

HOSPICE WHANGANUI VOLUNTEER NEWS

MARCH 2026 | #1



Helen

Kia ora koutou,

What a start to the year it has been for Hospice Whanganui.

As always, I want to begin by acknowledging the incredible contribution our volunteers make across our organisation. Whether you're supporting our shops, helping at events, caring for the gardens, or giving your time in so many other ways, your generosity helps ensure we can continue providing compassionate care for patients and their whānau throughout our region.

The past few months have already been a busy time for our team, with strong support from our community and local businesses. Earlier this year we hosted a **Hospice Whanganui Meet & Greet**, welcoming members of our community to come and learn more about the work we do. It was a great opportunity for people to visit our facility, meet members of our team, and gain a better understanding of the specialist palliative care we provide across the region.

You may also have spotted the striking **Hospice Whanganui concrete truck** travelling around the district - part of our partnership with Bullocks Group through our Hospice Whanganui Business Champions programme. For every cubic metre sold from this truck \$1 is donated to Hospice Whanganui! It's a wonderful example of how local businesses are finding creative ways to support hospice care in our community.

We're also looking forward to some fantastic community events coming up, including the **Small Talks fundraiser in May** and the **Hittaz for Hospice car and bike show**. Events like these not only raise vital funds, but also bring people together in support of the work we do.

Thank you again for the time, care, and aroha you bring to Hospice Whanganui. Your contribution makes a real difference to the patients and whānau we support every day.

Ngā mihi nui,
Helen

HITTAZ

22 MARCH | WHANGANUI RACECOURSE
10AM - 3PM

HOSPICE

GOLD COIN ENTRY • FAMILY DAY OUT
LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • CARS • SPOT PRIZES

Hittaz for Hospice – A Day Not to Miss

The countdown is on for Hittaz for Hospice, and it's shaping up to be an incredible day out for the whole community.

Held at the Whanganui Racecourse, this car and bike show will bring together a huge range of vehicles, alongside music, food stalls, and plenty of entertainment for the whole whānau.

Whether you're into cars and bikes or just keen for a great day out, Hittaz is all about bringing people together, and there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Events like this are a great reminder of the energy, generosity, and community spirit here in Whanganui, with all funds raised helping support Hospice Whanganui.

If you're free that weekend, it's definitely one to pop in your calendar - we'd love to see plenty of familiar faces there.

Gates are open for vehicle registration between 8am - 9.30am

Public entry is from 10am, a gold coin donation would be appreciated.

Data Driven, Human Led

Who loves data? Probably not that many hands went up but whether we love it or not, Hospice relies on data to measure our performance. We crunch the numbers daily, whether it's for funding applications, budgeting, reporting to our Board and community, or measurements required for our compliance as a licenced health provider.

But everyday reality is that the numbers are an actual record of what we're all doing to deliver our best care and support for our patients, and that's what really makes them essential.

So starting with this newsletter we are going to be sharing the numbers why they matter, here's our first peek behind the data!

48,000 km

48,000 - that's how many kilometres we travelled in our Hospice cars in the last year. With patients as far afield as Waverley, Turakina, Ohakune and Raetihi, we need to get our teams out in the community to support our patients and families in their homes. Whether we're setting up medication, offering in-home respite or helping families make big decisions, our team are going the distance.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SATURDAYS

We have urgent need for Saturday volunteers in all our shops, if there is anyone in your circle who may be available please -

- Give them an application form or Kisu's business card
- Ask them to go to the Volunteer page on our website
- Ask them to call Kisu -
06 349 0080 x246

Maureen at Boutique-

life is a beautiful patchwork!

Maureen lived in Lower Hutt and worked for the National Bank in debt collecting for 17 years before moving to Whanganui 17 years ago to be closer to her sister and elderly mother. Her mother went on to live until she was 101!

While Maureen was in the process of relocating, one of her neighbours in Whanganui let her know about a local private collection agency that had a temporary position available. She took the role and stayed on as a casual, filling in for staff on leave for the next four years. She reached retirement age while working there and was able to enjoy a couple of cruises, including one to Egypt with April Ieremia as the tour leader, travelling through the Suez Canal and on to Venice and Turkey.

While settling into Whanganui, Maureen often shopped at the White Dove (now Boutique), picking up bits and pieces - even some furniture she still has today. Quite early on she decided that when she retired she would volunteer at the shop, and when she let Leonie know she was ready (Leonie was the manager at the time), she was asked to do Tuesday mornings. Nearly 12 years later she is still doing the same shift!

There have been a lot of changes since then. When she started, the shop was on the other side of the road, and Maureen says wheeling trolleys of clothes across the street during the move is one of her most fun memories.

