

WAIPUNA *Connections*

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change



Inside this issue: A young life lost at the tender age of 20 and how her family and friends are choosing to honour her | Will you Walk for Waipuna? | Upcoming Community Events | A reminder to claim your tax back | Homes for Hospice

Constantly amazed by our community

A word from our CEO, David Bryant.

At the end of last year, I wrote to you reflecting on the highlights of 2025, and how deeply grateful we were for the support of our community.

Just a few months into this new year, I find myself writing with exactly the same feeling; once again, I am completely blown away.

Every day I see the kindness, generosity and care that exists in this community. It shows up in so many ways, in donations, in time given, in conversations shared, and in people simply choosing to stand alongside hospice care and the families who rely on it.

Recently, we were thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of **the Farmers Remembrance Tree fundraising campaign, which raised over \$40,500** for Waipuna Hospice. That kind of support makes a real difference to the care we can provide, and we are all hugely grateful to everyone who contributed through donations or by purchasing a bauble.



December t'was the season for Christmas Spirit and Santa (AKA Sean from Marshalls) turned up on our doorstep with a brand new van. He'd heard ours was on it's last legs and together with Farmer Autovillage gifted us a shiny new van.

The van helps our team reach patients and families across the community whether that be delivering medical and mobility equipment or collecting donated goods for our stores.



It's a wonderful example of how generosity doesn't just come in one form; sometimes it arrives as the exact thing we need to keep doing our work well.

And of course, the support we see isn't only directed toward hospice. Over recent weeks, many in our community have faced the challenges of tragic weather events. Like so many of you, I've been struck by the way people have rallied around each other, neighbours helping neighbours, communities pulling together, and countless quiet acts of kindness.

That same spirit is what sustains hospice care too.

Every patient and family we support is surrounded not only by our clinical teams, but by a wider community that believes in compassionate care at the end of life. Your support helps make that possible.

So as the year unfolds, I simply want to say thank you. **Thank you for standing with Waipuna Hospice, and for continuing to show what a caring and generous community we are fortunate to be part of.**

We are incredibly grateful.

Ngā mihi nui,

David Bryant
CEO, Waipuna Hospice





DID YOU KNOW? Hospice care also includes bereavement support

Our care is as much about the family as it is about the patient. Which is why bereavement services are a large part of what we do.

Grief is a natural response to loss, but it can look different for everyone.

For families of our patients, we offer bereavement support for a 14 month period in a variety of forms. This includes children, teens, and young adults within the family.

Our services include:

- Grief support resources
- Bereavement Support Groups
- Navigating Grief Seminar
- Grief counselling
- Massages & Reflexology *(subject to availability)*
- Support with parenting through grief
- Grief support for children and adolescents

The grieving process takes time, and you don't have to navigate it alone. Please reach out to us if you need support.



Scan to access our 'Grief After Loss' support guide.



Don't forget to claim your tax back!

In New Zealand, donations of \$5 or more to registered charities like Waipuna Hospice are eligible for a **33.33% tax credit** through Inland Revenue.

That means for every \$150 you donate, you can claim \$50 back.

Or if you give \$300, you can claim \$100 back. **That's enough to fund the car fuel or nursing supplies to care for a patient.**

It's one of the most generous charitable rebate schemes in the world, and many people don't realise they're entitled to it.

How it works

Claiming is straightforward:

- Keep your donation receipts.
- Submit them to Inland Revenue (IRD) - you can do this easily through your myIR account online.

You can claim donations made in the last four tax years, so it's worth checking if you haven't claimed before.

Why it matters

If you choose to donate your rebate back to Waipuna Hospice, it increases the impact of your support by a third, **at no extra cost to you.**

And a little goes a long way.

Every dollar helps us provide specialist nursing care, support patients at home, and walk alongside families during some of life's hardest days.

If you have any questions about donation receipts or claiming your rebate, our team is always here to help.

Visit the IRD website to claim



Walk for Waipuna

100KM IN 30 DAYS

Who would you walk for,
one more time?

INTRODUCING WALK FOR WAIPUNA

Walk for Waipuna is a simple but meaningful fundraising challenge that invites you to **walk 100km over the month of April**, which is around 3.3km a day, at your own pace and in your own way.

You might walk to clear your mind. You might walk with friends or whānau. Or you might walk with someone special in your thoughts. Someone you love. Someone you miss. Someone you wish you could walk beside, just one more time. **However you choose to take part, every step holds meaning.**

By joining the challenge, you'll be helping raise vital funds for Waipuna Hospice, supporting people in our community who are living with a terminal illness, as well as those who are grieving the loss of someone they love.

By taking part, you're helping keep hospice care in our region free of charge to patients and families when they need it most.

Whether your steps are taken in memory, in honour, or simply to give back, your walking helps ensure compassionate hospice care continues for today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Sign up, start walking, and make every step count.

**FREE TO
SIGN UP!**

How it works

- ✓ Sign up – it's free! Walk solo, or start a team with your friends.
- ✓ Walk 100kms in April, which is just 3.3km a day!
- ✓ Raise money for hospice care as you go. Help us be there when it matters most.



