



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hamilton's Relay For Life 2009 Roaring Into Gear

Hamilton Relay For Life 2009 is looking set to be another success with team registrations already rolling in quickly.

Leasa Hubbard, Hamilton Relay For Life coordinator, says to date 64 teams have signed on for the 7th-8th March event at the new venue - the AgResearch Centre, Ruakura .

"The new venue at Ruakura with its park-like grounds and atmosphere will give the Relay a fresh look and people are already getting excited.

"We are really encouraging people to get signed up before Christmas so they can get their planning underway in the New Year – it also means they get the best pick of the tent sites."

Leasa says Relay For Life is a fun community event that also gives something back to help those affected by cancer.

The 22-hour overnight Relay, (2pm Saturday 7th March to 12pm Sunday 8th March) is a major fundraiser for the Waikato / Bay of Plenty Cancer Society, which does not receive any direct government funding.

Money raised is used to provide support services for people and their families affected by cancer in the local community. Services include the Lions Cancer Lodge at Waikato Hospital, a liaison nurse service and cancer support groups.

Funds are also used for cancer research and preventative programmes such as SunSmart and SmokeFree.

But Leasa says Relay For Life is so much more than 'just' a fundraiser.

"It is also an opportunity to celebrate the lives of cancer survivors, support those currently facing cancer and to honour those we have lost."

The 2008 Relay For Life events in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region raised over \$300,000 for cancer support services locally.

Leasa says it's very easy to get involved in Relay For Life.

"Just make up a team of a minimum of 10 people. Teams can come from anywhere – work, sports clubs, community organisations, church, school or family and friends.

"The aim for each team member is to raise \$100 in sponsorship for their participation in Relay For Life."

More

During the Relay itself, a member from each team is required to be on track at all times but a continual party atmosphere on the sidelines means those on track receive constant encouragement.”

“It’s an amazing event to be involved in and so much fun – and for such a worthy cause.”

To find out more, or to register a team, contact the Cancer Society, email: admin@cancersociety.org.nz or ph: 838 2027 or call into the office to pick up a team kit.

For more information visit: www.relayforlife.org.nz

‘There is no finish line until we find a cure.’

Ends

For further information, about Relay For Life, please contact:

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**2008 Hamilton
Relay For Life
Photos Available**

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Editors Notes:

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.

We aim to provide:

- 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