

WAIPUNA *Connections*

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change



Inside this issue: Wrapping up Hospice Awareness Week, Betsy Pavitte's first-hand experience with Waipuna Hospice, and read about Third Space Symphony, the concert you don't want to miss!

Standing Together for Hospice Care

A word from our CEO, David Bryant.

As we continue our important work at Waipuna Hospice, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible support we continue to receive from our community. Thank you to everyone who got behind us during Hospice Awareness Week. Whether you donated, volunteered, or helped share our message, your efforts mean so much. This year, we chose to be especially open about the reality we're facing: an \$8.1 million shortfall between what it costs to run our services and what we receive in government funding. It's a big number, and a sobering one, but we believe it's important to be honest about this challenge because awareness drives action. The response from our community was humbling, and we are so grateful.

This past month, we've also welcomed two new leaders to our team: Ross McLeod as our new Philanthropy Director, and Dr Evelyn Gerrish as our new Medical Director. Both bring deep expertise and compassion to their roles, and we're thrilled to have them on board. Their leadership will play an important part in strengthening Waipuna Hospice, and as is always our priority, improving outcomes for the patients and whānau we serve.

In this issue, you'll meet Betsy Pavitte. I've had the pleasure of meeting Betsy myself, and I was deeply moved by her honesty, resilience, and sense of humour. It takes real courage to share your story, and I continue to be humbled by the strength of our patients and their families. I know her story will stay with you, as it has with me.



Above: David holding the Bay of Plenty Times, where Waipuna Hospice made the front cover during Hospice Awareness Week.

You'll also hear from Jo, one of our incredible regular givers, who shares what inspires her to support Waipuna Hospice each month. Regular giving is one of the most powerful ways people can help. It gives us certainty, helps us plan, and ensures our services remain free for those who need them. Jo puts it perfectly by saying, *"Waipuna Hospice's service relies on everyday people doing their part, so please, be part of the solution."*

Finally, I want to make a heartfelt appeal. Our retail shops are one of our biggest sources of fundraising, and they can't operate without volunteers. Right now, we're facing a real shortage. If you, or someone you know, has a few hours to spare each week, please consider joining our retail volunteer team. Whether it's sorting items, helping customers, or helping behind the scenes, it all helps.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our Waipuna Hospice whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,

David Bryant
CEO, Waipuna Hospice

What A Week!

Hospice Awareness Week Wrap Up

This year, Hospice NZ came out with the hard-hitting message that without more funding from the government, hospice services are at risk of disappearing. Last year, the country's hospice services cost more than \$226 million to operate. Government funding only covered half, and hospices had to rely on the generosity of communities to find the remaining \$112 million. For us at Waipuna Hospice, that means that we will have to raise \$8.1 million in the coming financial year to cover our operating costs.

For those who saw our messaging out in the community and took action, thank you! Whether that was by donating, dropping off goods to our stores, sharing our social media posts, volunteering your time, or shopping in any of our charity shops, you helped make a difference!

We also want to say a massive thank you to all 170 of the volunteers who put their hand up to help us with our community collections across

the bay. Thanks to those amazing volunteers, we raised an impressive **\$26,493.30** across all collection sites, which is truly remarkable. It is heartwarming to receive so much support and see such generosity from our community. This allows us to continue supporting those within our community facing terminal illnesses and bereavement.

If you would like to make a donation, you can find all the details on how to do so on the last page of this newsletter.



Some of our lovely volunteers collecting at Brookfield New World

Thank You to Our Supporters

We could not continue providing the level of care that we do without funding from our local community and we want to thank those below for their support.



Not the End, But a New Chapter.

Betsy's Unexpected Hospice Story

When we met Betsy Pavitte, one of the first things she told us was, "I'm horribly dyslexic. I was fired from every job I had." She says it with a matter-of-fact smile and a quick laugh, not out of bitterness, but with the humour and honesty that have shaped her extraordinary life.