She enjoys being at the counter, welcoming and assisting customers, creating window displays, and helping with the many behind-the-scenes jobs. Being able to move between different tasks is one of the things she enjoys most about volunteering.

Maureen has also been involved in some fun Hospice events over the years. During a fundraising ramble around some of the beautiful homes in Whanganui, she enjoyed acting as a host, welcoming



visitors and keeping a watchful eye on the contents of the house. Another memorable project involved bridal dresses donated to Hospice being redesigned by UCOL students, then photographed for a beautiful book and showcased at the bridal expo in Palmerston North.

A keen craftswoman, Maureen has supported Hospice by donating many beautiful patchwork quilts for our patient rooms. She also donated two quilts to Murray's Emporium, helping raise \$400 to support meals for people in Maria Square on Wednesday nights. While she spends a little less time on patchwork these days, she now enjoys embroidery and attending clubs and events for both crafts.

Her little dachshund, Georgina, is a big part of her busy life and an endless source of joy.

Maureen says she was brought up to give back when you can.

"You get people coming in they may have lost partners and are lonely, and they know that they can come in to our shop and someone will talk to them."

Although she still calls herself a "newbie" to Whanganui, Maureen says volunteering helps her feel connected to the community.

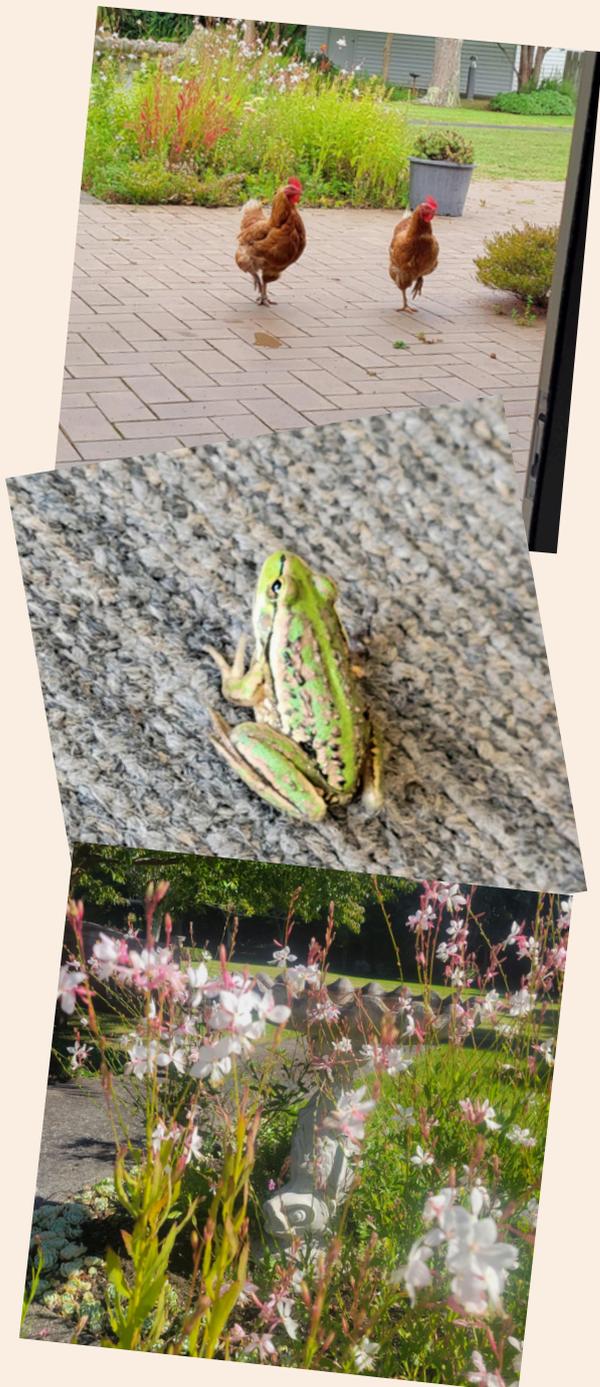
"I like to feel useful. I'm a quiet person, I'll quietly do things behind the scenes, it makes you feel good."

The Seasons of Hospice

HOSPICE FARMYARD

Our large grounds at Hospice are a haven for wildlife, with our beautiful garden, and birdbath amongst the Sparkle White, welcoming creatures great and small. Sometimes the boundaries are a bit sketchy and they decide to check out what is happening inside too.

Our little green frog came right in the front door, but the chooks were probably a bit more peckish 😊, and were making a beeline for the staffroom.



