

HOSPICE WHANGANUI VOLUNTEER NEWS

DECEMBER 2025 | #4



Helen



Kia ora e te whanau – wow what a year it's been! I started in my role in late February just as we were about to stage our most successful fundraising event ever- the Mitre 10 Dancing for Hospice – and it's been all go since!

As you will see in the pages that follow and in our annual report which is now live on our website, we have had a huge year of supporting our patients and their families with comfort, care, aroha and dignity when they need it the most, and you have all been an essential part of that mahi.

Since your last newsletter, we've had a few important events and visits that I wanted to let you know about. In November we welcomed the Minister of Health, Simeon

Brown and our local MP Carl Bates for a korero about the work of Hospice Whanganui and a tour of our in-patient unit and facilities. The Minister and Carl spent time with our team learning about our nurse led model of care and the challenges and opportunities with delivering a specialist palliative care service to the Whanganui community.

The weekend after our successful Volunteer Christmas party (which I hope you all enjoyed 😊), our facility was full again for our Hospice High Tea fundraising event! We hosted 50 guests for an afternoon of treats, music, raffles, and celebration. We are so grateful for every volunteer, donor, baker, sponsor, and team members who helped bring this special day to life!

This year we have also expanded our fundraising events to local businesses, launching a Hospice Whanganui Business Champions programme. As part of this programme, Whanganui's own Bullocks Group has unveiled a newly branded Hospice Whanganui concrete truck – with every cubic metre of concrete it pours, \$1 will be donated to Hospice. The striking truck graphics were created by Bullocks, Hospice and Morrie Gibbons signs (who also discounted their work in support of the project). Nga mihi to the entire Bullocks team for backing hospice care in such a meaningful way.

Finally, as the year draws to a close, I wanted to offer you my heartfelt thanks for being part of our Hospice Whanganui team – your skills, generosity, and commitment to our mahi, make a real difference and help to ensure that patients and their whānau in the Whanganui region continue to receive free 24/7 specialist palliative care.

*Wishing you all a very merry Christmas
and a happy new year!*



AGM Update – New Board Leadership

At our recent AGM, we farewelled Chair Kirsten Bryant after 12 years of exceptional service and welcomed:

- Jamie Procter – Board Chair
- Dr Emma Davey – Deputy Chair

Both bring strong experience in primary care and governance and are passionate about supporting Hospice Whanganui's future.

Jamie Procter – Board Chair

Our Christmas Lunch

We had a wonderful celebration at our Christmas lunch, we were so lucky that the fine weather let us enjoy the lovely gardens before coming inside for lunch. Our meal included salads by Lee, Veronica, Anne and Kisu, pavlovas and apple crumble by Fiona. We kept the formalities to the bare minimum, just enough to let everyone know how much their contribution has made a difference to our patients and community. The following week we delivered the donations for the gift collections (with this letter ➔), both charities were amazed at the generosity of our volunteers. We know the donations will be enjoyed by the children and older people who receive them for Christmas.

A New Year's resolution is one that goes in one year and out the other!



Spring brought new life to Hospice

**CHRISTMAS
DONATIONS**

Following a suggestion from our volunteers, instead of doing 'Secret Santa' at our Hospice Whanganui Volunteer's Christmas lunch we collect gift donations for local charities who support our Whanganui community at Christmas. This year our volunteers have collected gifts for -

*Hakeke Street Shoebox Project
Age Concern's Secret Santa Gifts.*

Hospice Whanganui is honoured to have the support of our amazing volunteers and even more appreciative of the many ways they spread their support throughout our community, often volunteering and donating to many organisations.

On behalf of our Hospice Whanganui Volunteers please accept these gifts for your collection, and accept our heartfelt thanks to everyone wrapping our community in aroha all year around!!



The Seasons of Hospice

Our Hospice community is so aware of the seasons of life and the importance of reflecting on what we have achieved. Our Annual Report is essential compliance but it is also an opportunity for us to observe all that has happened in the course of a year. See the full Annual Report here - <https://hospicewanganui.org.nz/2024-25-annual-report/>

Away from the facts and figures, we have plenty to remind us of the circle of life and the continuity of all we do. Whether we're taming the riot of flowers in our gardens in spring or preparing for another Vintage Weekend in our shops, we are all part of the endless cycle of supporting our Hospice community

Snippets from the 2024 -2025 Annual Report

CERTIFICATION AUDIT

Hospice Whanganui passed its certification audit, carrying us through to 2027.