Walk for Waipuna

100KM IN 30 DAYS

SCAN HERE
TO SIGN UP!



HOW IT WORKS



SIGN UP

When you sign up, a **fundraising page** is automatically created for you. This is **where people can follow your journey** and donate to support Waipuna Hospice and the care we provide.



WALK

Commit to walking 100km across April, around 3km a day. Walk when and where it suits you, at your own pace.

Whether it's solo, with friends, or with someone special in mind, every step counts.



FUNDRAISE

Use your fundraising page to **share your challenge** with friends, family, and colleagues. A simple message, Facebook or Instagram post, email, or group chat is all it takes to **invite support.**




WHY IT MATTERS

Every day, people in our community face some of life's most difficult moments - living with a terminal illness, caring for someone they love, or grieving a profound loss. Waipuna Hospice is there for them.

In fact, **1 in 3 people** in Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty **will need support from Waipuna Hospice at some point in their lives**, whether for themselves or someone close to them.

By taking part in the Walk for Waipuna challenge or donating to the cause, you are helping make that possible.



Registrations are open till the 30th of April, but we recommend getting in early so you have a whole month to tick off your 100km.

You can start fundraising from the moment you sign up, and every dollar you raise will go directly towards hospice care in your local community.



Walking for Tia Walking to remember Walking for Waipuna

When we saw a team of people sign up for the Walk for Waipuna, and indicate they were walking 'To give thanks and to honour our beautiful Tia' we knew Tia must have been someone special.

Tia's Mum Jo and her friend Jen, wrote to us to tell us a bit about Tia's hospice journey and why they have signed up to walk in her honour.

This is their story...

Back in January 2024, we lost a beloved member of our family and friend group, Tia-Jayne Porte Rodger, whose motto was 'You Do You, Boo'. Tia was just shy of her 21st birthday when she passed away.

Tia was diagnosed with an aggressive, extremely rare Cancer - Malignant Gastrointestinal Neuroectodermal Tumors (GNET), which she bravely fought for several years.



Tia was looked after in such an incredibly caring and gentle way by the wonderful carers of Waipuna Hospice who provided daily care in Tia's family home for over a year, administering medications (to help keep her out of the hospital environment that she didn't want to be in) and providing support to the family.

An example of this family support was the counselling to both Tia's brothers and parents. Aside from the medical care, it was helping to make a dream of Tia's come true.

We honour Tia with Cherry Blossoms as it was her dream to visit Japan to see them. When this became something that was not going to happen, Waipuna Hospice took her there via virtual reality goggles.

Those small things made such a huge impact. **Waipuna Hospice became our voice and advocate for Tia's care, very early in the piece.**

Tia asked to go to Waipuna Hospice three days before her passing because of the care and safety they had shown her. As much as her family struggled to let her go, they had always been guided by her wishes. The gorgeous purple hydrangeas in the beautiful gardens brought some peace and calm to everyone who visited her.

As a dear friend wrote, "your girl has transformed our lives, and I don't know what we will do or be without her".

I do know the dedicated caring people at Waipuna reiterated this same message, about how Tia's unique worldview, approach to life through her illness transformed them. "Nothing quite like they had ever experienced before".

In honour of Tia and with gratitude to Waipuna Hospice, our close-knit friend group has decided to fundraise for Waipuna Hospice by way of the 'Walk for Waipuna'.

We hope we can make a small difference, and will be led by our love for Tia to complete this journey of walking 100kms in 30 days. This will be difficult for a few of us with injuries etc, but Tia's memory will keep us going, along with knowing we are supporting the amazing people who supported her.

~ Jo and Jen, Tia's Crew



Tia's story reminds us that while we cannot choose the challenges life gives us, we can choose how we show up for ourselves and for one another.

With your support, hospice can continue to show up for families like hers - with compassion, dignity, and care that truly changes lives.



Tia Rodger's You Do You Crew



This incredible group of people is made up of Tia's friends and family. They have formed a team for the Walk for Waipuna to give back to Waipuna Hospice in her memory.

Want to support them?

Tia's Crew have set themselves a fundraising goal of \$2,000. If you'd like to donate to their team and leave a message of encouragement, you can scan the QR code.





A wheely cool donation

Last year, Mary and John Smith lost John's mum who was under our care. They kindly donated Betty's car to us with the understanding that we would sell it and the funds raised would go on to help us provide essential hospice care to others.

This generous donation raised \$1,000!



Another wheely cool donation

Donations with wheels has been a trend! We were also kindly gifted a Pride Celebrity DX Sport Mobility Scooter.

It's currently listed on TradeMe and is ready to go to a new home. Check it out...



THE RIGHT THINGS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

to the terminally ill and bereaved.

Right now, our Waipuna Hospice charity shops need **good quality homewares, bric-a-brac and beds.**

Quality donations can be dropped off at any of our charity shops, depots, or **call the number below for a FREE home collection!**

07 281 1755





Drumroll please...