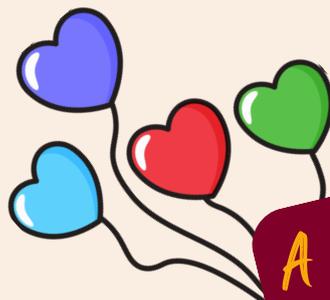
NEW BADGES

The start of the year is time for new badges, when we update the number of years you have been with us (as of the end of the previous year).

Over the next few weeks we'll be highlighting our badges during our Behind the Counter campaign, letting the community know that the volunteers who have been with us for many years help our new volunteers to settle in and become equally valued contributors to the work Hospice does.

20 YEARS AND COUNTING

In the last 3 months we've celebrated 3 volunteers who have been with Hospice 20 years and in May we'll be celebrating one more. The fabric of our volunteer community is held together when those that have been with us for many years provide the knowledge and experience for our newer volunteers to weave into and strengthen us all.



A special Thank You to
Carole, Joan, Yvonne
and Jean

HOSPICE WHANGANUI BUSINESS CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT BULLOCKS GROUP

One of the newest initiatives at Hospice Whanganui is our Business Champions programme, which recognises local businesses that choose to stand alongside Hospice in a meaningful and ongoing way.



A great example of this is **Bullocks Group**, who have partnered with us to create a specially branded Hospice Whanganui concrete truck.

Every time this truck pours concrete out in the community, **\$1 from every cubic metre goes directly to Hospice Whanganui** to support the care we provide to patients and their whānau.

The truck graphics were created through collaboration between Bullocks, Hospice Whanganui and Morrie Gibbons Signs, who also supported the project.

It's a great example of how local businesses can find creative ways to support hospice care while going about their everyday work.

If you're getting concrete poured, you can even ask for the Hospice truck – it's a simple way to help support Hospice through your project.

If you know a business that might be interested in becoming a Hospice Whanganui Business Champion, we'd love to hear from them.

Hospice Whanganui - led by community, for our community

Hospice Whanganui is managed by our Board of Trustees, as qualified and experienced members of the community, they volunteer their time to determine our strategic plan, define our purpose, set goals, and support the vision of Hospice. Our Foundation is also made up of knowledgeable community members, volunteering to manage our assets, and providing long-term, stable funding, to sustainably run our services.

Our Board and Foundation represent our wider community, governing and providing our strategic direction ensuring we continue to provide our services as we meet the challenge of an aging population bringing ever increasing demand for our services.

All hospices in New Zealand are independently governed and managed at a local level. Hospice NZ (HNZ) is the national organisation representing 33 hospice services in New Zealand. HNZ is not a funding body, it is based on the membership of these individual Hospices and aims to give voice to their interests, views and concerns, and works in partnership with all hospices to ensure people needing end of life hospice care are well supported.

All funds raised (or costs saved), support our services, that means that your support is always for our local community.



Anna - Hospice Whanganui Nurse Lead

To say Anna is Whanganui born and bred is an understatement. She is still living in the same house she grew up in, after buying it from her parents when they downsized. Anna's older brother bought their grandparents' house, and her parents now live less than a kilometre away. Her boys often bike over there for snacks and a chat.

For as long as she can remember, Anna always knew she wanted to be a nurse and began her training straight from school. The Whanganui UCOL campus hadn't opened back then, so she and her student friends made the daily trip to Palmerston North for three long years.

After graduating, Anna headed to Auckland and worked in the Medical Haematology Department at Middlemore Hospital before returning to Whanganui to work in the surgical department in the now-demolished Simpson Ward. Her next step was a big one – crossing the Tasman to work on Mornington Island and later Doomadgee in far north Queensland. Both communities are primarily Indigenous populations and located in very remote areas.

Looking back, Anna is grateful for such a formative experience early in her nursing career.

"It was amazing, absolutely amazing."

But home and family have always been at the heart of Anna's journey. She eventually returned to Whanganui, working at Hospice, Whanganui Accident and Medical Clinic (WAM), and completing one final contract back in Australia before starting a family with her husband, Mathew.

Since then, with the support of her family, Anna has balanced her role as a palliative care nurse with raising her three boys - Alexander (12), Tobias (15), and her first baby, Sebastian, who is now almost 20.

With her years of experience, including a previous stint as Nurse Lead at Hospice, we are all very grateful to have her back at the helm. As a specialist palliative care nurse she brings over 20 years of experience, knowledge, and palliative care qualifications to the role.

As Nurse Lead, Anna shares that experience with the team as they work together to create the best possible care plans for individual patients and whānau. She often helps people who are new to end-of-life care understand that the focus of Hospice is not on death, but on the life that is being lived right now.