HOSPICE SHOP INCOME
\$847,399



21,800+ VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED

120

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

Total Donations & Fundraising
\$486,318



135 DAYS AVERAGE TIME PATIENTS SPENT IN HOSPICE SERVICE

58 AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENT / WHĀNAU INTERACTIONS PER DAY



90



144

LIASON ACTIVITIES WITH OUR PARTNERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

2,524 Followers
7055 Interactions
156 Posts
36.9k Reach



\$60,000

donated by
'Farming Friends of Hospice'

Spring flowers



Kevin - a gardener born and bred

Kevin is one of our gardeners, born and bred in Whanganui, he's Irish on his father's side, his mother was born in Palmerston North of Scottish heritage. Kevin grew up on the family farm off of Great North Road, they grew seedlings for Parnell's (where the café is now, and another shop at the top of the Ave), mostly flower seedlings but a few vegetable seedlings too. They also supplied vegetables to Coull Patel, their main customer in Whanganui, and the rest would go on the train up to Hawera and New Plymouth. There wasn't a train stop nearby, they'd just drive their ute to the top of the Westmere embankment and when the train came along, the driver would see the ute and stop to put the vegetable boxes in the guard's wagon. As well as milking their jersey cow herd, Kevin's dad had a milk run on St. John's Hill for 21 years, and all the kids took turns getting up early to help on the run for pocket money.

Kevin had a great childhood, there was always plenty to do on the farm but they had lots of fun days out too. Kai Iwi was a favourite spot, trips always included a treat of an ice cream. Back then you could go for a swim at Westmere Lake too, and there was a large, cleared area where his family would relax while swimming.

Kevin began his working life as a butcher at Bristol's on St John's Hill, later moving to the main branch in Victoria Avenue. After a few years he got a job at the meatpackers down by the wharf, eventually working in the smallgoods department. Kevin's next step in his career was to go contract butchering, which led to seasonal work as a fellmonger, at peak they would have three chains going and were processing over 9,000 sheepskin a day. But the hard physical work and disruption with industrial action led Kevin to apply for a job at Whanganui Collegiate as a groundskeeper. That was in 1973, and in Kevin's words, "I thought I was in paradise when I went there." Over the next 33 years he stayed on and saw many changes including the New Zealand Opera School starting up. Several buildings were built and Kevin was there when the Prince Edward Auditorium was built and has been to many plays and performances there. He still likes to go for a stroll around the grounds during the holidays and see how the grounds have grown and developed over the years.

Kevin has been married to Marlene for 57 years now, their children Stephen, Anna, Andrew and Irene are living around New Zealand and Australia, their three grandchildren live in Brisbane. When Kevin eventually retired, he had more time for golf, he had been playing at Castlecliff Golf Club since 1965, he still has his nomination ticket. Another thing he still likes to do is ride his pushbike around the bridges. And of course, every Friday since 2013, he comes up to Hospice to joins the gardeners. Kevin has made good friends here, even though he sometimes works on his own, having morning tea is always lots of fun. He has seen the gardens improve over the years but there will always be areas that can improve, it's something every gardener learns to accept, but he says, "I like to think I've made a difference in a small way." He most definitely has!



E rere kau mai te Āwanui, Mai i te Kāhui maunga
ki Tangaroa. Kō au te Āwa, kō te Āwa kō au.

Tēnā koutou katoa.
Ko Aotea te waka
Ko Ruapehu te maunga
Ko Whanganui te awa
Ko Te Atihaunui a Pāpārangi te iwi
Ngā Paerangi me Ngāti Ruakā ūku hapū
Ko Kaiwhaiki me Ruakā (Rānana) ūku marae
Ko Teri Albert (nee Te Utu Poto Teki) toku ingoa
No Arakuhu ahau.
Nō reira, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou
katoa.



Teri Albert - Integrated Services Director

Teri is from up the Whanganui River, whakapapa (whānau links) to both Rānana, and Kaiwhaiki, and a little bit further from Kaiwhaiki pā is a little piece of paradise called Arakuhu, where generations of her whānau have lived, continuously connected to the awa. Her parents come from large families, between them they had 27 brothers and sisters, and Teri grew up living closely with all her cousins, like brothers and sisters to her too. Teri has one grown son and she and her husband have had 25 good years together and they're still going strong.

For most of the last 25 years Teri has worked in health and Māori Development, including working with Te Oranganui for the last 15 years. With a wide range of skills, experience and professional knowledge, in 2024 Teri decided it was time for a new challenge, somewhere that she could bring the value of her experience, and she successfully applied for the role of Integrated Services Director at Hospice. She says, "I love what Specialist Palliative Care can do for whānau, ensuring that our patients receive an integrated, whānau-centred care package. No matter their circumstances, situation, diagnosis or lifestyle, we aim to wrap whānau as best as we can through integrated care."

Teri explained that we are the same as any other specialist, usually a patient is cared for by their GP but at some point, the patient needs advanced care, and a referral gets made to the specialist. Hospice provides specialist palliative care for patients and their family, bringing together clinicians, social workers, chaplains, and whoever needs to be involved, coordinating them to work cohesively, to provide care that is led and driven by whānau choice. Hospice also extends that integration to include other providers in the community, from District Nurses to Aged Residential Care, St John's Ambulance to local Iwi providers, bringing everyone together to contribute to a shared care plan, ensuring that the Hospice works as one team, one waka going in the same direction. When Teri started with Hospice eighteen months ago, most of our patients had a cancer diagnosis, but we are now seeing more support needed for patients with chronic conditions when they become end-of-life.

Another area of change is the focus and improvement of service to our rural communities, this is one area where our integrated approach to community and home-based care is improving all the time. Whenever possible we can keep them in their own homes by providing the medication (including syringe drivers for pain management), be a connector for equipment like hospital beds and mobility aids, and we can have our nurses visit every day or two to monitor and adjust the treatment plan, in addition to them being able to contact Hospice 24/7.

