

# Hospice

# News 2021

Otago Community Hospice Newsletter | August

## CEO Message

With our Hospice Awareness Week done and dusted, I wanted to let our supporters know about some of our less visible work, particularly in the primary healthcare sector.

Our team is out and about in our community all the time: our 21 community care staff are sharing their knowledge with whānau throughout Otago each and every day, as well as supporting GPs and district nurses. Our inpatient unit nurses and doctors are available on a 24/7 helpline to those who need palliative care advice any time of day or night and all of our team are involved in education in the community, as well as in our tertiary institutions.

This is a vital part of our Hospice mission as palliative needs in New Zealand are forecast to increase by roughly 50% over the next 15-20 years.

With the ageing population and an increased level of medical complexity amongst that ageing population combined with a shortage of palliative care specialists and nurses, increasing demands are likely to fall disproportionately on our primary care colleagues. We want to do what we can to support them.

Our expertise is available for all those working in health, and if someone is caring for a patient with terminal illness – even if that patient is not receiving our services – and needs palliative advice, then our Hospice team can provide that support.

We know that being available to advise and assist those “front-line” doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers taking care of patients with a terminal illness can make a real difference to large numbers of patients not just those referred to our service.

We are constantly thinking how we can lift palliative care capacity and knowledge across our community. Our continuing mission to spread palliative care knowledge throughout Otago's primary care sector will stand our community in good stead for the future.

And you as a supporter of Hospice are part of this equation.

Please continue to support us.



*Ginny*

## Hospice gets the Brass



The 40th and final Brass Monkey Rally was held in June and the organising committee has donated an incredible \$50,000 to Hospice from funds raised at the event.

Forty-one years ago a team of Otago Motorcycle Club members returned from a trip to the “Cold Kiwi” in Waiouru and decided there was an appetite for something similar in the South Island.

The concept was a bunch of motorcycle riders gathered in the middle of winter around a HUGE bonfire in the middle of a farmers paddock, consuming a few beverages and telling stories about bikes, bikes and more bikes. And so it was that in 1981, with a suitable site near Oturehua selected, the first of what were to be many legendary Brass Monkey Rally's was held.

And the last rally happened in June 2021 on its 40th anniversary.

Rally Chairman Alan Dodds says to celebrate the last 40 years the Brass Monkey Rally committee, of 17 passionate club member, released a special edition “Pilsner beer” and a large range of merchandise as well as lining up three bands for the night as a way of saying thank you to all the motorcyclists who supported 40 years of the event. And the people responded – with 4102 turning up for the event!

“The rain that came late evening did not dampen anyone's spirits as the stories got taller and longer than the 12 metre long bonfire,” says Alan.

As well as a rally which will go down in New Zealand motorcycle history, the committee also had \$50,000 of funds raised to deal with. They decided to spend it in a way that reflects the community spirit of the Otago Motorcycle Club, purchasing a 4WD vehicle for our Central Otago team – a fitting tribute given the rally was held in the Ida Valley.

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Living Every Moment

# Hospice News

## Epic Run For Hospice

Runner Glenn Sutton elevated the fundraising bar in May, running for 100+ hours and covering 580km in his mammoth run from Milford Sound to Mt Aoraki (Cook). He also raised over \$20,000 for Otago Community Hospice.

Glenn was supported along the way by a crew of six core runners (including our inpatient unit team leader Ron McLay-Barnes, as well as runners from various towns (including our fundraising coordinator Amy Ruthven who clocked up more than ten kms).

Over five days, Glenn had only three 20-minute naps and one 40-minute sleep. He then took a two-hour rest on Monday morning about 10km into the Mt Aoraki turn-off, suffering from fatigue and experiencing hallucinations – an issue that often occurs in races lasting longer than 24 hours.

An incredible feat, which we are completely wowed by.

Glenn has a pretty incredible track record having completed several 100-mile (161km) trail runs, and is the only New Zealander to have completed Badwater 135, the world's toughest foot race – three times.

The Herculean run, named 'Sounds2Summit', was been documented on YouTube.

*Pictured here, the man himself Glenn and Amy (Otago Hospice's Fundraising Coordinator).*



## VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION TOPS \$1 MILLION

We celebrated a significant milestone this year with our volunteer workforce contributing nearly a million dollars of resource to Hospice service provision via roles in the Hospice shops, after hour receptionists, weekend housekeepers, kitchen assistants, gardeners and patient biographers.

Hospice CEO Ginny Green says the Hospice's volunteer army has reached a level of contribution never seen before.

"Our volunteers contribute a massive 929 hours each and every week of the year, and that's not counting all the volunteers who help us with our street appeal, the trailer raffle, working bees and various other contributions throughout the year.

"Our reception volunteers are the welcoming face and voice of the

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Hospice out of hours, our gardeners keep our beautiful environment so special for those who are in our inpatient unit or attending education at the Hospice in North East Valley. Our kitchen team go out of their way to meet patients and families' needs. Our housekeepers work hard every weekend to ensure our space is perfect for patients. Our shops continue to hum because of our 250 plus volunteers who keep things running smoothly. And people's stories – no matter what their history – are a rich treasure trove for families, and it is wonderful to be able to offer our volunteer biography service to patients throughout Otago.