Anna's role makes her something of a jack-of-all-trades, but one of the highlights is guiding our nurse-led model of care, ensuring everyone in the team has a voice. Our nurses, doctors, health care assistants and whānau support team all contribute their knowledge of the patient and their family, helping provide truly holistic care.

Understanding that grief often begins long before death is also important to Anna. As palliative care specialists, she believes we can make a real difference for patients and their whānau – both during their time with Hospice and in supporting loved ones in the months that follow.

"I know that our nurses, and everybody else within our team, is contributing to giving absolute top-notch care to our community. And that, to me, is important above anything else."



Anna
20+ years with Hospice Whanganui, and still lighting up our world with her smile!



SMALL TALKS FOR HOSPICE

Hospice Whanganui has been chosen as the charity partner for the upcoming Small Talks event on **5 May**, a community evening of inspiring and entertaining short talks.

Local speakers will take the stage to share stories, ideas, and experiences in a series of engaging "small talks", creating a relaxed and enjoyable night out while raising funds for hospice care in our community.

Events like this play an important role in helping Hospice Whanganui continue providing specialist palliative care, free of charge, to patients and their whānau across our region.

A big thank you to the local businesses helping bring this event to life - including **Bayleys**, who are printing the event posters and selling tickets, and **Heritage House**, who are generously providing the venue for the evening.

If you're looking for a great night out while supporting a good cause, we'd love to see some familiar faces there.

Event details:

-  Heritage House
-  Monday 5 May
-  Tickets \$15 from Bayleys before the event, or \$20 at the door
-  Bar open during halftime
-  Light refreshments provided

More details will be shared through our Hospice channels.

BEHIND THE COUNTER – CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

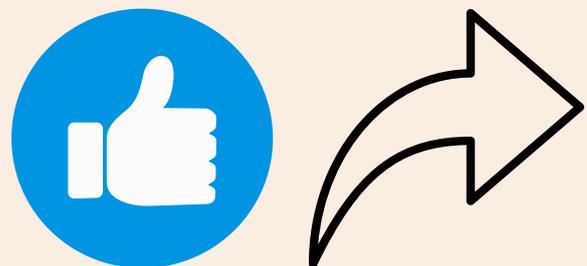
You may have noticed a new series appearing on Hospice Whanganui's social media called Behind the Counter.

This campaign shines a light on the volunteers who make our hospice shops possible - the people greeting customers, sorting donations, pricing treasures, and helping raise the funds that support hospice care in our community.

Our shops play a vital role in funding Hospice Whanganui's services, and none of it would be possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers.

Over the coming months you may also notice some new in-store touchpoints appearing in our shops, helping customers understand how the shops support Hospice Whanganui and the role volunteers play in making that possible. These small pieces of storytelling will help connect the work happening behind the counter with the care Hospice provides to patients and whānau across our region.

If you see one of the Behind the Counter posts online, feel free to share it with your friends and whānau - it's a great way to help others understand the difference volunteers make.



HELPING SHARE THE STORY

If you're on Facebook, sharing or liking Hospice Whanganui posts can make a big difference. It helps more people in our community see the work we do and learn how they can support hospice care.

Every share helps spread the word.

ANNIVERSARIES

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

January

Charlotte White 2024
Denise Gordon 2020
Maree Sarten 2018
Elle Enoka 2009

February

Graeme Wilson 2019
Ian Otten 2024
KT Rosewarne 2022
Lesley Horn 2019
Liz Martin 2022
Peter Rona 2021
Ruta Broughton 2024
Wayne Broughton 2025
Yvonne Rees 2006

March

Beryl Johnson 2013
Betty Lethborg 2021
Felicity Russell-Rush 2020
Jocelyn Hood 2023
Kevin Burke 2013
Maggie Moss 2024
Mal Candish 2025
Margaret Tauri 2010
Ngaire Hughes 2024
Stuart McDonald 2022
Trish Holden 2011



WELCOME!

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

Jan, Anne, Donny, Michelle, Kate, Mikayla, Murray and Titan

Our next **Orientation** session will be on **Thursday 2nd of April**. All volunteers need to attend an Orientation session so please **save the date** if you haven't attended one yet.

And new staff have joined Hospice too - Toni has joined us as a registered nurse and Kiri has joined us as in the Equity Kaitātaki role

Curiosity Corner



International Volunteer Year 2026

Did you know that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development? "The UN General Assembly calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to recognize volunteers as a global force for change, we hope that passion will meet solidarity in every single corner of the world." said United Nations Volunteers Executive Coordinator, Toily Kurbanov. Stefan Peters, a designer from Germany, won the logo design competition with his logo depicting a stylised hand consisting of the letters "IVY", symbolising the hands of millions of volunteers who care about our world and our future.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for the care and aroha you bring to our community!