



Media Release

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Heart warming response to NZ House & Garden House Tours - raising over \$200,000

The success of last month's *NZ House & Garden* Tours shows that the spirit of giving is very much alive and well, with thousands of people buying tickets to the nationwide event and more than \$200,000 raised for cancer charities Look Good Feel Better and The Cancer Society of New Zealand.

More than 5000 people from across the country got a sneak peek inside a selection of the most spectacular homes in Auckland, Tauranga and Wairarapa during the month of March. Sadly the Christchurch leg of the tour had to be cancelled due to the earthquake.

Sally Duggan, editor of *NZ House & Garden*, was delighted by the results from the other three centres.

"The tours really are a winning formula – they give people the chance for a fun day out looking at beautiful homes at the same time they are helping people with cancer. We're especially grateful to the generous homeowners, who worked hard to get their homes looking fantastic, and invited thousands of people into their homes," she says.

"To give back to these worthy charities like this is special, and I think our homeowners and visitors were pleased to think they were helping a good cause."

Sally says that Christchurch home owners had been particularly generous taking part in the tours (after the September earthquake) and were keen to help the city back to normality. "It was a real blow to have to cancel that part of the tour after the February quake," she says, "however it was great to have the option for ticket holders to donate their tickets back to the charities or to the earthquake fund."

She says there were many that chose to do that.

Yvonne Brownlie, General Manager of Look Good Feel Better, says she is deeply appreciative of the support received to make the *NZ House & Garden* Tours a resounding success for the third year running.

"With the additional funds, Look Good Feel Better will be able to extend the workshop programme further to deliver more confidence-building workshops across the country, enabling us to reach even more New Zealand women from around the country. We are very mindful of our patients in Christchurch and will ensure a significant amount of funding goes to our Christchurch operation to ensure women there have the opportunity to have a "Pick Me Up" during their cancer treatment."

The Cancer Society of New Zealand was equally delighted by the support shown and the funds raised towards helping people with cancer around New Zealand.

Philip Hope, Fundraising Manager of the Cancer Society Auckland, says “We are sincerely grateful to NZ House & Garden for choosing to sponsor this tremendous event. The Cancer Society of New Zealand really appreciates the valuable support of home owners, the hundreds of volunteers that helped deliver each of the tours and the thousands of good people who purchased tickets in support of our cause”.

All proceeds received by the Cancer Society of New Zealand are being allocated to the six regional divisions of the Society, according to where the ticket purchasers live. This allows everyone who supported the event to help people affected by cancer in their own community.

The Society is also directing a portion of the proceeds it raises across all of the tours to assist its Canterbury West Coast Division in Christchurch, to ensure those people affected by cancer in Canterbury, which essentially have been dealt a double blow, still benefit from a share of proceeds equivalent to the net proceeds of ticket sales for the Christchurch tour which sadly had to be cancelled as the result of the devastating earthquake.

The Society’s share of proceeds will be used to help sustain a wide range of free support services for all people affected by a cancer diagnosis, which include the Cancer Information Helpline 0800 Cancer, patient transport to treatment, a patient meals service, counselling, patient welfare, and a Liaison Nursing Service.

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Released on behalf of *NZ House & Garden* by Goode PR, Auckland. For more information, images or to arrange an interview, please contact: Belinda Abernethy of Goode PR, Auckland on +64 9 480 9948 or email belinda@goodepr.co.nz.

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