



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

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### **Relay For Life An Overnight Success**

Around 800 people gathered at Rotorua Relay For Life 2010 to celebrate, remember and fight back over the weekend.

Events coordinator Kiri Thomas says everyone involved helped to ensure the 22 hour, overnight fundraising event was a success.

“Each and every team member, survivor, supporter, crew member, volunteer and entertainer played a role over the weekend. There was a great atmosphere the whole time, and that was created by everyone at the event.”

Event highlights included the Survivors’ Lap, Candlelight Ceremony and theme laps.

“Around 80 survivors took part in the Survivors’ Lap which begins Relay and celebrates the lives of those people who have overcome cancer. Later on Saturday evening the Candlelight Ceremony helped people remember those they have lost to cancer, and candles burned throughout the night in their memory.

“Participants also fully embraced this year’s theme laps which included Mat Hatters and Superheroes.”

A haka performed by the award winning Tuhourangi Kapa Haka group on the conclusion of the final lap of Relay also added to the emotional significance of the event, said Kiri.

This year saw 57 teams take part in the relay, held at the Rotorua International Stadium.

So far, Relay For Life Rotorua 2010 has raised nearly \$100,000, with more expected to come in over following weeks.

The money raised will be used to provide the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Cancer Society’s support services, information, health promotion programmes and funding for research. Funds will also go towards the new Cancer Society’s Lions Lodge in Hamilton, where people from around the region can stay while receiving treatment for cancer at the Waikato Regional Cancer Centre.

**Ends**

**Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back!**

***For further information, please contact:***

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**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

**Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back!**