

Hospice News 2020

Otago Community Hospice Newsletter | September

CEO Message

We are entering September 2020 with many weighty issues in front of us, including one that is very close to the heart of Hospice – the upcoming referendum on the End of Life Act.

Given you are a loyal supporter, we wanted to ensure you know where we as a Hospice stand in relation to euthanasia.

At its July meeting, the Otago Community Hospice Board decided that we will be a euthanasia-free service, and our staff will not assess for eligibility or deliver assisted dying should the Act come into force.

A fundamental principle of hospice and palliative care is to neither hasten nor postpone the natural progression of death. Consistent with this principle, we believe that euthanasia or assisted dying has no place in hospice or palliative care.

In the event that this referendum passes, we will respect a patient's decision should they choose the option of assisted dying and continue to provide the same compassionate care as we would any patient referred to our service.

Even though our staff will not assess eligibility for assisted dying, nor deliver or be present during the administration of lethal doses of medication, our standard of care for patients will continue no matter what an individual's choice may be.

Our decision to be a 'euthanasia-free' service is supported by a declaratory judgement from the High Court in May around specific questions in relation to the End of Life Choice Act including whether an organisation such as a hospice can conscientiously object to assisted dying and operate a 'euthanasia-free' service.

The Court ruled that organisations such as hospices have a right of conscientious objection, and further that this is a right protected under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act.

As we head closer to the referendum we hope people start talking about how our community, in particular our colleagues in the health sector, will respond to this new legislation.

This is a very complex situation and we all need to be prepared as to how each of us will move forward if the referendum goes through.

Our team supports people with a terminal illness to live and die well, and we remain dedicated to responding to the unique,

complex needs of every patient and their family/whānau utilising our specialist expertise in end-of-life issues. This will not change, so regardless of where your vote lies in regards to the referendum, we urge you to continue your amazing support of our community Hospice serving the people who really need us 24/7 throughout the year, no matter what their end-of-life choice.



Ginny

Central Otago Team Doubled



Central Otago has seen significant growth in patients needing specialist palliative care over the last 18 months, so the area has been a key focus of Hospice service planning. We've worked very hard across the last year to boost the team and we now have four care coordinators, a nurse practitioner, a spiritual care coordinator, a social worker and a counsellor working across the Central Otago region. This team is well supported by regular specialist palliative doctor visits. Patients and their families also have access to night carers, a biography service and 24/7 phone support.

As part of its broader remit, Hospice also provides GP and primary health care provider support and education. Earlier this year the Hospice brought the Kowhai Programme – education for informal carers – to Wanaka and Alexandra, making a significant difference to those family members caring for loved ones at home.

All the aged care facilities in the region are supported by the first Southern-based Hospice Nurse Practitioner, Louisa Ingham.

Wanaka-based Ms Ingham says living and working in a small community can be a challenge for the team, who routinely met clients or their families in the supermarket or cafe.

"A lot of people ask why you would want to work with death or dying but it is so rewarding, getting to know families and work with them potentially over an extended period of time. You develop a professional bond with families in their hardest times. Our service is often like being a midwife, but at the opposite end of the spectrum. When I started with hospice eight years ago we had 15 patients. Now we sit at around 50, sometimes more."

The Hospice has been well supported by Central Lakes Trust, The Trust Community Foundation, The Lion Foundation, The Upper Clutha Hospice Trust, the Wanaka BNI chapter and Pioneer Energy. We are also incredibly grateful to those who regularly support our Cromwell and Alexandra shops with both donations and being loyal shoppers, helping us raise much-needed funds for the service.

otago
community
hospice
Living Every Moment

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With lock down in the rear view mirror, but with so many businesses and people reeling from the effects of Covid, Otago Community Hospice decided something fun was required for the beginning of our financial year. It was decided that people getting their shorts on and their winter legs out on July 3rd would be just the ticket. It is the first time we've run this event and the key objective was to have fun and if you also gathered a few gold coins for Hospice while having a laugh, then even better. There were knobbly knees, hairy legs and plenty of goose bumps as hemlines were raised in the bitter cold of that fine and VERY frosty Friday to help raise funds for Otago Hospice. Amongst our supporters were Breen Construction, Otago Polytechnic, J C Strachan, North East Valley Normal School, McHoull Contracting,

M Magee & M Bath, Galloway Cook Allan and the Otago Community Hospice IPU team!

