

Kia Honoa

Let's Connect with the Cancer Society
Canterbury-West Coast Division

Karyn's story



Karyn Shrimpton-Hyam

Ashburton woman Karyn Shrimpton-Hyam says that she knew that the Cancer Society had a presence in most towns, but it wasn't until after her diagnosis with breast cancer in May 2022 that she found out firsthand about the services on offer.

"I found a lump in my right breast and after a range of tests and biopsies, I've been on a journey involving chemotherapy and radiation ever since," Karyn says.

While Karyn was able to receive her chemotherapy treatment locally in Ashburton, this was not the case for the radiation treatment, so she was faced with the prospect of having to travel to and from Christchurch daily for 15 radiation treatments.

Because Karyn lives less than 100 kilometres from Christchurch Hospital she was not eligible to apply for the Government's National Travel Assistance Scheme which provides some funding for people who need to travel to access cancer treatment.

"I just wasn't up to driving myself there and back every day for three weeks," Karyn says.

"Some days it takes all your energy just to get dressed."

"My husband couldn't take any more time off work and my daughter has two young children so I knew I had to see what other transport options were available," she says.

Karyn had been referred to the Cancer Society by her Oncology nurse at Ashburton Hospital and was supported initially by Annie Bonifant and more recently Aimee Cosgrove from the Cancer Society's Mid Canterbury centre.

"Annie and then Aimee would call me every few weeks to keep in contact," Karyn says.

The Mid Canterbury Cancer Society team organised for Karyn to be driven to the cancer radiation appointments in Christchurch by the Cancer Society's volunteer drivers. The drivers would ring her one or two days before each appointment to check the details. They would pick Karyn up from her home and drive her to Christchurch Hospital for her appointments and back again.

"They're marvellous – some of them are hard cases," Karyn says.

"We would chat all the way there and all the way back."

Karyn says that usually her treatments would only take about 10 minutes but on one occasion she had to wait for two hours as the appointments were running behind schedule.

Our volunteer drivers completed over

6,000

drives to treatment last year!



"They were there for me – they're really good people," she says.

Karyn recommends other people going through cancer treatment approach the Cancer Society to find out about the services available.

"Don't be too proud – that's what they're there for," Karyn says.

"They're really amazing, and supportive and do their utmost to help with what you need."

More sustainable daffodils



The Cancer Society's Canterbury-West Coast team are gearing up for this year's Daffodil Day appeal on **Friday 25th and 26th August**.

The team are super excited that this year all of our lapel daffodils will be made of paper sourced from sustainable forestry. Both the paper and metal parts of the daffodil are made from recyclable materials.

We would like to give a huge mihi to the design students from Ara Institute of Canterbury who have been busy designing fabulous creative garments to repurpose the leftover fabric and plastic daffodils used in previous years.

If you have a few hours to spare on the 25th or 26th of August and would like to sign up as a volunteer collector for our street appeal, you can sign up online at www.daffodilday.org.nz



Mahesh Pandey, Genevieve Gillespie and Heather Locke modelling the new paper daffodils

Dates to diary



25-26
AUG

Daffodil Day Street Appeal

9-10
SEPT

Meeples and Traders Games Fair

14
SEPT

From Blank to Vibrant Art Event

NOV

Marathon in a Month





Harcourts Grenadier's Managing Director Andy Freeman and Brand Ambassador Will Jordan with our Partnership Manager Janice Porter-Hoare beside the shuttle

Local companies to fund vital shuttle service

While our volunteer driving service is highly valued by our clients around the region needing transport from their homes to their treatment appointments, our shuttle service is equally appreciated by our families staying in our accommodation.

With our new centre due to open in September, we are going to require not one but two shuttles transporting our guests from Langdons Road to their treatment appointments and back again.

We are hugely grateful to **Harcourts Grenadier** for committing to fund the running costs of both shuttles for the next two years and to **Blackwells Motors** for providing the additional vehicle. Both companies are longstanding and much-valued partners of the Cancer Society.



Blackwells

Harcourts Grenadier has been supporting our SunSmart programme for the past few years, enabling our cancer prevention team to be out and about at Canterbury events over the summer helping ensure our communities have the tools and knowledge to keep themselves safe in the sun.