She's been a businesswoman, a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, a pianist, a photographer, and even a surprise guest at her own birth mother's table after tracking her down at age 47.

But nothing quite prepared her for what came in December last year.

"I went to bed and couldn't get comfortable. By midnight, I was in pain," Betsy recalled. A hospital admission revealed far more than just a kidney stone. "They found a three-centimetre mass and gave me two to three months to live." That was the beginning of her journey with hospice, a journey that initially frightened her.

"When Waipuna Hospice first arrived at my door, I thought it meant I only had days left,"



Betsy with her husband David in 1960, both aged 17.



Betsy with her great grandson, George.

she said. "I didn't really know what hospice did. I thought people just went there to die and that was it."

But her experience with Waipuna has been the opposite of what she expected. It's been one of comfort, compassion, and getting her life back in control.

"I was a complete mess when they first arrived, and I wasn't coping well, so hospice suggested I spend some time in their Inpatient Unit to manage my symptoms. When I got there, I was expecting it to have 30 beds, but there were just six. They explained that the majority of their care happens in people's homes, and patients often come into the unit for a brief period before going home again. It was a relief to hear."

At that point, Betsy was struggling.

"My medications were a mess, I was in a lot of pain, and I felt like I didn't have much control over my body, but the nurses and doctors sorted everything. It was amazing. I'd never felt so well looked after."

After six days in the unit, her symptoms were stabilised, and Betsy was able to return home. However, Waipuna's care continued.



Betsy with her son, Michael, and granddaughter, Sophia (age 1).

“They were coming three times a week at first, as that’s what I needed. Now they call me once a week to check in and visit when it’s required. Sometimes they don’t need to come, and sometimes they do, and that feels right. **They have adapted their care to suit me.**”

It’s not just the practical support that has mattered to Betsy. “They brought out this book, a planning book. At first, I couldn’t connect with it,” she admitted. “But one day, I picked it up and I wrote: **‘I want to be free.’** That was a big moment. Since then, I have been filling it out and making sure I think about what comes next, and what I might want my life, and death, to look like.”

Being able to stay at home has meant a lot to her. “**I had no idea hospice cared for people at home. With Waipuna Hospice's support, I have been able to return to a fairly normal life, which, if you had asked back in December, I never would have thought was possible.**”

Betsy says she appreciates the responsiveness too. “One evening, my blood sugars were 20. I rang the hospice and they gave me the advice I needed. They seem to

know everything and are always there to help.”

Betsy also experienced what it means to be truly advocated for. When she struggled to get an urgent doctor’s appointment, she mentioned it to one of the hospice team. “I told my hospice nurse, and I know she rang the doctor because I got a message that afternoon saying the doctor would see me. That was such a blessing.”

Today, at 85, Betsy is pragmatic about the future. “The final stage has never worried me. At some point, you’re going to kick the bucket. That’s just a fact of life.”

“And to be honest,” she adds with a smile, “with hospice’s help I’ve been able to live a relatively normal life, almost to the point where I forget I have cancer. **I’m very lucky to have them by my side.**”

We want to say a huge thank you to Betsy for sharing her story with us, and to everyone who continues to support Waipuna Hospice. Your donations make it possible for us to care for people like Betsy. If you’ve been touched by the care of Waipuna Hospice and would like to share your story, please call 07 552 4380 or email fundraising@waipunahospice.org.nz.



