

STANDING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF HOSPICE CARE

your

hospice matters

harbour
hospice

Te Kahu Pairuri mai i
Takarunga ki Te Hana

Ākuhata | August 2026



OUR CARE IS
EVOLVING

because the needs of
the people we care for
are changing



Kia ora,

When Harbour Hospice was established more than four decades ago, we were built for a different world. Most of the people in our care had cancer, and their care pathways were relatively predictable. That world has changed.

Today, we are caring for people who are living longer, whose conditions are more complex, and whose needs don't always fit neatly into any single service. Our community is changing, and we are changing with it.

John's story, which you'll read in this newsletter, is one that reflects those changing needs. It's a story of a family navigating something profoundly difficult, and of the care that made a difference for them. It's also a glimpse of who we are increasingly here for, and why the work we have begun on our model of care matters so much.

We need to be fit for the community we serve now, and the community we will serve in the years ahead. Demand is growing, and the profile of who needs us is shifting. Standing still is not an option.

You may have seen the recent Government announcement of additional funding for hospices. We welcome it; it's meaningful recognition of the work hospices do across Aotearoa. But we still face a significant gap between what government funding covers and the true cost of our care. That gap will only grow as demand for our services increases.

This is where our community matters more than ever. The work ahead of us is significant, and it depends on the community that has always stood with us: our donors, supporters, partners, volunteers, and everyone who walks alongside us in ways big and small.

We've enclosed a short survey. As we plan for what comes next, understanding more about the people who support us helps us do that well. If you have a few minutes to share your thoughts, it would mean a great deal to us.

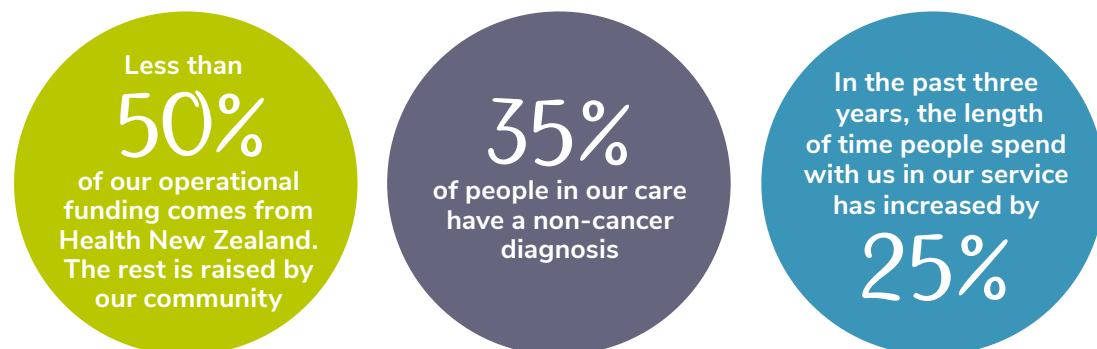
Thank you for continuing to support us as we prepare for the future.

Ngā mihi,

Amanda

Amanda Fowler
Harbour Hospice Chief Executive

MĀ TE HURUHURU KA RERE TE MANU WITH FEATHERS, THE BIRD WILL FLY



There when it matters most thanks to you



This year's Harbour Hospice Awareness Month showed us, once again, the strength of this community. For the second year running, May brought a full month of support, generosity and connection.

Funds raised during May go directly towards care like the kind Nicolette experienced when her husband came into our care. "It is almost impossible to convey how special hospice services are. From a medical perspective, it's very high level care that's given with huge compassion, but there's something more than that. It's the respect that's given to the person who's dying, the dignity they're afforded," she says. It's a reminder of why your support matters, and why we're here, at the right time, in the right place, providing the right care.

Together, we raised more than \$90,000 for Harbour Hospice tūrora/patients, family and whānau care, a result that speaks to just how much our community cares.

A huge thank you goes to our matching partners, whose generosity helped double the impact of your donations. Principal partners Mason Containers Limited and Northland Waste, along with boost partners Ray White Matakana and Diamond Fusion, matched your donations throughout the month.

Whether you donated online, added a dollar at the till when shopping at a supermarket or a Harbour Hospice shop, or simply spread the word, thank you.



Trusts provide vital support

Thank you to the following organisations, who have contributed towards medical supplies, whānau and volunteer resources, operating costs equipment, salaries, and our family support programme. Your support is vital in enabling us to continue providing compassionate care to those who need it.

