

# Let's Connect...



... with the Cancer Society and its services

August 2009

## Mission Statement

*Improving community  
well-being by reducing  
the incidence and  
impact of cancer.*

### Cancer Society Centre

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PO Box 13450  
Christchurch 8141  
Telephone: 03 379 5835  
Fax: 03 377 2804  
Email:  
enquiries@canty.cancernz.org.nz

### South Canterbury Centre

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PO Box 682  
Timaru 7940  
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timaru@canty.cancernz.org.nz

### West Coast Centre

98 High Street  
PO Box 81  
Greymouth 7840  
Telephone: 03 768 9557  
Fax: 03 768 9587  
Email:  
westcoast@canty.cancernz.org.nz

**Cancer Information Service**  
**Freephone 0800 CANCER**  
**0800 226 237**

[www.cancersouth.org.nz](http://www.cancersouth.org.nz)

## Daffodil Day Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August

Daffodil Day, the Cancer Society's iconic national appeal, will be held this year on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Once again, volunteers will be out on the streets collecting donations and celebrating the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Daffodil Day.

All donations raised from Daffodil Day will be used by the Cancer Society to continue to provide our free services in the community.

At Buller High school the CHAT team will be organising Daffodil Day activities – their theme is “Let's Connect with a healthier future”, where they will encourage staff and students to send positive messages to show support for each other on Daffodil Day.

In Christchurch, a longstanding Cancer Society Volunteer celebrates a very special birthday soon. Eddie Schofield has been actively involved in all aspects of Daffodil Day for many years from street collecting, assisting with the phone out, sorting and counting money, banking cheques and packing and wrapping fresh daffodils. Jane Sherriff, Manager Income Development says “it's people like Eddie we are so indebted to, who volunteer every year and help ensure our annual appeal is a success.”

The funds raised from Daffodil Day are used by the Cancer Society to provide our free cancer services in the community, so please remember on Daffodil Day – with your help there is hope.

**Cancer Society**  
**Daffodil Day**

**The National Bank**  
Principal Sponsor

**Friday 28 August 2009**  
*With your help there is hope*  
Please give generously

**Golden Hope**  
*When Bryall lost her right arm to bone cancer, she refused to let it ruin her dreams. "I have been a professional athlete nearly all my life and am determined to set my goals in another direction. My aim is to represent New Zealand at the Paralympics. I have so many opportunities now."*

*The Cancer Society is a non-government organisation, dependent on community support and donations, serving the people of Canterbury and the West Coast.*

# Thoughts and feelings

The Cancer Society is actively involved with patients and their families. All of the services are provided at no cost, so activities such as Daffodil Day are very important in ensuring we receive the funds so that we can continue to provide these much needed services.

Following are three extracts from patients, in their own words:

## Extract one

*Being diagnosed with cancer can be described as a very isolating experience. An excellent way to illustrate this feeling, (regardless of the love and support you receive from family and friends), is that you are ultimately on your own, just as if you are on one side of the glass pane with your support network on the other side looking in at you.*

*There comes a time when cancer patients feel the need to talk to others in the same or similar situations and to protect their family from the negativity and worry often associated with a cancer diagnosis.*

*It is here the Cancer Society plays a huge role with their network of specialised support groups. Also the staff at the Cancer Society are a valuable asset especially chosen for their caring attitude, ability to provide or access information, give practical support and to plan programmes that will enhance the quality of your life during this difficult time.*

*Of course many do not know what to expect from a cancer support group and can only imagine it as a maudlin experience with a lot of self-pitying or tearful sentimentality. Well yes, there can be tears from those with cancer but there is far more laughter, support, sharing of ideas, encouragement and friendship while in a safe and supportive environment where you are free to be yourself. The added bonus is that in addition to being supported you also have the opportunity to support others. We all have good and bad days as cancer sufferers.*

*Another advantage of a support group is it gives you a purpose and focus when going through treatment. Away from your usual working routine there are times when it is difficult to get out of bed and participate in life. The challenge is to get moving and become involved in some of the amazing activities provided by the Society.*

*It is worthy of note that the degree to which you seek, or indeed offer, support is entirely up to you.*

