

Waipuna Connections

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Bringing you closer to the lives you help change



From hospice nurse to Superhero - Read Bee's story of fundraising for the Superhero Walk on page three.

Plus, read about the collective impact local businesses had on our hospice grounds on page five.


WaipunaHOSPICE
Life is Special

Rambling Rich

Waipuna Hospice is a member of the Te Manawa Taki region and to assist with planning and equitable service provision across this diverse and large region, we are joining our sister hospices in the region in an alliance.

Many of you will have heard about the constant pressure and change that is taking place within our healthcare system from the media. The pressure to deliver equitable healthcare services against a backdrop of change and reduced staffing numbers is very real across the whole health sector and Waipuna Hospice is no exception to this situation.

The high cost of living and the impact this has on our ability to fundraise and raise income from our retail shops is adding additional pressure to our financial sustainability. Waipuna Hospice, through the highly appreciated support of our local community, co-funds over half of our services from this income. This is a staggering fact and specialist hospice palliative care does not appear to be a priority for Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora or successive government administrations. This is despite repeated commitments from governments that Hospice funding nationally would be maintained at 70%.

Costs are increasing and wage cost pressure is higher than ever. We work in a very competitive employment market and must maintain parity with the benchmark salary rates across all the industries we work in (health, retail and fundraising). This is looking to be increasingly difficult.

I know that many of you will be worried about this situation and will again show your fantastic support for us through donations of money, goods for our shops



or time whilst volunteering – thank you for this. It is greatly appreciated and we would not have such a comprehensive service in Western Bay of Plenty without your support!

It is time as a nation to have a wider conversation – do we value the care we receive at the end of someone's life? Does this care benefit society when it is available and provided across NZ in an equitable and compassionate way? Is it time for Health NZ to listen to providers of end-of-life care and prioritise it as a separate pillar for care provision – we have “Living Well”, why not “Dying Well”?

Most importantly – do we value the care provided enough to fund it so it is sustainable into the future?

This is an important question that will be the focus of my discussions with my healthcare colleagues.

As always, thank you for reading this newsletter – you will see the impact we have on our community through what we do and find opportunities to support us through many different ways.

Ngā mihi,
Rich

A Day of Good Deeds

The work of Waipuna Hospice wouldn't be possible without the support of our incredible volunteers. Volunteer roles come in all shapes and sizes, and we have been very lucky to recently have two awesome local organisations support us with volunteer days.



BECA Volunteer Day

A group from BECA spruced up some wooden furniture from our inpatient unit and helped in our garden.

"It was a pleasure giving back to our Tauranga community in any small way we could. I would recommend this to any other company looking to build on their social responsibilities – we really felt that we were giving back to the community and it was a great team building exercise."- Chris Olivier, BECA.

Gardening Day

A team of volunteers from LIFE Church Tauranga helped tidy up the flax bushes along the back of our property.

"At different times in the year, we aim to mobilise our church for "Help & Hope Week", a week where we go out into our communities to help those in need, or to honour those doing great things. Waipuna Hospice is a phenomenal organisation in our community that brings so much hope to others, so it was special that we could give back to them. We had a great sunny day and really enjoyed being able to help in a small yet practical way!"
- Logan Stewart, LIFE Church.



If you are interested in helping Waipuna Hospice in a practical way and have some spare time, contact our volunteer team on 07 552 4380 ext. 219.

Thank you to our supporters





Bee (right) and colleague Judy at our Superhero Walk.

Passionate for Palliative Care

Our Superhero Walk, where people in our community pledged to raise funds for Waipuna Hospice and honour those they love, recently wrapped up for 2024. Bee McKinnon, a nurse in our Inpatient Unit, took part and raised \$592 to support our work! We spoke to her about her personal experience with hospice services, which led her to take part and fundraise.

Before Bee began working for Waipuna Hospice, both her mother and her best friend, Stena, went through hospice care. In 2008, Bee's mother passed away from adrenal cancer at the age of 65. Reflecting on her Mum's experience, Bee recalled the exceptional care provided by the hospice team. "Hospice was great with Mum and she received excellent care. The day she died was a beautiful sunny day, and she slipped away so gently and peacefully. Sixteen years later we still take so much comfort from the manner in which her last days unfolded."

