



**Cancer
Society**

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

PO Box 134
Cnr Grey & Beale Streets
Hamilton East
HAMILTON

Telephone: 64 7 838-2027
Facsimile: 64 7 838-2028

Media Release – For immediate release

5th March 2009

New Cancer Society's Lions Lodge To Benefit Region

More than thirty years ago the logistics of receiving treatment for cancer for those living outside Hamilton was an enormous challenge.

To counter this challenge the Waikato /Bay of Plenty Cancer Society set about finding a solution.

It was decided to set up a free accommodation facility for those receiving chemotherapy and radiation therapy treatment at the Regional Cancer Centre at Waikato Hospital

Judy Gould, Waikato/BOP Cancer Society Chief Executive, says the Lions Lodge was born out of this need.

“Now, nearly 40 years later the need is still there and has in fact grown. With earlier diagnosis and greatly improved treatment options many more people are receiving treatment for cancer than in the past and this need is naturally passed on to the Lodge.”

Due to the growing need and to cater for future users the Cancer Society purchased the site of the old Braemar Hospital on Lake Rd in Hamilton late in 2007.

“We felt that to serve our community well we needed to increase the service currently being offered and to modernise it as well.”

The new Lodge will have an increase in bedrooms to 54 plus more facilities such as activity, therapeutic massage and meeting rooms, as well as a library and lounges overlooking the lake.

More ...

“There will be large garden areas and lots of special places for reflection,” Mrs Gould says.

Cancer programmes and support services will be run at the Lodge and cater for local Hamilton residents as well as those from out of town.

“There is easy access to the hospital and a regular shuttle service will be run by volunteers, plus lots more parking.”

The existing dining arrangements will remain unchanged with an onsite cook.

“The Cancer Society is excited about the future options we will have at the new Lodge. There is a real ambience to Braemar and we truly know it will be the ‘home away from home’ that people need when they are undergoing treatment.”

Mrs Gould says in order to carry out the renovations required to the facility to make it suitable for the new Lodge an extensive fundraising campaign will be carried out by the Society over the next two years.

It is expected residents will be staying at the Lodge from September 2010.

Ends.

For further information, please contact:

Jo Bell
PR/Communications Manager
Waikato/Bay of Plenty Division of the Cancer Society of NZ Inc.
Mob: 021 775 973
Email: jobell@cancersociety.org.nz

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