Akarana Community Trust
Ara Lodge No. 348 I.C. Charitable Trust
BlueSky Community Trust
Dragon Community Trust
Elsie Steele Charitable Trust
Four Winds Foundation
Jogia Charitable Trust
Lister Presbyterian Health Trust
Milestone Foundation
North & South Trust Ltd

NZCT (New Zealand Community Trust)
One NZ
Oxford Sports Trust
Pelorus Trust
Pub Charity Ltd
The Kelliher Charitable Trust
The Lion Foundation
The Reed Charitable Trust, managed by Public Trust
Trillian Trust

Your community or family trust can support patient care too. Please contact Grants Manager Lesley on 021 871 064 or Lesley.Cranston@harbourhospice.org.nz



Left - Marguerite & John

OUR CARE IS EVOLVING

because the needs of the people we care for are changing

Marguerite Sakey knows what the end of life looks like. As a retired hospice nurse, who trained in the UK with hospice founder Dame Cicely Saunders, she has supported hundreds of people during this incredibly profound time.

But it was caring for her husband, John, that has, naturally, left the biggest imprint on her.

John died in a residential care facility in September 2025, aged 80. Surrounded by those he loved, and locking eyes one last time with his wife of 53 years, he couldn't have had a more peaceful death, Marguerite says.

But if she wasn't a retired hospice nurse, who knew to engage the support of Harbour Hospice, would it have been peaceful?, Marguerite questions.

John lived with Alzheimer's and heart disease and represented a growing number of people in our community with complex, non-cancer conditions. Their needs are longer-term and harder to predict than the shorter cancer trajectories hospice care was originally built around.



"In the end John died very peacefully, with all the family there, holding him in our arms. And in that moment I wasn't his nurse, I was just his wife, which was very important to me."

Marguerite

Hospice care was built around cancer. Today, more than a third of the people we care for have non-cancer conditions like John's, and over the next decade non-cancer conditions will drive almost all the growth in need across our region. Yet many people with conditions like John's never reach hospice care at all.

Marguerite's professional background meant she knew Harbour Hospice wasn't purpose-built for someone with dementia, but she also knew that, more than anything, the couple needed specialist end-of-life support.

"We needed that comfort, that specialist knowledge, and the reassurance that if I got into trouble hospice would be there."

So, she reached out to us, and we responded, setting up monthly meetings to monitor John's trajectory, connecting the couple with local district nurses who regularly visited, supplied equipment to assist with John's mobility and helped with tasks that were becoming physically difficult for Marguerite, like showering John.

When Marguerite needed a break, we took John into our inpatient unit for symptom management and respite care. Marguerite says, "It was magic. You don't realise how exhausted you are until you're off your 'watch'."

And when it eventually became too much for Marguerite to continue caring for John at home, and she moved him into a residential care facility, we continued providing support, advocating for John and Marguerite and working alongside care facility staff.

John was prone to wander, and our inpatient unit, where he stayed for respite care and symptom management, wasn't designed to safely accommodate patients who wander.

Marguerite also felt that better support and education, across the board, was needed for aged residential care facility staff.

"While aged care facilities can provide end-of-life care, they don't specialise in palliative care. Family members would benefit hugely from this education too.

"In the end John died very peacefully, with all the family there, holding him in our arms. And in that moment I wasn't his nurse; I was just his wife, which was very important to me.

"The memory of a good death stays with a family forever, Dame Cicely Saunders always said. But what would have happened if I wasn't a retired hospice nurse, and if I hadn't had Hospice right there on my shoulder with the appropriate medication, good support, the right advocacy?"

the RIGHT CARE, at the RIGHT TIME, in the RIGHT PLACE

John and Marguerite's story highlights how hospice care can really make a difference, but it also highlights some aspects of the changing needs of our community. To be able to meet those needs, we must adapt our model of care. Families need us to support them through longer, more complex journeys. We need to reach people earlier and be flexible enough to step in and out as needs change.

We've started the work. We're at the beginning of a carefully considered and deliberate journey to evolve our services. But just as we always have, we need the support of our community to achieve this.



Back row - Yvonne Payne, Louise Heath, Erika Grooten, Suzanne Perigo & Suzanne Lasenby. Front row - Pip Smith & Sue McKay. Absent - Leanne Little & Lisa Mallett.