We had set our target low at \$1,000 for the day – given it was a first and the Covid-effect. But with small and large contributions here and there, we raised over \$2,200. We face a significant fundraising target of \$2.5 million each year and initiatives like this help us get there one step at a time. Thank you to all those who braved the day with shorts.

Get in touch if you'd like to partake in Shorts for Hospice 2021 – it's a great team building exercise, as well as doing something good for your community. We'll be posting about it around April next year, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page.

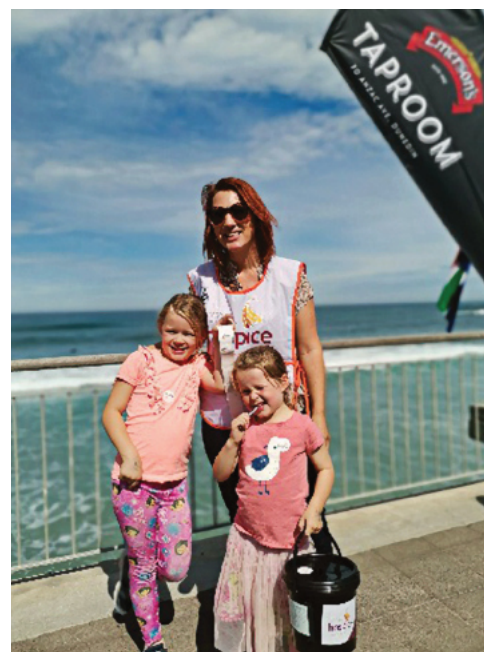
A Lucky Break – Hospice Street Appeal B4 Lockdown

Our decision to move our appeal day to a warmer month certainly paid off in more ways than one. It was a beautiful sunny day as the regional team of Freemasons, service groups and hundreds of volunteers hit the streets with Hospice buckets.

Not only were our volunteers warmer, but also we got the Street Appeal done before lockdown. We were so extremely grateful for this given our fundraising ability crumbled across April and May, with our shops closed and significant events cancelled.

The Street Appeal raised an amazing \$35,000 – a fantastic result! Thank you to everyone who participated, donated and smiled throughout the day.

If you would like to help out on our appeal day next year please get in touch with our fundraising team on 03 473 6005. We are especially keen to find coordinators for our collection teams in Wanaka and Oamaru – if this sounds like something you could help with, please give us a call.



Dunedin Degustation Dinner



Our Dunedin Degustation Dinner – set amongst the beautiful setting of Glenfalloch – went off with a bang for the second year running. This wonderfully indulgent evening included a seven course menu, a finely curated auction with iconic items such as Ben Smith's last game-worn jersey and spectacular jewellery from Debra Fallowfield. The upbeat electric hits just kept coming from the band, The Plus Ones, as everyone hit the dancefloor to celebrate what was a thrilling auction.

We raised \$15,650 from the auction plus on the night keen supporters Harcourts Dunedin confirmed a \$7,739 grant from the Harcourts Foundation to pay for a high-tech mattress for our Inpatient Unit.

A heartfelt thank you to Melanie Hartmann and her team, Hannes Bareiter, The Plus Ones, Quartz Reef, Ritchies Bus Service, Polson Higgs, De Novo Gallery, URBN Vino, Greys Studio, Pulse Energy, Marsa Dodds, Gravity Events and Richard Stringer and the team at Harcourts. This event couldn't have been the success that it was without your support.



