

Let's Connect...



... with the Cancer Society and its services

May 2009

Mission Statement

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

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Landmark motels undergo a new life as cancer patient accommodation – Daffodil House



Daffodil House, 91 Papanui Road, Christchurch

A complex of Tudor-style motels has taken on a new life as 'purpose-built' accommodation for patients who need a home in Christchurch while undergoing cancer treatment. The purchase of the motels at 91 Papanui Road took place 11 years to the day since the opening of Davidson House, the Society's home-away-from-home for cancer patients at 263 Cambridge Terrace.

Averaging 98 per cent occupancy rates, Davidson House has been 'home' to 3970 patients from North and South Canterbury, West Coast, Nelson and Marlborough regions in the past 10 years, while the Society has needed to find accommodation for a further 3038 patients in suitable motels nearby.

Elizabeth Chesterman, Chief Executive of the Society's Canterbury-West Coast Division says the rising cost of placing patients in motels has been a key factor in the decision to purchase additional accommodation. The new facility – named Daffodil House – will more than double the Society's capacity to provide a warm and welcoming environment for patients who need to stay in the city for extended periods during the course of their treatment.

Unlike the building of Davidson House, for which the

Society embarked on a \$3.6 million capital fundraising campaign, the Society has not had to actively fundraise this time, however donations towards the cost of renovations, furnishings and ongoing operations would be gratefully received.

"We have been in a position to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity because of the generosity of people in Canterbury and West Coast regions," says Peter Davidson, Chairman of the Society's Canterbury-West Coast Division.

Whether it has been through outstanding support for a Relay For Life, a donation in a bucket on Daffodil Day or a bequest to the Cancer Society in a will, the financial management of the Division over the years has ensured that funds donated to the Society have been used wisely, so that when the opportunity arrived we were in a position to purchase this property at the right price."

Thanks to the advances in medical treatment, many patients require shorter-stay accommodation. It is exciting to be able to offer this accommodation with appropriate support in an almost purpose-designed facility.

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

Relay For Life

The Cancer Society has once again been overwhelmed by the commitment and passion for Relay For Life. Over 4,000 participants took part in the two divisional events held this year, raising funds and demonstrating their support of the Cancer Society.

The two Relay For Life events, which took place in our Division this year, experienced very different weather conditions! In Christchurch, the participants experienced driving, cold and persistent wind and rain, however this did not deter their enthusiasm or pragmatism. Many said they just put an extra waterproof layer! The weather was more kindly for the Timaru Relay, and the generous and supportive South Cantabrian community experienced 20 hours of warm sunshine and a dry night.

The Chairman of the Timaru organising committee, Des Kearns, said the highlight was seeing the mix of people talking, laughing and having a good time. "We've seen the young people talk to the old, strangers talking to strangers. They love it. It's great to see the older people put themselves outside their comfort zone and for the young people to see that age is no barrier".

The Cancer Society's Chief Executive, Liz Chesterman, acknowledges the significant support offered by the volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise to organise Relay For Life. "Without these special and generous people, people like Des Kearns who has chaired the past three Timaru Relay For Life events, we could not manage the logistics, obtain the community's support or raise the substantial funds".

Over \$350,000 has been raised from these two events. This will be used by the Cancer Society to continue to deliver its free services – driving patients to treatment, assisting with welfare grants, providing the patient accommodation facilities of Davidson House and Daffodil House, funding research, offering health promotion programmes and extending our 0800 CANCER Information helpline.



The Diamond Trinnians ready to Relay in Christchurch.



Cancer Survivors start their first lap in Timaru.

Relay For Life events for 2010 will be held in Greymouth in February and Christchurch in March.

For further information, or if you would like to be involved in the event, please phone the Cancer Society.

Your good Will will make a difference

Currently a national advertising and awareness campaign is being conducted by the Cancer Society encouraging people to consider leaving a gift in their Will. The campaign involves a television commercial, magazine and newspaper advertisements as well as a personal letter and brochure to randomly selected people nationwide.

If you have received one of these letters, please don't be offended, it is part of a national campaign to sustain the Cancer Society's services into the future. It is only through donations and bequests and the ongoing support of thousands of New Zealanders that the Cancer Society can maintain and expand its research, education and support programmes.

Over the last 79 years the Cancer Society has been extremely grateful to the thoughtful and generous people who have left bequests to the Cancer Society in their Will. These life-changing legacies have helped to ensure the Society is able to continue helping those whose lives are affected by cancer.



A gift in your Will, or Family Trust, no matter how small or large, will be used by the Cancer Society to make a valuable and lasting contribution towards the fight against cancer.

If you would like to receive further information about making a bequest to the Cancer Society please contact Stephen Roach in the Christchurch Office on 03 353 9874.

Ellerslie Flower Show



ELLERSLIE
INTERNATIONAL
FLOWER SHOW
CHRISTCHURCH
NEW ZEALAND

The Cancer Society was actively involved with the Ellerslie International Flower Show, recruiting and rostering 249 volunteers whose tasks ranged from car parking, information attendants, plant crèche and marshalling. Cancer Society Volunteer Manager – Dianne Boyce says she was inundated with people offering to help and many people have told her they loved the experience and are already looking forward to helping again next year.

As well as assisting with volunteers, the Cancer Society was the recipient charity for the Premiere Garden party which was held on the Opening night.

Smokefree Youth Ambassadors

The 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' campaign, organised by the Cancer Society, is aimed at placing tobacco displays under shop counters and out of sight, in attempts to protect young people from tobacco marketing. Unfortunately, the Government has recently decided not to support legislation at this time, citing a lack of international evidence. It seems the door is not closed, because the Minister of Health has said the issue will be monitored closely and will remain as an option for the future.