*I have enjoyed my time being part of a cancer support group and am grateful to the Cancer Society.*

## Extract two

*It goes without saying that the Cancer Society is a place of solace and comfort. In my very short time dealing with and talking to Cancer Society staff I have been constantly amazed at the generosity and support my young family and myself have received. At present we are coping with a very stressful period but with the support of the Cancer Society we are being assisted in ways which I would never have imagined possible. There are wonderful people out there willing to spend time and money on baking goods, preparing meals, acting as drivers and donating all manner of thoughtful gifts to the Society. In my case my condition is terminal and the wonderful people at the Cancer Society have provided meals and baking which is a fantastic way to help minimise the stress of an everyday job that would normally be of little consequence but in times like these is a huge relief. At the other end of the scale and one which has a great deal of emotion attached is a gift I received in the form of donated jewellery. This is jewellery which is meant for the partner and in my case was of very special significance and was greatly appreciated. It's not just the tangible help I have received but the words and constant follow up which, for me, is extremely important because I treasure those who actually do what they promise. There are so many things that are done to support our family. Providing meals is a major help especially with our family being so young. Opening your heart and talking to people who are incredibly patient and understanding is a wonderful tonic and stress reliever. During my courses of chemotherapy, drivers were provided to transport me to hospital and this was so helpful. I honestly don't know how we would have coped without the Cancer Society and if I were to be given more space then I could easily have filled pages describing their "behind the scenes" support and care. The Cancer Society staff members deserve great kudos and will always have a special place in my heart.*

Liz Horn, Manager Support Services, says these stories reflect the stories of many other people who have received help and support from the Cancer Society. But she says it's important to remember we can only provide this help because of the generosity of the public as well as the organisations who regularly support our work with donations, sponsorship and gifts-in-kind.



Getting ready for the music group

## Extract three

*I was a Volunteer for the Cancer Society and in January 2008 I decided, because of ill health, to take a break. In August of that year I was diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer. I rang Sharon, one of the Community Liaison staff at the Cancer Society, and straight away she invited me in to talk about it. I was unable to have an operation as the cancer was well advanced so I found myself back at the Cancer Society to see Meg, one of the Cancer Information Nurses. Meg was able to lend me a book about my cancer, and this has become my Bible! Meg has been a great support to me during palliative chemotherapy and since then, especially in organising a Cancer Connect Volunteer who now contacts me every month about how I am faring – she has also had Ovarian Cancer. It was suggested I attend both the Gynaecological Support Group and the Advanced Cancer Group. Both of these groups have been a wonderful help to me towards coming to terms with my cancer. The people I meet have been inspiring and the guest speakers have been great!*

*As I live on my own, I am most grateful for the meals received from the Cancer Society. On days when I am not so well it is wonderful to go to the fridge and bring out a dinner that I have received via one of the volunteers.*

*Thank you very much, to the special people at the Cancer Society, for giving your time to listen to me. I appreciate it very much.*

## Another successful evening



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June saw 600 people dancing the night away at the annual Cancer Society Ball. The Cancer Society is very grateful to the major sponsors Air New Zealand, Millennium Hotels and Resorts and Vbase Venue Management Group. The Convention Centre was themed in style by Patricia Proctor and an evening of Emerald Dreams was enjoyed by all.

Next year we will be celebrating the Ball's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday – if you want further information regarding the Ball which will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June please contact the Cancer Society or email ball@canty.cancernz.org.nz

## A Wedding Show



The Cancer Society has been selected as one of two recipient charities for the *Spring Wedding Show* to be held in Christchurch on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Liz Chesterman, Chief Executive Cancer Society says the Cancer Society is very fortunate to be asked to be involved with such a wide range of community events. Liz said *“the staff members and I are so very grateful for the generous and, often unsolicited, way that groups and organisations support us through their innovative fund raising efforts”*.

**When:** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
**Where:** Hotel Grand Chancellor  
**Doors open:** 10am – 4pm  
**Tickets:** \$10 with children under 14 free and are available at the door.

## A boomer of a fashion bonanza



Anne Hines and Jenny Kenning sorting through the racks!