During the dark days of lockdown, The Central Bunch – a group of Central Otago wineries – joined forces to raise funds for Otago Community Hospice. Akitu, Akarua, Burn Cottage, Quartz Reef, Prophet's Rock and Valli pulled together a collection of six pinot noirs from across Central Otago, giving people a chance to travel through the beautiful mountains of Central Otago and visit sub-regions of Wanaka, Bannockburn, Cromwell Basin, Bendigo and Gibbston through each glass of wine. An incredible \$3,920.40 was raised for Hospice – thank you to the wonderful Central Bunch!

New Chairs for North Otago Patients

The North Otago Hospice Hub received a very generous gift of four patient chairs last month from Jane van Schreven who acts on behalf of a local benefactor.

"Having dealt with one of your clients recently in my real estate agent role and seen her absolute delight in being loaned such a chair I decided to make contact with the Hospice and see if they would appreciate some more – hence the latest offering. I'm sure they will be greatly appreciated by those suffering and in need of a little extra comfort."

Hospice Care Coordinator Bridget McAtamney was thrilled to receive the gift.

"When Jane saw the immediate comfort, joy and relief of our patient on having this chair delivered, she went and ordered four for us to add to our loan pool.

"These reclining chairs have a lifting function and are very useful for patients with impaired mobility, especially to stand up from a seated position. Using these chairs means patient carers and relatives are not trying to lift patients. We're so grateful for this practical gift; it's amazing to be in a position to have such a strong chair pool, so no one will go without this very useful aid."



Rugby Support for Hospice

Big ups to the Stonelake Foundation and Pulse Energy Highlanders for asking us to collect at the Highlanders versus Crusaders game on a blustery Saturday night in July.

We had a great bunch of volunteers with buckets out on the night, and collected over \$1,500 from people coming into the game. We also received a very generous \$1,000 donation from the Stonelake Foundation. While it was a cold night to be out, all volunteers gladly got to watch the game. Unfortunately the Highlanders didn't win, but still a great night out for young and old.



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Hospice Events Calendar

Friday 16 October Central Otago Dinner Club supported by Pioneer Energy

This event was postponed due to Covid-19, but it's all go again for this gorgeous spring event. We are so looking forward to seeing our supporters in Central Otago at The Packing Shed. There are a few tickets left, so contact us on 03 473 6005 if you'd like to come along.

Friday 30 October The Southern Trust Golf Tournament

Once again Kevin Galliven and his fab team from the Southern Trust and the St Clair Golf Club will be hosting this event of the year! Looking forward to seeing the crew in action again, and this year there will be extra attention paid to the festive fundraising tents.

Saturday 14 November The Mornington Taphouse Charity Car Cruise

A fantastic day out with your mates where you are given clues along the way to get to different locations. Goody bags, live entertainment, prize draws and all the proceeds to Otago Hospice. Keep an eye on their Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/morningtontaphouse

Sunday 22 November Hospice Charity Car Cruise

This will be the 11th year that Hospice Hero Ken Schumacher has run this event. Last year turned out a gorgeous day, so hopefully this year the weather gods will be just as kind. See more on their Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/OtagoCommunityHospiceCharityCruise/

Keep an eye on our website for more information on these events as they happen.

www.otagohospice.co.nz



New Touch Lamps for the IPU

Ron, our Inpatient Unit Team Leader, has been on the look-out for some new touch lamps suitable for bedside tables which can easily be dimmed without disturbing patients. Andrea Elliott and her team from Click Property Management heard about this need, and dropped in eight brand new touch lamps. Once again our community has come to the rescue. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks to the following Trusts who have supported us over the last six months:

Margaret Florence Anderson Trust

Harcourts Foundation

The Lion Foundation

William Downie Stewart Charitable Trust

Central Lakes Trust

Jessie Hill Charitable Trust

DCC Community Project Grant

Bendigo Valley Sport and Charity Foundation



An extra special thank you to Central Lakes Trust and The Lion Foundation for their grants which were very timely, helping us purchase a RAV for the growing Upper Clutha-focussed team. This new car will certainly help ease the pressure of timetabling for the team.