Seeing both her mum and best friend go through hospice is what led her to a career in palliative care. "I was doing general medical nursing at the time, but wondered if there was something worth exploring in palliative care. I didn't go straight into it, but I always had it in the back of my mind that I would love to be a hospice nurse. I wasn't sure I could do it though, if I'm honest. But one day I just thought, what the heck, I'll try it - and I love it!"

Now having worked here for eight years, Bee has carried her personal experiences into caring for hospice patients. "The thing I always remember from our experience with Mum, is that those last moments are what stay with you in the years to come. **There is so much peace of mind and comfort for the road ahead, when your last memories are that your loved one was settled and pain free. In our work at Waipuna Hospice, we do all we can for our patients so that they are able to end their days comfortably and peacefully.**"

Participating in the Superhero Walk brought Bee full circle – from having loved ones go through the service, to becoming a hospice nurse, and now being a supporter of the work she does.

Going this extra mile shows how much she values hospice care. "We really believe in the work that we do. Every day we hope to be able to make a difference."

Being able to walk in honour of her mum and best friend and experience the support of the community was such a positive experience for Bee. "I felt like Mum and Stena would have been pleased and proud. It's nice to do something that is in their memory. In a way it keeps them alive."

We want to thank Bee for sharing her story, and for going above and beyond to support Waipuna Hospice.



FREE PICK-UP
Ph. 281 1755

Shop
TRANSPORT

Waipuna HOSPICE
Life is Special

Did you know that we have a **FREE collection service?**

Easy and convenient!

We can pick up from Waihi Beach to Paengaroa.

Do you have clothes you don't wear anymore collecting dust in the back of your wardrobe? Or maybe you have a garage filled with things you meant to donate, but never got around to? By booking a Waipuna Hospice donation collection, you can get your donations picked up from the comfort of your own home for FREE!

By donating your preloved, quality goods to us, you will help fund our care, supporting those facing end of life and bereavement.

It's easy to book and convenient to do! But don't just take our word for it - hear from people in your community who have used our donation collection service.

"Had a pickup today. Nice guys, helpful and efficient. Thank you! - Tracey

"I had a pick up today, had two very nice young gentleman help me. Thank you. - Ann

To book your free collection, either call 07 281 1755 or visit waipunahospice.org.nz/donate_goods

Cultivating Compassion: A Collective Effort of Serenity

Nestled along the banks of the tranquil Wairoa River, Waipuna Hospice is a sanctuary amidst lush surroundings. It offers solace to hospice patients and their loved ones during life's most difficult times. Many who visit our grounds comment upon its calming beauty, a testament to the respite it provides amid adversity.

Maintaining the 2.13 hectares of this sanctuary demands considerable investment and hard work. Yet, through the compassion and generosity of local businesses and volunteers, our gardens continue to be a place of peace for all who visit us in Te Puna.

John, of Athenree Advanced Mulching, found solace in our gardens while supporting his wife, Michelle, in our Inpatient Unit. Reflecting on its peacefulness, he shared, "It was merely a step away from the entrance, yet it felt like a world apart from worries and troubles, even if just for a few moments." When he saw it was closed due to ground conditions, John felt repairing it was something small he could do for Waipuna Hospice to repay the respect, care, hospitality and compassion bestowed upon them by the staff at Waipuna Hospice over their journey.

With years of experience in farming, John approached the task with expertise and care, mindful of preserving the land. "My background taught me the importance of proper land management," he explained, "ensuring water flows naturally and doesn't pond." Collaborating with Beach Contracting, who generously provided transport, and McFall Fuel, who donated essential resources, the affected land was revitalised - a testament to the power of collective goodwill.

Though the undertaking demanded time and effort, John remained constant in his commitment to excellence. "Every effort was worth it. If it was four days of running up and down about 100 square meters or something else, it was going to be done right. I wanted to be able to drive past and say that I'm proud of it. It was more than a job, it was something that I could give back to the place that had done so much for me and Michelle," he remarked.



John from Athenree
Advanced Mulching



The front section of our Te
Puna site, freshly mulched.

The collective generosity of these local businesses has left a permanent mark, reinstating our gardens as a sanctuary for patients and their families. To Athenree Advanced Mulching, Beach Contractors, and McFall Fuel, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your selfless contributions have touched the lives of the terminally ill and bereaved, offering comfort and respite in their darkest hours. Your support is immeasurable, and we are profoundly thankful for your kindness and compassion.



The team with Selina Robinson, Director of Clinical Services



Volunteer for Waipuna Hospice

Want to make new friends, learn new skills and give back to the community?