Hundreds of happy shoppers in Greymouth went home with new skirts, trousers, dresses and jerseys after a very successful fashion sale of pre-loved and new clothing. Both Anne and Jenny from the office in Greymouth were delighted to announce they raised \$4,500 from this novel event and say it looks like it will become an annual fixture!

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## Daffodil House up and running



Daffodil House at 91 Papanui Road

Daffodil House was officially opened by the Prime Minister – Hon John Key on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Clare Te Hau, Accommodation Services Manager, says both Davidson and Daffodil Houses are extremely busy and it's just great that we now have the additional rooms at Daffodil House to provide the much needed accommodation for people from throughout the region.

## Cancer Patients on the move



Pictured left to right: Terry Jacobs, President Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise; Liz Chesterman, Cancer Society and Valda Cordes, President Rotary Club of Riccarton.

Cancer patients visiting Christchurch for treatment may be making their journey from Daffodil House or Davidson House in a new 12-seater transit van donated by two of the city's Rotary Clubs – Christchurch Sunrise and Riccarton.

Cancer Society Chief Executive, Liz Chesterman says the gift of the new van alleviates pressure on the Society's extremely busy volunteer driving service, which last year provided transport for 3,966 outpatient appointments.

# A million daffodils in bloom

The magnificent Otahuna Lodge will once again open its garden to thousands of visitors for their annual Daffodil Day on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The tradition that began 81 years ago at New Zealand's largest historic property has been continued by current owners, Hall Cannon and Miles Refo. This special event will celebrate the magic of the extraordinary gardens in spring and provide the public with a sneak-peek around the grounds of the luxury seven-suite lodge, as well as raising funds for the Cancer Society.

*"It really is magnificent when the daffodils bloom on the Great Lawn each spring,"* Hall says. *"We estimate there could be as many as a million bulbs there today. Sir Heaton Rhodes was quite a gardening enthusiast and is credited with establishing one of the first daffodil collections in the country. Following the first planting of bulbs in the late 1800s thousands more have been planted. That certainly makes this one of New Zealand's biggest daffodil fields and it is most likely the nation's oldest, having been created well over a century ago."*

Visitors on Daffodil Day can also taste the wonderful cuisine of Otahuna Lodge's Executive Chef Jimmy McIntyre with finger foods and coffee and tea on offer.

*"One of the other extraordinary aspects of our gardens is the potager garden and orchard, from which we source as much of our own produce as possible, all organically grown"* Hall says. *"Visitors can also join guided garden tours to*



*explore the Monet-style lily pond, the windmill-shaped Dutch garden, and the frog pond."* There will also be gardening demonstrations and live entertainment.

Otahuna Lodge will open on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 4pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (cash only) at the gate. A donation will be made to the Cancer Society from the sale of every ticket. The last Daffodil Day event raised more than \$8,000 for the Cancer Society.

<b>When:</b>	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Where:</b>	Otahuna Lodge, Rhodes Road, Tai Tapu
<b>Gates open:</b>	10am – 4pm
<b>Rain date:</b>	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September with cancellations on Newstalk ZB

## Smokefree message

Pictured with Jenny Kenning and Anne Hines from the Cancer Society are Greymouth High School Year 9 students with posters specially made for World Smokefree Day. The theme was *"Give quitting a go – you can do it"*. Anne says the students had taken the message on board and made some fabulous posters explaining the chemical makeup of a cigarette, how it was made, what it did to the human body and how good a Smokefree life could be.



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## South Canterbury Hospice

Gabrielle Hall, Manager South Canterbury and Liz Horn, Manager Support Services recently attended the opening of the new community Hospice in Timaru. Liz says at the opening the Cancer Society was acknowledged as one of the financial supporters who had enabled the new complex to be built. We are delighted for the people of South Canterbury who now have a larger hospice facility available to them.