TWENTY YEARS OF ART, COMMUNITY & GENEROSITY

This year's King's Birthday Weekend saw the Hibiscus Coast Art Exhibition and Sale celebrate a special milestone, its 20th anniversary. Held at the Estuary Arts Centre in Ōrewa, the event brought together local and national artists, raising more than \$21,000 for Harbour Hospice.

Thank you to Platinum Sponsor Harcourts Cooper & Co Real Estate for their generous ongoing support, and to everyone who attended or contributed artwork.

None of this would have been possible without the Volunteer Fundraising Committee. For two decades, they've shown up year after year, dedicated to bringing this event to the Hibiscus community.

Beyond the art exhibition, the committee has organised and supported many other events over the years, together raising more than \$1 million for Harbour Hospice. Thank you for your incredible commitment to hospice.



FREE WILLS THIS SEPTEMBER

This September marks Gift in Will month, and it's a wonderful opportunity to support Harbour Hospice.

We've teamed up with four lawyers from our local communities. They'll prepare a simple new Will or amendment to your existing Will, free of charge, when you include a gift to Harbour Hospice.

After taking care of your loved ones, a gift to Harbour Hospice can make a life-changing difference for hospice tūrora/patients, their families and whānau.

For more information, contact Suzie on **021 226 2741** or suzie.smith@harbourhospice.org.nz



COMING UP For ticket sales and more information about these, and other exciting events, go to harbourhospice.org.nz/our-events



Vintners' Brunch
Pullman Hotel
Sun 30 Aug

Some of Auckland's most celebrated

restaurants pair with New Zealand's finest wineries for ten unforgettable courses, each matched to its perfect glass. Join fellow foodies and wine lovers for one extraordinary Sunday, all in support of Harbour Hospice. **Seats are limited.**



Homes & Gardens Tour
Omaha
Sun 15 Nov

Explore stunning

architecture, interiors and gardens, including homes featured on Grand Designs NZ, in this exclusive self-guided tour.



Harbour Hospice Golf Day
North Shore Golf Club
Thurs 19 Nov

Join us for a fantastic day on the green in support of Harbour Hospice at our renowned annual golf day. This premier event brings together corporate teams, business leaders, community members and golf enthusiasts for a memorable day of sport, camaraderie and giving back.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME, ENERGY & AROHA

In June we marked Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu, National Volunteer Week, and celebrated our Long Service Awards on the North Shore, Hibiscus Coast and in Warkworth/Wellsford. Both are a chance to pause and properly thank the people who make Harbour Hospice what it is.

This year we're proud to recognise Jenny Howlett and Marilyn Shepherd, who have both given 30 years of service, and Philippa Holley, who has given 25. Between them, that's 85 years of showing up, week after week, for their community.

Marilyn has been part of the Wellsford shop since it opened in 1996 and still looks forward to her Tuesday shifts. Jenny has worn many hats over the years, from reception, fundraising, to community visiting, and says it's where she has "found her niche."

Phillippa has volunteered at the Link Dr shop since it began, sourcing preloved treasures, once flagging down a stranger on the roadside to help transport a desk. She was inspired to volunteer after her mother died without support, and in a moving turn, Phillippa herself leaned on hospice's care during her husband Len's final months last year.

Alongside Jenny, Marilyn and Philippa, dozens of other volunteers across Harbour Hospice were recognised for five to 30 years of service. Every one of them has our heartfelt thanks.

Our volunteers are woven into everything we do, helping us deliver the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

Thank you to every single volunteer, for every single hour you've given.

WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

30 YEARS



30 YEARS



25 YEARS



"We needed that comfort,
that specialist knowledge,
and the reassurance that
hospice would be there."

Marguerite



More families are facing
longer, complex, end-of-life
journeys. Your support helps
us evolve to meet this need.
Give today to help us provide
specialist care in the right
place, at the right time.

your support makes it possible
click here
THANK YOU

HOW YOUR SUPPORT BECOMES CARE

Giving a one-off or regular donation

Every dollar you give
strengthens the care
our community relies on.



Leaving a gift in your Will

Your legacy ensures future
generations receive the
same compassionate care.



Becoming a volunteer

Your time, skills and aroha help
support tūroro/patients, families
and whānau.

Donating goods to our shops

Every item given, and every dollar
spent, goes directly back into
patient care.



Raising funds in your own way

A personal challenge,
community event or something
uniquely yours makes a real difference.



Sharing your story

Your experiences help others
understand what hospice care is
and the long-lasting impact it has.

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