



Waikato/Bay of Plenty Division
Cancer Society of New Zealand
Inc.

PO Box 134
Cnr Grey & Beale Streets
Hamilton East
HAMILTON

Telephone: 64 7 838-2027
Facsimile: 64 7 838-2028

Media Release – For Immediate Release

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New Lions Cancer Lodge Purchased

The Lions Cancer Lodge is to be relocated in 2009 to offer more accommodation and a modernised facility for people in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty affected by cancer.

The Lodge is currently located in the grounds of Waikato Hospital and will move to Braemar Hospital on Lake Rd after a purchase of the site and building by the Waikato / Bay of Plenty Cancer Society this week.

Judy Gould, chief executive, Waikato / Bay of Plenty Cancer Society, says: “We are delighted by the purchase of this new site for the Lions Cancer Lodge. It is close to Waikato Hospital and has a number of features that will ensure a relatively straightforward shift.”

The Cancer Society has been looking at various new locations for the Lodge around central Hamilton for a number of months.

“The Lodge is frequently at full capacity and as a result we often have to find alternative accommodation for people. We have been looking at our future plans for the Lodge and knew the current location would not be the perfect solution in the long term.”

People from throughout the region are offered free accommodation and meals at the Lodge while they are undergoing cancer treatment, chemotherapy and radiation, at the Regional Cancer Centre based at Waikato Hospital.

Established in 1971, the Lodge, which is owned by the Cancer Society, has provided accommodation to many thousands of people during this time.

More

“Lions clubs from around the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region have played an integral part in fundraising for the building of the Lodge and subsequent refurbishments and extensions and it was named after the Lions for their efforts.”

A substantial fundraising campaign will be undertaken in the near future to assist the Cancer Society with the purchase and refurbishment of the Braemar Hospital facility.

“The Lodge is a unique place which goes a long way towards supporting those in our community affected by cancer. We are hopeful communities in Waikato and Bay of Plenty will support us in our goal of helping more people as a result of this relocation.”

Braemar Hospital chairman Rob Cameron says there were a number of parties interested in the site for the development of town houses or similar projects.

“Braemar is a wonderful place overlooking the lake. There have been surgical and clinical support services provided here since 1924 so it's fitting the caring tradition will continue at this site.”

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Jo Bell
PR/Communications Coordinator
Waikato/Bay of Plenty Division of the Cancer Society of NZ Inc.
Ph: 07 838 2027
Mob: 021 775 973
Email: jobell@cancersociety.org.nz

Editor's Note:

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty Division of the Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc is a non-profit organisation that receives no direct financial support from the Government. We are funded by bequests and donations from the public as well as fundraising activities.

We are committed to minimising the impact of cancer in our communities by providing:

- Quality support services for people affected by cancer
- Education to promote early detection and help reduce the risk of cancer
- Free information and resources on cancer
- Support for research into the causes, prevention, detection and treatment of cancer