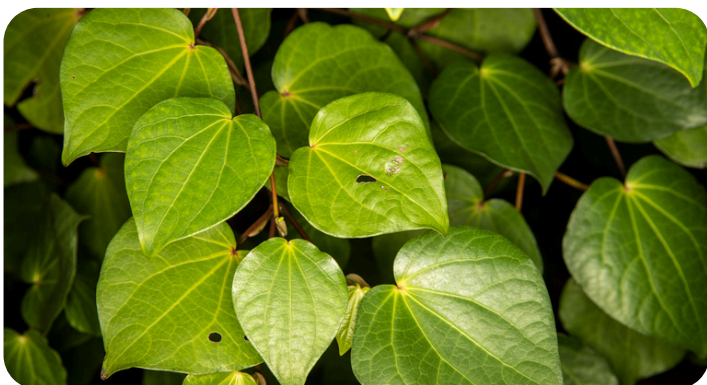
Betsy (back right) surrounded by some of her friends and family in 2004.

Kawakawa: The Heartleaf of Healing

Pirirākau Hauora is a Kaupapa Māori Health Care Service that covers the area from the Wairoa River to the Waipapa Stream, across to the Kaimai Ranges in the west and to the sea. Pirirākau Hauora offers a wide range of medical and community services with a holistic touch, ensuring that your physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing is nourished with a unique philosophy of health.

Some of our team were lucky enough to spend an afternoon with Rob, their Rongoā Practitioner. Rongoā māori is the traditional healing system of Māori and encompasses herbal remedies, physical therapies and spiritual healing. As part of our educational session, we got to learn more about his methods and practices, especially his use of the kawakawa plant.

For years, Māori have been using natural ingredients for medicinal purposes and believe that Papatūānuku (mother earth) guides us to the medicines that we need. Plants that have red branches/stems are known to be good for blood health and are commonly used in their blood-thinning remedies.



The beautiful kawakawa leaf is shaped like a heart, and so is used to help treat heart problems. The leaf is known to absorb aroha and so can also be used for overall health and wellbeing to help the mind. **There are 27+ known Rongoā uses for kawakawa,** some of these treatments include digestive disorders, blood cleansers, to stop toothache, treat boils, cuts, grazes and eczema, and it can also be used as an effective insect repellent.

Part of the session included our team making their own kawakawa balm, a multipurpose balm infused with kawakawa, calendula (their skin super healer), grapeseed oil and essential oils that we could take away with us. **Their koha to us for looking after so many within our community.**

It was an honour to be welcomed into their space of healing and to learn so much from Rob and his approaches to helping our community. It is connections like these that help us expand our knowledge and understanding, leading us to deliver more specialist and inclusive care to all of our patients and their whānau.

The Third Space Symphony is Coming!

On August 23rd, Third Space Symphony, a concert like no other, will be taking place at Baycourt Theatre. This isn't your average orchestral concert; it's a high-energy celebration of pop, rock, and disco, brought to life with the epic sound of a full live orchestra. There will be massive, iconic songs reimagined in a way you've never heard before. Think Dancing Queen, Africa, Uptown Funk, I Will Survive, and Livin' on a Prayer. Whether you're a die-hard music fan or just love a great night out, expect a big sound and an unforgettable experience. And the best part? All the proceeds from this event come back to Waipuna Hospice.

Logan, the pianist on the night, has been playing since he was 5, and has been with Third Space Covers band since it began in 2021. What started as a group of mates jamming has now become an award-winning professional covers band. During the day, he is a doctor at Tauranga Hospital, but when he



isn't there, he spends most of his time rehearsing or gigging. *"Music is a huge part of my life, but it's also my balance,"* says Logan. *"It's a creative outlet that brings energy to everything I do."*

Through Logan's work, he regularly sees the "incredible" support Waipuna Hospice offers to patients and their families. Often referring patients to our care, Logan has witnessed firsthand how essential our care is during some of life's most difficult times.

So, as a way to give back to a service that "truly deserves our community's support", Third Space Covers Band have teamed up with Bay of Plenty Symphonia and WRAPA to put on a fundraising concert, with 100% of the proceeds coming back to Waipuna Hospice.

On **Saturday, 23rd of August at 7:30pm**, **Baycourt Theatre** will be full of music, singing, dancing and a lot of fun.