We are looking for volunteers to help in our charity shops and depots. Become a part of our friendly team in one of our shops across Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty and gain invaluable experiences. Plus, you will be directly supporting Waipuna Hospice, helping fund the

delivery of specialist palliative care to the terminally ill and bereaved in your community.

Shifts are only 3.5 hours long, and no experience is required. Have fun and make a difference by joining our retail volunteer team.

To sign up or learn more, visit waipunahospice.org.nz/volunteer or call 07 552 4380 ext 219





Superhero Success

Thanks to our incredible superheroes and community, we raised \$21,606.58!!

For four weeks, local heroes fundraised for Waipuna Hospice, reaching out to their networks for support. Then, on 16 March, participants and community members came together at the Superhero Celebration Walk to honour and celebrate the heroes in their lives. Attendees put on their capes and masks to walk the course starting at Coronation Park, Mount Maunganui. With live music from Tracy Scott, an energizing superhero warm up from Victory Performance Centre, coffee from Silver Cart Coffee and Catering, free goodies and prizes galore, families, friends and colleagues came together to celebrate their heroes and support their community.

“I must extend my utmost thanks to everyone who supported our Superhero Walk this year - whether you fundraised, walked, donated, volunteered, or helped spread the word, you are a hero in my eyes, and Waipuna Hospice couldn't do what we do in the community without you. So, on behalf of everyone at Waipuna Hospice, our patients, and their whānau, thank you, thank you, thank you.”

- Waipuna Hospice CEO, Richard Thurlow.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE.

MAJOR SPONSORS:



EVENT SUPPORTERS:



PRIZE SPONSORS:



Brass Band Fundraiser

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the team at Papamoa Beach Village for raising \$1250 for Waipuna Hospice with their recent "Music on the Green" Brass Band event. The sun was shining, the music was top-notch, and the community spirit was high.

"What a glorious day we had for The Papamoa Beach Village 'Music on the Green' event. A fabulous afternoon was had by all who came to support our fundraiser for Waipuna Hospice, to sit in the sun and enjoy the music of the Tauranga City Brass Band. After the concert, everyone retired to the Pavilion for a Saturday 'Happy Hour'. With vouchers from local businesses raffled and a gold coin donation for attending the concert, we raised \$1250 for this wonderful organisation. Our residents are so grateful for your support, kindness and love, that it seemed an easy choice to make to raise money so you can continue the wonderful work you do." - Gillian from the Village.



Sunflowers For a Cause



We'd also like to thank the team at BNI Tauranga Harbour for their donation of \$840, which they raised during a sunflower-themed fundraiser. When asked about why she organised the fundraiser, Caroline Lowe from BNI Tauranga Harbour said:

*"As a person who has lost someone very close to me in a sudden event, and also losing loved friends that have been supported by hospice, I know that there is a lack of understanding about what hospice is, which brings on fear and dread. It's important to bring awareness to who hospice really are, and what better way to showcase that **there is HOPE in being supported by hospice** through some beautiful sunflowers."*



Feeling inspired to fundraise?

We would love to hear from you! By fundraising for Waipuna Hospice, you can help ensure those facing life-limiting illnesses and bereavement are cared for and supported. How you do that is up to you - from skydives to quiz nights and raffles, the possibilities are endless. Simply email fundraising@waipunahospice.org.nz for more information.

The Power of Loose Change

Mike and Angela have owned Bakers of Bethlehem since August 2019, selling delicious bakery treats along SH2. Their filled rolls and sandwiches are a common sight in our lunchroom!

If you have visited this wonderful bakery to get your own tasty treats, you may have spotted a Waipuna Hospice donation box at their counter. Bakers of Bethlehem have been avid supporters of ours over the years, first installing a donation box in 2017. In the last four years since Mike and Angela have owned the bakery, their donation box alone has raised \$2,002.40 – that’s a lot of loose change!

“The donation box was here when we took over, and we decided to continue with it when we came into business, although we did find a new home for it on our counter, so it was visible to all,” says Angela. “We think Waipuna Hospice is a great recipient charity, and we are pleased to support them and their work. Our customers also seem to like supporting them with their loose change – it doesn’t take too long to fill up.”

The coins and notes sitting in your wallet may not seem like much, but as Bakers of Bethlehem have proved, they really do make a difference! The money raised from their box, and others just like it, helps us

care for the terminally ill and bereaved in our local community.