Jacinda and Phoebe at Kite Day with the Harcourts Grenadier-funded SunSmart caravan

Andy Freeman, Managing Director of Harcourts Grenadier says:

"The relationship between Harcourts Grenadier and the Cancer Society is a very special one. Whether it's Daffodil Day, the SunSmart programme or support expanding the shuttle services from the new Langdons Road facilities, we feel privileged to be able to help this wonderful organisation."

The team at Harcourts Grenadier are also epic at fundraising for Daffodil Day, with all of their offices getting into the spirit of this, our most significant national fundraiser each year.



New Canterbury Cancer Centre supporters

We are delighted to thank and welcome our most recent supporters of the new Canterbury Cancer Centre:

- Rata Foundation
- Rosie's Recycled Clothing, Geraldine
- Freemasons Charity
- Bascik Transport
- Christchurch Casino
- West Coast Community Trust
- Smiths City
- Glenmark Lions
- Rotary Club of Bishopdale-Burnside



We would also like to acknowledge:

Foodstuffs (South Island) Community Trust for supporting us with an operational grant to provide exercise care packages to clients who have participated in our new tailored exercise programme which has recently started in Ōtautahi.

J. I. Urquhart Trust for their continued financial support.

Cancer Society representatives Leola Wilson and Janice Porter-Hoare with Rosie's Recycled Clothing Board members Rhona Warner and Lorna McGimpsey

(Photo kindly provided by Jan Findlayson from the Geraldine News)



He Ringa Āwhina

All people. Every cancer. We're here to help.

Cancer Society volunteer driver approaching 100th drive milestone

For South Cantabrians needing transport to Christchurch or Dunedin for cancer treatment, Cancer Society Volunteer Driver Les Poulter could be described as a guardian angel. Les, who specifically makes himself available for long distance drives, is close to reaching a milestone of **100 drives**, having completed 91 to date.

With the round trip to Christchurch being approximately **340 kilometres** and Dunedin around **400 kilometres**, Les admits to having travelled "a few kilometres" in his car as a volunteer driver. Les says he started volunteering for the Cancer Society in 2012.

"My wife had kidney cancer and I realised that the Cancer Society do a good job so I thought I would get involved with the organisation as a volunteer," he says.

"I've dealt with people for years, so I try and get my passengers to relax - I let them lead the conversation and if they don't want to talk, I put a bit of music on, and if their toes start to tap, then I know I've got it right!"



Volunteer Driver Les Poulter

As well as driving people to treatment, Les has been involved in a number of other volunteering roles for the Cancer Society over the years including helping organise logistics for previous Relay For Life events.

Les also helps promote the Cancer Society's Daffodil Day appeal each year by visiting local businesses in Washdyke, collecting orders for fresh daffodils and arranging for counter boxes to be dropped off.



Meet Sarah B!

We are delighted to welcome Sarah Bennett to our team of Cancer Navigators based in Ōtautahi, working alongside Catherine Dwan, Jenny Schouten and Sarah Hintz.

Sarah's background is as a Radiation Therapist, Nutritionist and a mother who has experience navigating health systems.



Sarah Bennett



Tiff Wafer, Rachel Brooke and Gabrielle O'Connell at the North Canterbury centre

Our North Canterbury team has moved!

The Cancer Society North Canterbury team has moved from Rangiora's Percival Street to a new base nearby within the North Canterbury Netball Centre at 43 Church Street.

The centre is located in the grounds of Dudley Park, just across from the Dudley Park Aquatic Centre.

The team also has a new staff member, Rachel Brooke, who has moved to the Mainland from Northland to join Emma Westwood-Davies as a Cancer Navigator supporting North Cantabrians with cancer and their families. Gabrielle O'Connell leads up the Rangiora-based team as Community Engagement Manager for the region.

Community Fundraising News

Ashton's Shoot For The Moon fundraiser

Ashton Whittle from Rolleston is only eight, but he has raised **\$453** to help fund the Cancer Society's free services for people with cancer. Ashton, who plays ice hockey, signed up to participate in the Cancer Society's "Shoot for the Moon" challenge to score 384 goals and raise \$384 during the month of June.

"Mum found out about the challenge and asked me if I'd like to do it," Ashton says.

"I thought that would be fun because I like shooting goals in ice hockey."