However the issue is still a priority for the Cancer Society, due to the high number of smoking related illness and deaths in New Zealand. Among those who will continue pointing out the current evidence and lobbying Government for change is a growing group of dedicated and committed young people. Groups of Cancer Society Smokefree Youth

Ambassadors have been established in Timaru, Greymouth and Christchurch.

Tobacco marketing targets and impacts on young people so it is appropriate that they be given the chance to have their say on what they think the future of tobacco displays should be.

"They would still be for sale under the counter so why jeopardise the young community with them in place" – Luke

"Out of sight is out of mind, it might stop others from starting smoking" – Scott

Already these vibrant young people have collected signatures, gained support, met with MPs, featured in publicity posters and newspaper articles throughout the region. Keep an eye out for more of their activities throughout the year.



Youth are the future and our Cancer Society Youth Ambassadors believe a Smokefree Aotearoa is the only way to go.

Daffodil Day



Timaru Cancer Society volunteers phoning businesses for Daffodil Day 2008

Daffodil Day, the Cancer Society's iconic national appeal, will be held this year on Friday 29th August. Once again, volunteers will be out on the streets collecting donations and celebrating the 19th anniversary of Daffodil Day.

If you would like to help on Daffodil Day, for example by collecting on the street or making phone calls to businesses to sell bunches of fresh daffodils, please contact a Cancer Society Centre near you. We would love to have you involved.

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New Zealand House and Garden Tours

In March, front doors and garden gates of 40 properties in Christchurch, Hawkes Bay, Wellington and Auckland were opened for the NZ House and Garden Tours.



4692 tickets were sold raising over \$250,000 which has been evenly shared between the Cancer Society and the charity Look Good Feel Better.

The Cancer Society is very grateful to the NZ House and Garden team who organised the event, the people who bought tickets and the volunteers who helped on the day. Special thanks are given to those very generous homeowners who opened their gardens and homes up for more than 1,000 local people to enjoy the very special day in Christchurch on 6th March.

On top of the World

Recently the reception and shop volunteers from the Christchurch office were taken on a trip to the 'top of the world' with the help of Christchurch Tramways. Dianne Boyce (Volunteer Manager) and Faye Flanagan (Reception and Retail Co-ordinator) escorted the volunteers up the Gondola as a special way of saying thank you for their continued support.



Cancer Society volunteers, Claire, Barbara and Averil enjoying their morning tea.

Pretty in pink in Ashburton

A group of enthusiastic local Ashburton women organised The Pretty in Pink Ball which was held in Ashburton in March. 240 people danced the night away, in a venue decorated by the volunteer organising committee. Annie Bonifant, Community Liaison for the Cancer Society, said the evening was a huge success and special thanks must go to the Mid Canterbury people who purchased tickets, the local businesses supporting the Ball and, especially, the organisers Janet Holmes, Di Thomas, Carolyn Smith and Julie Stevenson for all their hard work. Annie says the great news is they are planning to do it all again next year.

Proceeds from the Ball will be used to support women with breast cancer in the Mid Canterbury region.

Life on the West Coast

Life's been busy on the West Coast with a variety of fundraising activities taking place:

■ In Greymouth, three friends organised an ABBA themed evening with prizes for the best dressed man or woman. The evening was styled around the movie *Mama Mia*. An ABBA fan, Jenny Kenning from the Cancer Society West Coast Centre, said the evening was a great success with \$700 donated to the Cancer Society.

■ Missy Campbell and Nora McQuarrie shaved their heads in remembrance of Missy's mother, Lucy, who lost the battle to cancer 8 years ago. Nora and Missy, whose hair was almost 1metre in length, held a "hair shaving ceremony" with friends and family raising \$690.00 for the cancer services on the West Coast.

■ The Regent Theatre was at capacity for the Greymouth premiere of the *Topp Twins* movie – a \$2952.00 fundraiser for the Cancer Society. The theme was pink which was reflected in the supper food and drinks and the guests clothes on the night.



Nora and Missy (seated) after having their heads shaved.



Left to right Anne Hines, Liz Chesterman, Liz Horn, and Jenny Kenning of the Cancer Society at the *Topp Twins* movie.



Pictured left to right: Organisers of the ABBA evening – Kathy Stanton, Mandy O'Sullivan & Allie Sullivan.

DIARY DATES:

Sunday 31st May	World Smokefree Day
Saturday 13th June	Cancer Society Ball, Christchurch Convention Centre
14th – 20th June	Volunteer Awareness Week
Monday 17th August	AGM Cancer Society of NZ/Canterbury West Coast Division
Friday 28th August	DAFFODIL DAY

Telephone 03 379 5835 for more information

Special thanks to

Orana Wildlife Park who regularly donate tickets to the Cancer Society. These are given to families the Cancer Society is supporting who are experiencing difficult circumstances.

Funky Pumpkin in Christchurch has offered long term support by providing fresh fruit for Cancer Society health promotion community and school events.

Pam Baker who recently shaved her head in support of the Cancer Society and raised \$1374 from friends and family.

CUT ALONG THE LINE

Can you help on Daffodil Day?

Cancer Society
**DAFFODIL
DAY**



Can you spare a couple of hours of your time on Friday 28th August 2009 to help us collect?

Or would you like to help with some of our other Daffodil Day activities such as our business house phoneout (volunteers sell bunches of fresh daffodils by telephone to businesses).

Send us your contact telephone number and an area co-ordinator will be in touch.

YES! I would like to help with Daffodil Day

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Daytime

_____ Evening

Have you collected for Daffodil Day before? Yes No

I'd like to help by _____

Preferred collection area _____

Please return in the freepost envelope provided.