To purchase tickets to the concert of the season, head to the Baycourt website www.baycourt.co.nz/whats-on and make sure to tell your friends!!!

A huge thank you to Property Brokers for sponsoring the event - you rock!



“The care given to my precious Mum - that’s what inspired me.”

When you lose someone you love, you never forget the people who helped make their final days as peaceful and dignified as possible. For Jo, that’s what Waipuna Hospice did for her Mum, Beth, and why she now gives to Waipuna Hospice every month.

“Mum was fighting end-stage lung cancer and had taken a fall,” Jo explains. “She was admitted to the hospital, but after a few hours, they discharged her. I got her home and quickly realised she was in a bad way and that I couldn’t give her the care she needed. I called Waipuna Hospice, and they jumped into action.”

Beth spent six weeks at Waipuna Hospice, surrounded by family and supported by a team Jo says she “cannot speak highly enough of.”

“We even got to celebrate Mum’s 80th birthday there. It was a wonderful family event, and we hold those memories very dearly. **Without Waipuna Hospice, Mum wouldn’t have survived long enough for that celebration. They gave her the care she needed to keep fighting. Her pain was so skillfully managed.**”

Once stable, Beth was discharged, but her care continued. Jo explains they were fortunate to have another six weeks with Beth before she passed away. That experience motivated her to become a regular giver, donating every month.

“The care given to my precious Mum, that’s



Beth surrounded by her family during her 80th birthday party at Waipuna Hospice.

what inspired me. And over time, my reason for giving has only deepened. In a world that doesn’t always value life, hospice stands out. Waipuna Hospice’s answer to end-of-life is quality care, empathy, and love. Choosing to support hospice is easy.”

Jo’s monthly donation does more than offer comfort, it **helps fund the care of one in every two patients**. Regular giving provides the financial stability Waipuna Hospice needs to plan for the future and make sure no one misses out on the care they deserve.

“I know how hard it is to lose a loved one,” Jo says. “**If I can be part of easing that pain for someone else, why wouldn’t I? I can, in my small way, be part of what hospice offers. The services they provide are priceless.**”

To anyone considering becoming a regular giver, Jo says simply: “**Just do it.** Stop procrastinating and sign up today. Waipuna Hospice’s service relies on everyday people doing their part, so please, **be part of the solution. If you ever need their services, you’ll be happy you did.**”

To sign up to regular giving and “be part of the solution”, visit our website www.waipunahospice.org.nz/regular-giving/, email supporter@waipunahospice.org.nz, call 07 552 4380, or return the form on the back of this newsletter.

TURN YOUR EXTRAS INTO IMPACT.

For people, not landfill

Waipuna Hospice NEEDS quality
FURNITURE AND BRIC-A-BRAC



Your donation helps provide **hospice care for those facing terminal illness or bereavement**. Drop your items off at our charity shops, depots, or call the number below for a **FREE home collection!**

07 281 1755

Mufti Day

One of our local schools, Ōtūmoetai College, was kind enough to hold a mufti day with all donations raised from the day coming back to Waipuna Hospice.

Before their mufti day, we had the opportunity to go in and speak to the senior students to help educate them on the work and services that we provide, and how they can get involved through volunteering and other areas. Thanks to the generosity of the students who participated in their mufti day, they donated \$1,959, which is a spectacular result!!



Tauranga Home Show

We were lucky enough to attend the Tauranga Home Show to collect donations. Thanks to everyone in the community who stopped by to say hello and supported us, we raised a total of \$1,046.60, for which we are truly grateful.

Also, a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who gave up their time over the weekend, we could not do what we do without you!!

If you would like to help us at a future collection, please email
volunteers@waipunahospice.org.nz

Market Success

On Sunday, the 25th of May, we attended the Thrifted Markets at Coronation Park, Mount Maunganui.

It was so awesome to see so many of our regulars come down for a shop, but also to meet so many new people. Thank you to everyone who came and said hello.

