



Cancer Society New Zealand
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Mike's warning against too much sun

Mike Beeching has worked outdoors for most of his life. The Whakatane-based seventy-eight year old, who started out in the merchant navy, has been a commercial fisherman for over fifty years.

Two years ago, Mike was diagnosed with cancer, and last year, had his nose removed.

“Over the years I got too much sun, especially on my nose. I never thought to cover up - nobody did in those days, we all just went brown. Everybody was out in the sun and we didn't think anything of it.”

Mike says he had rosacea on his face for a number of years - a skin condition which causes redness, and can be triggered by a number of things, including heat.

But he had a feeling that the skin damage on his nose was something more serious.

“I sort of knew before the doctors told me - I thought there was something more to it.”

The cancer eventually caused the bridge of Mike's nose to collapse, and he was sent to Waikato Hospital where his nose was amputated.

Mike has a prosthetic nose which is extremely realistic.

Now Mike makes sure he wears a hat with a large brim whenever he's out on deck on the boat, and he has a message for young children.

“I tell them to cover up in the sun. Some of the little kids who see I have no nose are brave enough to ask what happened. I say, I didn't cover up in sun, make sure you do!”

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