



CUPCAKES: BreastScreen Bendigo is encouraging women to attend. Photo: ANDREW PERRYMAN

Call out to screen

MORE than half of Bendigo women in the age group targeted for a breast screen have had one in the past two years, according to clinical director of BreastScreen Bendigo Jill Wilkie.

The 57 per cent take-up rate is above the Victorian average.

But it means that almost 9000 women in the local area did not go to the Barnard Street clinic for a mammogram between 2013 and 2015.

Tuesday, November 8, was the international day of radiology, dedicated to breast imaging and the role radiology plays in detecting, diagnosing and managing diseases of the breasts.

BreastScreen Victoria's Bendigo clinic recognised the day with Bendigo Health and Bendigo Radiology and used it to urge women aged 50 to 74 to have regular screening mammograms.

Mammograms are

low dose x-rays for women without breast symptoms.

The screening can detect most breast cancers while they are small, before they can be felt or noticed.

Women aged between 40 and 49, and older than 75, are also welcome to have the screening.

The targeted age group is when breast cancer is most efficiently treated.

Dr Wilkie said one in eight women were diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime and most women with breast cancer did not have a family history of the disease.

She said age was the biggest risk factor.

A mammogram takes 10 minutes and is free. No doctor referral is required.

Bookings can be made on 13 20 50 or breastscreen.org.au