## Art in a Garden

The Cancer Society is delighted to once again be one of the charities associated with *Art in a Garden*. The event will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Flaxmere

in Hawarden. For further information or for tickets please contact Alison Meyer on 03 314 4247 or email [a.meyer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.meyer@xtra.co.nz) or visit the website [www.artinagarden.co.nz](http://www.artinagarden.co.nz)

## A special evening with a Dame

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August Dame Malvina Major, supported by the Mid Canterbury Choir, is performing at the Ashburton Trust Centre with all proceeds to be donated to the Cancer Society to support services in the Mid Canterbury area.

Tickets are available by phoning  
03 307 2010 or 0800 4 TICKET  
(0800 224 224)  
or [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz)

Adults \$45.00, Seniors & Students \$39.00  
(please note a booking fee will apply)

## Ashburton Volunteers Recognised



Copyright Ashburton Guardian

Pictured left to right: Bede O'Malley, Ashburton Mayor; Gwenda Ireland, Secretary Ashburton Cancer Society Group; Annie Bonifant, Cancer Society Liaison and Graeme Purchas, TrustPower.

Cancer Society's Ashburton volunteers were recently presented with a TrustPower Community Award and a cheque for \$250.00. Dianne Boyce, Manager – Volunteers, says *"it's wonderful that organisations such as TrustPower choose to publicly acknowledge the work of our volunteers in the community. We could not provide all our services across the Division without our significant volunteer support"*.

## Young Rangiora artists put their work on sale

The Rangiora High School Nursery School recently held a very successful art exhibition of the children's work. All the items were sold on the evening along with an auction and raffle with all the proceeds going to the Cancer Society. Martin Witt, Health Promotion Manager said he was delighted to be asked to visit the Nursery School, where his own children had previously attended, and receive a wonderful donation of \$4,100 towards Cancer Society services.

# Scooters conquer the Alps

More than 30 tiny scooters rode triumphantly into Hokitika on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June having conquered the Southern Alps in the first Tranz Alpine Scooter Safari.

Four Air New Zealand engineers, Mike Rattray, Wayne Cook, Ben Walker and Damion Haines, conceived the idea to ride scooters coast to coast, Christchurch to Hokitika, inspired by a young colleague diagnosed with bowel cancer. *"We thought that if he's going to endure a sore butt from his surgery, then we should get sore butts too!"* says Mike.

It was clear they should do it for a cause and The Cancer Society became the obvious choice.

Air New Zealand flew four engineers and their scooters from Auckland to join them. Word spread. Friends and colleagues scrounged scooters to join the safari and a group of West Coast scooter enthusiasts trailered their bikes over to Christchurch to ride the return journey. In Darfield, another six riders who had salvaged their long-forgotten scooters from farm sheds and two tag teams from Harcourts Marlborough also joined the posse.

*"The older and smaller the scooter, the better,"* says Wayne. *"Everyone knows a big bike would make it."*

In all, thirty-one riders on an array of tiddly scooters, mostly 50cc and none over 200cc, set off from the Christchurch engineering base before dawn, a buzzing convoy adding a tinge of blue smoke to the early morning fog.

Air New Zealand's Chief Executive Rob Fyfe, who rides a Ducati motorbike in Auckland, downsized to a 50cc scooter for the first hour of the ride, but wanted to keep going.

The safari took the participants through Darfield, Sheffield, Springfield, Arthur's Pass, Kumara and finally into Hokitika. A journey taking around 10 hours.

Despite frequent stops to regroup and refuel bikes and riders the group soon spread out. Porters Pass took a heavy toll, several riders having to paddle along or even get off and push, shedding layers of clothing along the way.

It was too much for some scooters who finished the trip on trailers, but event organiser Jayne Rattray has pronounced their mission – to raise funds for the Cancer Society – a fizzing success. She says they raised more than \$10,000 at the last count.

The entire day was a blast for all involved, residents along the route came out to clap and cheer the buzzing, beeping convoy.

*"Near Jacksons I saw a lady waving something,"* says Mike. *"It looked like money so I went back. I told her she could see us on TV that night but*



*Riding down the viaduct –what a thrill.*



*The convoy arriving in Hokitika.*

*she told me she was blind. She'd heard about us on the radio and listened out for us so she could give us her \$5."*

The West Coast turned on spectacular weather but a long day at full throttle saw both Wayne's 1987 Honda Lead and Ben's 1986 Honda Flush burn out at Kumara Junction, just 20km short of the finish line.