It never ceases to amaze us, at how generous our community is at Christmas time. You all came out in droves to shop at our three local Farmers stores, making donations to us and purchasing your annual Hospice Bauble.

In total you helped raise \$40,536.84 for Waipuna Hospice in the month of December.

We'd like to thank you for your support, and also Melissa, Tim, Lee and all the Farmers staff members who help make this possible year after year.



Homes for Hospice - Round 2



Last year, in conjunction with The Northern Group, we launched Homes for Hospice. And what an incredible experience it was!

The house went to auction on December 11th, the room was full of nervous energy and eager bidders. But in the end it came down to just two, a local couple and an international buyer on the phone. We watched them battle it out, and in the end the locals won! They were determined that house was going to be theirs, and it was a nail-biting thing to watch.

The house sold for \$1,280,000, raising a **whopping \$38,400 for Waipuna Hospice.**

Donations of this size go so far to helping us fill our funding gap. **A huge thank you** to Lee and the team at The Northern Group for their incredible support and generous hearts.

AND WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN!

This is your chance to be part of something that makes a huge impact.

If you're thinking about selling your home in the next couple of months, this is your sign to register your interest to be part of Homes for Hospice and we can start the conversation.

There's nothing to lose! You get a generous marketing campaign for free and the commission you'd normally pay to the agent, gets paid to Waipuna Hospice instead.

There's no catch - just a local company with a heart for the community, giving back.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE >>





Jace Golf Day and Auction raises \$28,723.85 for hospice

A massive THANK YOU goes out to the JACE Group for their incredibly generous donation of \$28,723.85.

In December, some very special people from the Jace Group organised a golf tournament which was held at Waihi Golf Course - and the turn out was impressive!

Through a charity Waipuna Hospice donation hole and an action packed live auction in the club rooms, they raised an outstanding \$28,723.85 for Waipuna Hospice. WOW!

Fundraising events like this are so special, they remind us just how many caring people in our community support the work we do.

The money raised ensures that local families facing with terminal illness continue to have access to free hospice care and support when they need it the most.

A special thank you to Tania, Lia and Jan for all your efforts and selecting us to be your charity of choice for this event.

We are so grateful for your support and congratulate you on such a fun and successful golf day!

Thanks to everyone involved including: Mpac, Southern Orchards Limited, Auckland Pack and Cool Ltd., PollenPlus, GroPlus, and Kiwi Green NZ.

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.



KD Kirkby
Charitable Trust



UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERT



Hearts in Harmony

With special guest Wendy Coster!

'Treble in Paradise' is a dynamic team of eight women who have a passion for singing and performing. They meet weekly to rehearse with Musical Director – Andrew Braid.



Andrew has a wealth of knowledge and experience, having spent his life in the performing arts. Andrew formed 'Treble In Paradise' as a way of fundraising for charities that are essential to our community.

This "feel good" concert will showcase a selection of pop, rock, swing and disco favourites from the 70s, 80s and beyond.

"We have all experienced the loss of a loved one; we've seen suffering, we've all felt the pain. We cannot change the outcome of the journey, but we can make a difference to influence the outcome. 'Hearts In Harmony' is our way of giving back".

2.30pm
Sunday 17th May
St. Peter's in the City, Tauranga
Tickets: \$35 each



A night with Kevin Toolis

How the Irish teach us how to live, love and die

Kevin Toolis is an Irish filmmaker, journalist, poet, and author who explores deep questions about life and death.

He sees the traditional Irish wake as a beautiful human ritual that embraces death. In this tradition, family and community stay with the dying person, keep vigil, care for the body, speak openly about loss, cry, laugh, and share memories.

Kevin's talks are always deeply impactful and thought-provoking, his approach to death isn't just philosophical, it encourages a cultural shift that is supportive, collaborative, and normalises death and grief.

6pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 8th April
The Atrium Cafe, Otumoetai
Tickets: \$30 each





Show your love with our 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.

Cards (4 pack) - \$14 per pack

A delicious year lies ahead

Need meal inspiration? Look no further than this beautiful cookbook from the team at Eves! It's packed with tasty recipes that will leave everyone wanting more!

Cookbooks - \$20 each

Order yours today:

Give us a call on 07 552 4380 ext. 211 or scan the QR code to order online.



Keep these easy to donate details handy!

4 EASY WAYS TO DONATE



Mail the blue coupon to:
Waipuna Hospice
PO Box 16299
Bethlehem
Tauranga 3147



Internet Banking:
Please confirm your donation by emailing:
supporter@waipunahospice.org.nz

Waipuna Hospice bank account details:

Waipuna Hospice
03 0435 0469107 02
Ref: WCMAR26

Please include your phone number.



Phone 07 552 4380
Ext. 210



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)

Watercolour Flower Cards 4pk - \$14

Eves Cookbook - \$20

Tauranga Scenery 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 # CC63387
If you wish to unsubscribe, please notify us at communications@waipunahospice.org.nz