



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

### **Hamilton's Relay For Life 2009 Roaring Into Gear**

Hamilton Relay For Life 2009 is just over a month away and already it's looking set to be another huge success.

While the relay is the Cancer Society's fun community event of the year, as well as major fundraiser, it is also an opportunity to teach people more about cancer.

Leasa Hubbard, Hamilton Relay For Life coordinator, says this year a new Health Promotion Village is being set up for the relay.

"The village will have a special focus on healthy living and lifestyles, as well as SunSmart and SmokeFree."

Eight other health organisations including the Heart Foundation, K'ute Pasfika, U Leisure, MoleMap, Waikato Kindergarten Association, Environment Waikato, NZ Blood, Diabetes Waikato, Life Education Trust and the Waikato District Health Board will be joining the village.

Leasa says the Cancer Society is very pleased these organisations are coming on board not only to support the relay but also to promote better and healthier lifestyles in the community.

"Previously we have had health promotion activities at the relay and they have always been well-received so we see this new village concept as a way of better utilising the event to encourage healthy living and lifestyle."

Various mascots representing the organisations will also be attending including the Cancer Society's own Undercover Cody the SunSmart turtle, 'Blood Dude', 'Rueben the Road Safety Bear', 'Harold the Giraffe', as well as many veggies in costume.

"These types of activities really just add to the wonderful community environment that is relay – and are so important in encouraging people to want to come back year after year."

This year Relay For Life Hamilton will be held at the Ruakura AgResearch Centre and Leasa says the new venue has opened up so many opportunities to grow relay such as the Health Promotion Village because of the additional space available.

"We still have plenty more room for those teams that haven't signed up already and the new venue means there are still some really good tent sites available."

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

More ...

“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.”

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.”

The 22-hour overnight relay starts at 2pm Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March to 12pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

To find out more, or to register a team, contact the Cancer Society, email: [admin@cancersociety.org.nz](mailto: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](http://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