Thank you to Mike and Angela from Bakers of Bethlehem for your ongoing support of Waipuna Hospice, and of course to all those who donate their spare change to their donation box.

Do you want to turn loose change into hospice care?

We would love to hear from you! Either phone 07 552 4380 ext. 211 or email fundraising@waipunahospice.org.nz to organise getting a donation box for your business.



Angela and Mike Moore
of Bakers of Bethlehem

Have some spare time and know people in the community?

We are looking for volunteer Donation Box Coordinators to distribute and manage donation boxes in our community. This involves getting donation boxes into new businesses, and emptying current boxes.

If this sounds like something you may be interested in, please email fundraising@waipunahospice.org.nz



“

“Being part of a stellar team is one of the best things about working at Waipuna Hospice. It’s such a great bunch of genuine and kind people, and it’s been a privilege to get to know them.” - Michelle

”

Come Work With Us!

Want to work with an awesome group of people and give back to the community? Use your skills to make a difference in the lives of the terminally ill and bereaved by joining our friendly team!

We have various vacancies available in our clinical, admin and retail teams that could be perfect for you!

Visit waipunahospice.org.nz/work-with-us for more information and to apply.

Hospice Awareness Week

This year, Hospice Awareness Week is running from May 13-19. The national campaign helps to educate and raise awareness about hospice care and the impact we are having in the community.

As part of this, we are running donation collections at local supermarkets and shopping centres, helping to get Waipuna Hospice out in the community and advocating for the work we do while raising funds to ensure our services continue well into the future.

We need your help!

Become a site coordinator

Are you organised, have reliable transport, and love people? Help us during Hospice Awareness Week by being a site coordinator.

This involves setting up and packing down the collection stand, troubleshooting any problems and being on call for when collectors have questions. Don't worry, we're here to help too. We will have sites throughout Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty, so there is something to suit everyone.

If this sounds like something you can do, please email us at fundraising@waipunahospice.org.nz



Volunteers from BNI First helping at the 2023 HAWK collection.



SHORTS 4 HOSPICE IS COMING

JUNE 2024

Raise the hemline, raise funds, and raise awareness with Shorts 4 Hospice, because while life is short, it's also special.

We are excited to announce that Shorts 4 Hospice is back for 2024! It's time to rummage through your drawers and dig out your brightest, boldest, craziest, most trendy shorts and bare your legs this winter, all while raising money for Waipuna Hospice.

We will have some awesome prizes up for grabs! So, step up, bare those legs, wear your shorts and show you care by helping Waipuna Hospice this June.

More details to come - register your interest by emailing events@waipunahospice.org.nz or keep an eye on our Facebook page.



Keep these easy to donate details handy!

4 EASY WAYS TO DONATE



1. Mail the coupon on the right to:
Waipuna Hospice
PO Box 16299
Bethlehem
Tauranga 3147



2. Internet Banking
Please confirm by email to:

supporter@waipunahospice.org.nz

Waipuna Hospice account details:

Waipuna Hospice Inc
03 0435 0469107 02

Ref: WCAPR24

Please include your phone number.



3. Phone 07 552 4380
Ext. 211



4. Donate or shop online at:

waipunahospice.org.nz



I would like to make a donation so people in our community facing a terminal illness can receive the care they need.

Step 1 - My Gift \$30 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$ (other)

Step 2 - Donation Frequency One-off Set-up a regular donation

Please send me a direct debit form

Debit my credit card (see step 3)

Step 3 - My Payment
(if paying via credit card)

Card Number

Expiry Date

/

Name on Card

Signature

I would like to have a say in the future of Waipuna Hospice by becoming a Member

Individual \$20

Joint \$30

Organisation \$100

I would like to purchase the following Waipuna Hospice merchandise (GST included)

Happy Socks \$15

Native Bird Cards 4pk \$18.00

Light of Life Candle \$20.00

TOTAL \$ + \$5 shipping on all merchandise orders.

I would like to cover the 2.5% card transaction fee for Waipuna Hospice.

My Details

Title First Name Last Name Date of Birth

Address

Phone Email

I would like to receive future communications via email.

I would like to know more about becoming a regular giver.

Donations of \$5 or more may qualify for a tax rebate. Charity # CC2206
If you wish to unsubscribe, please notify us at communications@waipunahospice.org.nz