The book was inspired by the

twist Mrs White's life took after her chance meeting with neurosurgeon Charles Teo in 2007 at a charity event.

Dr Teo offered to perform radical surgery on Mrs White and remove a large part of her tumour, but that

presented a 50 per cent chance of severe brain damage and paralysis.

The surgery was successful and has given Mrs White a better chance of living to see her sons – aged 13 and 11 – grow up.

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SALLY WHITE

Sally White wrote about her experience with a brain tumour.

Picture: MICHELLE KELCEY N13DT455

Mrs White said that while the surgery was a big risk, it was the right option for her and and one she wouldn't have been given if she hadn't sought a second opinion.

Now, at 40, Mrs White takes each day as it comes.

Her book will be officially launched on Friday, October 23, at the Celebration of Hope Gala Ball at the Croydon Golf Club, Yering.

Dr Teo will speak at the event, which will raise money for his Cure for Life Foundation. Tickets cost \$95. To attend, phone 0418 372 961 or go to blackwood8.com.au

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Sample some of the Yarra Valley's finest wines as you enjoy live music and entertainment, light meals and snacks. Visit and support our smaller winemakers as you enjoy their warm friendly hospitality, and bring along your friends and family.

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Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 October

Every year, on the second weekend in October, eleven wineries along the Warburton Highway open their sheds for two days of fabulous food, fine wine, live music and entertainment.

[www.shedfest.com.au](http://www.shedfest.com.au)

### OPEN CELLARS OF NILLUMBIK

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