"We are so grateful to our terrific volunteer workforce who bring skills, friendship and wisdom to our Hospice service."

We are always looking for new volunteers throughout Otago. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for Hospice, making a difference to patients' lives throughout Otago, please contact Rebecca Shaw on 03 473 6005.

## Harcourts Agents Test Cold Calling Skills

Harcourt's Agents from across Central Otago raised a whopping \$6186 in a break out fundraising hour in the middle of their annual conference gathering in Alexandra this year.

Split into ten teams the agents were given just an hour to sell as many bottles of The Good Oil product as they could. They sold an incredible 1832 bottles.

*Pictured here is Andrew Little from Harcourts Alexandra with his team, and Viviann from The Hospice Shop Alexandra.*



## Vogel Street Shop Celebrates First Birthday

On the 12th of March 2020 Hospices Vogel St Superstore opened its doors to hundreds of keen shoppers. And there was no disappointment on the day with the shop, situated in the heart of the historical warehouse precinct, delivering on all fronts – great second-hand goods, great prices and a fabulous new space for homewares and books.

After a fleeting 12 days of business, Covid Lockdown saw the shop close.

Hospice CEO Ginny Green says it wasn't an ideal start for the Hospice superstore, but in the last year the shop has more than made up for those seven weeks of closed doors.

"Despite Covid, our superstore – in fact all of our six shops – have outdone themselves as far as keeping the goods rolling in and out the doors, charging ahead of forecasts and generating terrific income for our service – a total of a million \$ towards our fundraising target. We couldn't be happier with the shops' results and Vogel Streets first year of incredible business."



## OP and OCH Cement Partnership



In March this year, a new sign was put up at the front of the Hospice building formally acknowledging Hospice's continuing collaboration with the Otago Polytechnic.

Hospice has been working alongside Otago Polytechnic for a number of years now, providing palliative education workshops for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor of Nursing students, Enrolled Nurse, CAP Nurse and Occupational Therapy students. We also often have a placement in the inpatient unit for recently graduated nurses under the Nurses Entry to Practice Programme.

The Hospice is also a Clinical Teaching Facility for the University of Otago.

*Karole Hogarth from Otago Polytech's School of Nursing and Ginny prop up a freshly minted sign which recognises Hospice's Clinical Practice Partnership with the Polytechnic.*

## New World Vouchers for Families



A project to fund New World vouchers for Hospice families, which was originally kicked off in 2019 by the Gift of Kindness Trust, has been adopted by local BNI chapters – Larnach, Mosgiel and Aspire.

The New World Vouchers for Families project has been a great success, making a very real difference to families in need who are on the Hospice service.

BNI Larnach, BNI Mosgiel and BNI Aspire raised a total of \$1,500 worth of New World vouchers which will be distributed by our social workers based in Dunedin and Central.

Dunedin Hospice social worker Margaret Eketone says many patients on the Hospice service face financial stress due to their inability to continue with their employment, either having to reduce hours or resign from their job.

"The support the vouchers represent as patients negotiate their way onto benefits, and thus a reduced income, is a relief for recipient families. There are also other patients who, due to unexpected costs, benefit from receiving support in this way. So far this year a dozen patients and their families have benefitted from this support in the Dunedin area. These vouchers are also made available to our Central, South and North Otago families."

*Pictured here are Jacqui Johnston & Sarah Braun from BNI Mosgiel & Lyn Howe from BNI Larnach with our Fundraising Coordinator Amy.*

# Hospice News

## Hospice Events Calendar

Friday 29 October 2021  
The Southern Trust Golf Tournament

November 2021  
Farmers Campaign

November 2021  
Trailer Raffle

Keep an eye on our website for information on these and future events.

[www.otagohospice.co.nz](http://www.otagohospice.co.nz)

## Colour Day Performance



As part of Hospice Awareness Week, local schools took part in our Colour Day fundraiser – where participants wear ALL the colours of the rainbow and shine bright like a diamond for Otago Hospice.

Following on from the day, our staff were treated to a performance by students from Amana Christian School. Roslyn, the Principal, brought the class in to hand deliver the money they'd raised for Colour Day.

Our clinical administrator Paritai Samuel (left) also took the Colour Day extremely seriously.

# THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks to the following Trusts who supported us with generous grants:

- The Lion Foundation
- Lottery Otago / Southland Community
- Jessie Hill Charitable Trust



If this Women's Golf Tournament, sponsored by Edinburgh Commercial and happening on December 10, sounds like you contact Amy Ruthven with your team details right now. It's going to be a real hoot.

## Annual Winter Crop Competition and Charity Auction



The Annual Winter Crop Competition and Charity Auction event raised a record setting \$64,500 and we were the very grateful recipients of \$27,000! Thank you to the Rotary Club of Taieri and Taieri Lions Club for their incredible fundraising efforts.



Consider becoming a Friend of Hospice by setting up an automatic payment. Your regular payment will go directly to the costs associated with specialist palliative care.

Contact: Michelle on **0800 682 464** or email [friends@otagohospice.co.nz](mailto:friends@otagohospice.co.nz) or [michelle.rowe@otagohospice.co.nz](mailto:michelle.rowe@otagohospice.co.nz)