We will be attending the next Thrifted Markets happening on Sunday, the 3rd of August, so put it in your diary and keep an eye out on our social media pages. We will have more amazing stock at some hard-to-beat prices, so make sure to come down and check out what we have for sale!!



Dedicate a shining star to a loved one and help us light the way for others.



Although no longer with us, our loved ones shine brightly in our hearts. Donate a Shining Star in their memory, and celebrate the light they left behind. By dedicating a star, you'll be helping us provide care and comfort to those facing one of life's toughest challenges. If you dedicated a star last year, we warmly invite you to do so again. Each star is a renewed tribute, a continued celebration of love, remembrance, and the lasting impact your loved one has made.

Donate a Shining Star by scanning the QR Code or visit www.shining-stars-2025.raiselysite.com/. We also invite you to attend our in-person event at 5:30pm on 11th of September where we will light up Waipuna Hospice with Shining Stars. The service is a wonderful opportunity to join together and reflect on memories of loved ones. RSVP to events@waipunahospice.org.nz



SHORTS4HOSPICE

Shorts4Hospice was back this year, and local businesses and organisation dug out their boldest, brightest, craziest pair of shorts from their wardrobe and bared their legs to show they care about their community hospice.

It was awesome to see so many teams come together in support of Waipuna Hospice on one of the shortest days of the year, while braving the cold weather to help raise funds. Through the generosity of our community, we have already raised more than last year!! Thank you to everyone who got involved with this year's Shorts4Hospice!



Waipuna Hospice staff in their crazy shorts.

Help Us, Help Others

Do you have just 3 hours spare each week to come and help in any of our 6 charity shops? As a shop volunteer, you get a first peek at our new stock, receive discounts on certain items, and spend time with an amazing, uplifting team.

We could not do the work we do without the help of our volunteers. Their dedication and commitment to helping us serve our community is unwavering.

You can register to volunteer on our website <https://waipunahospice.org.nz/volunteer/> or you can email volunteers@waipunahospice.org.nz for more information.



Get a FREE Will this September

Your **1%** can change everything.

By leaving a 1% gift to Waipuna Hospice in your Will, you can ensure that 99% goes towards taking care of your loved ones, while also creating a lasting legacy. The power of a 1% gift can make a big difference and mean the world to those receiving Waipuna Hospice's care and support.

Waipuna Hospice is offering you the chance to **create a basic Will or update an existing Will for FREE this September**, either online or by visiting one of our participating local solicitors.

To register your interest, please call **07 552 4380 ext. 211** or email supporter@waipunahospice.org.nz with your details.



Support Hospice with Merchandise



Drink Bottles

Stay hydrated with our new 800ml stainless steel Waipuna Hospice drink bottles with the options of vibrant green or bold orange! Durable, eco-friendly, easy to use and supporting a great cause - get yours today!

\$35
Each

\$14
per pack



Watercolour Cards

Purchase a pack of our beautiful greeting cards, with artwork donated by two local artists. We have our Tauranga scenery cards which capture some of our gems in the Bay and we also have our watercolour flower pack with abstract and expressive pieces of nature showing off their beauty

Order yours now by returning the below form, shop online at www.waipunahospice.org.nz/shop-with-us/#shop-merchandise or call 07 552 4380 ext 211.

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 your donation by emailing:

supporter@waipunahospice.org.nz

Waipuna Hospice account details:

Waipuna Hospice
03 0435 0469107 02
Ref: WCJUL25

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 for more impact**

- ☐ 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 purchase the following Waipuna Hospice merchandise (GST included)

- ☐ Green Water Bottle \$35 ☐ Tauranga Scenery Cards 4pk \$14 ☐ EVES Cookbook \$20
☐ Orange Water Bottle \$35 ☐ Watercolour Flower Cards 4pk \$14

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 to maximise my impact.
☐ I would like to know more about leaving a gift in my Will for Waipuna Hospice.

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