Ashton, who is a student at Weedons School, scored over **400** goals during the month of June. He managed to exceed his target of **384** goals by scoring goals during his Saturday ice hockey games for his team "The Spiders", at his weekly practices, in his practice goal at home and even inside playing air hockey.

Ashton was one of 48 players who signed up to complete our Shoot for the Moon challenge during June or July. Our challengers have raised over **\$9,000** and have taken over **12,400** shots. Ka rawe, everyone!

Ashton in his Spiders gear getting ready to score some more goals



Ashton out on the ice at Alpine Ice Sports Centre in Christchurch



Hamish Harman, Ross Hamilton & Todd Manera of Team Coastin Kivis

Epic rickshaw challenge

A trio of Hokitika friends has completed an intrepid two-week journey across the Himalayas by rickshaw, raising funds for the Cancer Society as part of their adventurous challenge.

We're completely in awe of Team Coastin Kiwis Hamish Harman, Ross Hamilton and Todd Manera for attempting this high-altitude journey of over **2,000 kilometres**. At the time of printing this newsletter they had raised over **\$6,500**. Awesome effort, guys!

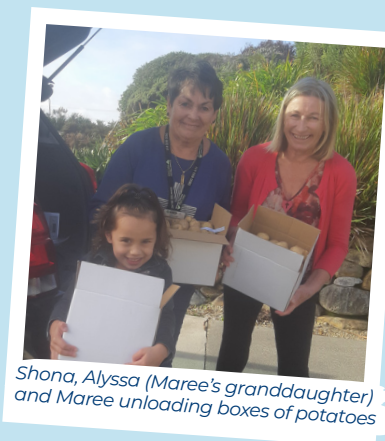
Spuds, spuds, spuds!

Maree Yaxley, our Cancer Navigator based in Hokitika, is also an integral member of the Hokitika Support Group which has committed to sponsoring a room in the new Canterbury Cancer Centre for a three-year term.

One of the fundraising activities that the Hokitika Support Group has been busy with has been selling boxes of potatoes.

Shona and Murray Marshall from Kotatahi generously offered to sow potatoes on their land and have donated their time and the harvested potatoes for sale to help the Hokitika Support Group raise the **\$7,500** required for this year's room sponsorship cost.

The support group has sold **100 boxes** of potatoes and raised **\$2,500** from this venture. They are also running a raffle and have a pop-up pre-loved clothing shop event planned for Wednesday 4th October.



Shona, Alyssa (Maree's granddaughter) and Maree unloading boxes of potatoes

Keep an eye out for this car!



Ashburton Toyota has a bright yellow company "taxi" which is used by staff to run errands and to pick up and drop off customers whose vehicles are being serviced. If you see the Ashburton Toyota "taxi" parked around town, make sure you take a picture of it and post it to Instagram and/or Facebook with the hashtag **#ASH688** and the Cancer Society's Mid Canterbury team will receive a **\$5 donation for each post**.

Thank you to the team at Ashburton Toyota for nominating the Cancer Society as one of their charities of choice for 2023. Branch Manager Scott Donaldson says that giving back to the community is one of the company's core values and each year staff vote on which local charities they would like the company to support. For each vehicle that Ashburton Toyota sells, the customer will get a token and will be able to choose which of the nominated charities they would like to receive a donation.



Your local Cancer Society Centres

Christchurch Centre
PO Box 13450, Christchurch 8141
P: 03 379 5835 E: contact@cancercwc.org.nz

North Canterbury Centre
43 Church Street, Rangiora 7400
P: 0800 226 695 E: northcanty@cancercwc.org.nz

South Canterbury Centre
32 Memorial Avenue, PO Box 682, Timaru 7940
P: 03 688 0124 E: southcanty@cancercwc.org.nz

Mid Canterbury Centre
122 Kermode Street, PO Box 296, Ashburton 7740
P: 03 307 7691 E: midcanty@cancercwc.org.nz

West Coast Centre
98 High Street, PO Box 81, Greymouth 7840
P: 03 768 9557 E: westcoast@cancercwc.org.nz

Selwyn Centre
6B Kidman Street, PO Box 25, Rolleston 7643
P: 03 925 9708 E: selwyn.centre@cancercwc.org.nz