Ben said he was a bit dejected but a huge welcome from clapping and cheering Coasters changed that. *"I had a tear in my eye,"* he said. *"It felt like we'd done something worthwhile."*

Jayne says *"We'd like to thank all our sponsors,*

*especially to Air New Zealand for all their support and funding. To the cafes and shops who donated hot drinks, savouries, soup and lunch, the service stations who donated petrol, the list goes on.... We have been blown away by all the encouragement and support. Last, but certainly not least, to the riders who endured sore butts for 10 hours. And to the hundreds of people who have donated to a great cause"*.

The feedback and support from the first Tranz Alpine Scooter Safari has been fantastic. Dozens of requests have been received asking if it'll happen again in 2010 ... so it looks like an annual charity ride has been born!

Reported by Jayne Rattray – Event Organiser.

# Smokefree Parks become a reality for Christchurch

The Cancer Society is delighted with the decision made by Christchurch City Council to make all parks and reserves (including playgrounds and sports parks) as well as Council-owned events in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula smokefree.

The policy is the culmination of 18 months work that started when students from Hornby High School made a case for smokefree playgrounds to their local community board.

Advocacy for smokefree parks and playgrounds is an important part of the work of health promotion staff within the Cancer Society, who have worked alongside Canterbury DHB and Partnership Health PHO on this project.

By focusing on public outdoor areas the Council is sending a message that our children need positive smokefree role models and that their health should be protected from the effects of smoking. The policy is not a ban and will not be actively enforced but members of the public will simply be asked to choose not to smoke.

A sound partnership with Christchurch City Council has been developed and the Cancer Society looks forward to being part of implementation and evaluation of this project



Heidi and Anna from Hornby High School – youth advocates for Smokefree parks.

## Special thanks to

- Jim Morris who has donated thousands of dollars to the Society from the proceeds of his poetry book *Different Worlds-Back Country Yarns*. Copies are still available from the Cancer Society in Christchurch.
- Kelly Services for the donation of a photocopier and an offer of computer up-skilling for staff.
- Tag Gone for removing the etched tagging, at no charge, off the shop windows of the Cancer Society office in Christchurch.
- The Mainland Foundation for the donation of TV and DVD player for Daffodil House.
- The Eureka Trust for funds towards the printing and postage costs of the *Let's Connect* newsletter.
- Juliet Sullivan from Dyrberg Kern for her donation of special jewellery for patients.

### DIARY DATES:

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	Cancer Society Daffodil Day
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	An evening with Dame Malvina Major, Ashburton Trust Event Centre, 7.30pm
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Daffodil Day at Otahuna
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Wedding Show at Grand Chancellor Hotel, Christchurch
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Art in Garden, Flaxmere, Hawarden, phone 03 314 4247
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Amberley Garden Tour Phone 03 314 8833 or 03 314 9234 for tickets
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Relay For Life Greymouth – Contact 03 768 9557
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	Relay For Life Christchurch – Contact 03 379 5835
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	Cancer Society Ball

Telephone 03 379 5835 for more information

AMBERLEY CANCER SUPPORT  
GROUP FUND RAISER  
(for Relay For Life)



Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**GARDEN TOUR**  
**14 LOCAL GARDENS**



10.00 am – 4.00 pm  
\$10 pre sales  
\$15 on day

**Tickets on Sale October**

Contact:

Mary Rickerby telephone (03) 314 8833  
Bernie Croft (03) 314 9234

CUT ALONG THE LINE

**Yes ...** I want to help the Cancer Society reduce the incidence and impact of cancer in our community. Here is my donation ...

Enclosed is my/our tax deductible donation of

\$  \$  \$  \$

Other amount (please enter)

Cheque payable to Cancer Society of New Zealand

Or charge my  American Express

Visa  MasterCard

Card No.

Expiry date \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!** We will send you a receipt.

Please send me information about making a gift to the Cancer Society in my Will.

I am interested in finding out about direct crediting regular donations to the Cancer Society.

Please remove my name from the mailing list.