Away from Hospice, Teri and her husband are keen car enthusiasts, regularly travelling to events that car communities organise to raise funds for community organisations and charities. All the crews support each other, and next year Teri and her husband's crew have organised a big fundraising event – Hittaz for Hospice – it's going to be a really fun family day!

Once in a while though, the only way to really relax is to get away camping at the beach, returning to the life Teri has always loved. While Teri relaxes and enjoys some quiet time at the tent, Teri's husband, a keen diver, will go out and bring back the kai moana, "It's what replenishes us and keeps our cup full."

**JAH HITTAZ CAR CLUB &
HOSPICE WHANGANUI BRING YOU**

Hittaz for Hospice!

Date: 22 March 2026
Time: Open to public 10am - 3pm
Open to Cars and Bikes from 8am
Venue: WHANGANUI RACECOURSE

Hard Park Up!
Come down and check out some of the hottest cars on the street!

- Gold coin entry
- Register your car/bike @ www.hospicewanganui.org.nz - \$20 entry (payment details will appear when you click on registration form). Late registrations on the day also cash only.
- All funds go directly to Hospice Whanganui. Our services are provided free of charge to every family who walks through our doors. Thank you for supporting us in continuing to provide compassionate palliative care to the Whanganui community.



FIRE AWAYS
Car Awards
PRIZES
Fun & Activities
MUSIC

Food STALLS
including
mini
seafood
boils!

Merch SALES
Scan QR code to register here

**FUNDRAISING FOR HOSPICE WHANGANUI.
BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY... ENJOY THE DAY!**



Our Rangitahi Young People

This year we've seen an increase of young volunteers supporting Hospice Whanganui, from the young people joining us as volunteers in the shops to those helping with our fundraisers. Our secondary schools are doing a great job encouraging their students in civic participation and we've been lucky to have the support of both Whanganui High School (doing the business studies survey in our shops) and Whanganui Collegiate students (serving our guests at the hugely successful Dancing for Hospice event).

We also know that volunteering is learnt by the examples of others and I know you'll all make them very welcome and help them to have the kind of positive experience that will keep them volunteering as part of a caring and connected community.



Ruth, Bella, Mila, and Lauren

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the New Year and then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter!!

All Hospice Whanganui Shops - holiday opening hours

2025

Wed 24 Dec - Closing 1pm
Thur 25 Dec - Closed
Fri 26 Dec - Closed
Sat 27 Dec - Open 10am-2pm
Mon 29 Dec - Open 10am-2pm
Tues 30 Dec - Open 10am-2pm
Wed 31 Dec - Open 10am-2pm

2026

Thur 1 Jan - Closed
Fri 2 Jan - Closed
Sat 3 Jan - Open 10am-2pm
Mon 5 Jan - Normal opening hours

G.O.M.E. Milestone Celebration

At the end of October, our team joined the G.O.M.E. (Grumpy Old Men Enterprises) whānau for a special morning tea to mark an incredible milestone: 10 years of giving, and more than \$600,000 donated to Whanganui community organisations.

G.O.M.E. also gifted Hospice Whanganui \$1,000 this month to support our care.

We are deeply grateful for their aroha, generosity, and steadfast commitment to our community.



ANNIVERSARIES

Thanks to our amazing volunteers who volunteer year after year to support our community,

September

Christine Belchambers 2020
Jude Buller 2023
Pat Goldfinch 2018
Cathy Hastings 2008
Alison Metcalfe 2015
Margaret Rowan 1995
Jean Smith 2020

October

Maureen Little 2014
Elizabeth Mendez 2023
Marie Pye 2012

November

Margaret Pearson 2021
Jenny Pitt 2013
Margaret Smith 2018
Gillian Winton 2021

December

Joanne Rooke 2023
Joan Te Iwimate 2005

Save the Date!

We will be having our Service Certificate presentations on January 20th 2026

If anyone has friends or family interested in volunteering with us they can check out the Hospice website:

<https://hospicewhanganui.org.nz/support-us/volunteeropportunities/>

Or call Kisu 06 349 0080 x 246

Good luck remembering to write
“2026” instead of “2025”
by the end of January!

WELCOME!

We are happy to be welcoming so many new volunteers, it's great to have you with us -

Vanessa, Barbara, Duchesne, Lee, Enaj, Lisa, Keanu, Katarah, Kristen and Kylee.

Our next **Orientation** session will be on **Monday 26th of January**. All new volunteers need to attend an Orientation session so please **save the date** if you haven't attended one yet

Curiosity Corner

On December 2, 2025, Saudi Arabia set a Guinness World Record for 'Largest Live Audience' for volunteerism lessons, hosting a live volunteerism lesson streamed on YouTube with 2,135 concurrent viewers attending, the highest number ever recorded in this category.

It underscores Saudi Arabia's growing role in promoting a culture of volunteering, improving how it is organised, and channelling community enthusiasm into structured, knowledge-based training and empowerment that hones volunteers' skills and strengthens their impact on society.

