



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa  
Cancer Society Nelson Tasman

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou katoa

It is my pleasure to deliver the Chair report for the 2023/24 year, marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Cancer Society Nelson Tasman.

The Cancer Society's mission is to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer. Our unique strength lies in local centres, like ours, which are embedded in the community.

The undoubted highlight of the last year was the opening of our Motueka office, 'Kōwhairangi,' at 96 High Street,. We welcomed two new staff members: Maureen Urwin, a Support Coordinator, and Tāwhaki Simons, in the role of Kaiārahi Hōtaka. Maureen and Tāwhaki faced a steep learning curve but have settled in well, supported by the wider team. An ongoing goal for us is improving our rural outreach and enhancing equity. The opening of the Motueka office is crucial in this regard, strengthening our community links in that area and improving our relationships with Māori clients and Māori health providers.

Fundraising to sustain our work remains a vital part of what we do, and we enjoy generous support from the community. We had another successful Charity Ball last year, but the highlight for me was Relay For Life. For most of the staff, it was their first in-person relay due to the previous constraints of COVID-19.

I want to acknowledge the immense work and stress involved in preparing for the event. The Relay itself was extraordinary, not just for the amount of money raised, but for the positive impact it had on the Nelson Tasman community.

In last year's Chair report, the Nelson Tasman Centre noted it was exploring joining a South Island-wide Cancer Society entity. After extensive work, we decided that the Nelson Tasman region would be best served by remaining in the Wellington Division, alongside the Marlborough, Wairarapa, and Wellington centres. The Wellington Division has appointed a new CEO, Darryl Carpenter, who has brought new energy and leadership to the position.

The staff at our centre continue to be extraordinary. Led by our General Manager Michelle Hunt, the team includes Cyndy Smith, Victoria Sharp, Barbara Kotua, as well as Maureen and Tāwhaki in Motueka. We are incredibly fortunate to have staff that bring such enthusiasm and commitment to their mahi.

On a personal note, accompanying centre staff on a 2-day Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshop run by Kind Mind Kai last year was a highlight.

We are fortunate to have a strong Board, and I would like to thank board members Jack Fletcher, Miraka Norgate, Kent Gibbons, Andy Malcolm, Mary-Jane Reade, Megan Clark, and Ian MacLennan for volunteering their time and skills. I would also like to acknowledge the extra work undertaken by Ian MacLennan as Treasurer and overall Board Guru, as well as the practical support provided by Board Member Miraka Norgate across many of the centre's activities. Finally, I want to thank all the members, supporters, and volunteers of the Nelson Tasman Centre who together contribute to our important work.

Ngā mihi nui,



Stephen Neas



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## A SUMMARY OF THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR.



Tēnā koutou katoa

I am pleased to report the following financial out turn for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Subject to any audit adjustments our overall revenue was \$1,333,666 (last year audited \$1,145,563) against budget of \$597,732, the majority of the additional income being Relay For Life and Unrealised Gains on our investment portfolio, while overall expenses were \$981,093 (last year audited \$728,745) against budget of \$804,211 with a resulting surplus for the year being \$352,573 (Last Year audited \$416,817) compared to a budget deficit of \$13,665, noting that this deficit anticipated using some of our historic bequest income for supportive care and bequest expenditure.

The (unaudited) operating surplus is a tribute to the team of staff and volunteers led by Michelle Hunt whose work/mahi, continues to be generously recognised by so many in the Nelson Tasman region who support us both financially and non-financially. Thank you for that ongoing support especially in these difficult economic times.

Our long-term investment fund performance this year returned to material positive income and growth, thanks to the assistance from the Jarden team.

With the unaudited \$352,573 surplus (Last Year audited \$417,837 surplus) for the year our Accumulated funds has increased from (audited) \$4,353,386 last year to unaudited \$4,705,959 at 31 March 2024.

A copy of the detailed draft unaudited Annual Accounts is available to members who wish to obtain it and the audited financial statements will be available via the Charities Commission Web Site once we have filed them later in the year.

I take pleasure in moving that the Treasurer's report and un-audited Financial Summary be received, and that members agree to the executive committee adopting audited results for the Centre later in the year once they are available.

Ngā mihi nui,



Ian MacLennan,  
Cancer Society Nelson Tasman Treasurer

# CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS

What an incredible year 2023/24 has been! We hosted numerous fundraising events without any restrictions, starting with the Historical Homes Tour in April, followed by the Charity Auction Ball and Jump for Cancer in June, Daffodil Day in August, and the Longest Golf Day, which spanned December and January. The highlight was Relay For Life in March 2024. Not having had this event since 2018, it was a significant undertaking and milestone, far surpassing our expectations. We were truly amazed by the community support, which helped us achieve our fundraising goals.

Throughout 2023/24, we continued to operate our eight different support groups and programmes across the region. Our school holiday program also remained active, providing fun activities for families.

The Cancer Society Nelson Tasman expanded to Motueka to better serve the community. The Motueka office "Kōwhairangi" opened late 2023 at 96 High Street. It will provide enhanced and personalised support, and maintain a sustained presence for better community collaboration and outreach in the Tasman region, especially for the Māori and Pasifika populations. This expansion reflects our commitment to addressing disparities and supporting everyone facing cancer in the Nelson and Tasman regions.

"Kōwhairangi" is a name inspired by the life-giving rays of the sun. 'Ko' signifies 'the' or 'this is,' while 'whairangi' reflects the nurturing qualities of the sky and atmosphere. Together, they symbolise the warmth and light that shines upon us, akin to the sensation of turning one's face towards the sun. This name encapsulates the nurturing energy that fosters growth, healing, and renewal.

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*L-R: Cyndy, Barb, Michelle, Vick, Maureen and Tāwhaki*

Myself, Cyndy Smith (Support Coordinator), and Victoria Sharp (Volunteer & Events Coordinator) welcomed Barbara Kotua to the team as Centre Administrator (March 2023) and bid farewell to Bronwyn Yelverton (May 2023). Barbara, who has a wealth of marketing experience, moved seamlessly into the role of Marketing and Administration Coordinator. With the opening of our Motueka office, Kōwhairangi, we also welcomed two new team members: Support Coordinator Maureen Urwin and Kaiārahi Hōtaka Tāwhaki Simons.

I am extremely proud of our team of six. Although most are relatively new in their roles, they are passionate and dedicated to the mahi we do in our region.

A big thanks to the heart of our organisation—our volunteers—who this year donated 2,403 hours to support our ongoing work. Our small team works hard for people in our region with cancer, and we are grateful for the strong community support and the governance of our proactive Board.

*Ngā mihi, Michelle Hunt, General Manager*

# VOLUNTEERING

## VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF OUR ORGANISATION.



*Daffodil Day 2023 preparations and street appeal*

During 2023/2024 our volunteers donated 2403 hours of their time to Cancer Society Nelson Tasman.

Volunteers continue to be heart of our organisation. The time, commitment, and energy they provide to us never goes unnoticed.

We offer a broad range of volunteering opportunities. Drivers transport people to and from appointments, volunteer visitors offer companionship to those who may be socially or physically isolated. A vast array of creative projects continue to bring joy and comfort to many, such as Hope stones, Merino beanies, heart pillows and beautiful quilts to adorn the beds when people must travel out of Nelson for their treatment.

The 2023/2024 year has seen us open a new office in Motueka and provided the opportunity to extend our services and volunteering opportunities even further. We are excited to see this growth continue in the future.

As fundraising is an integral part of our model, and being a small staff we rely heavily on volunteer support.

The last year has seen events such as our Historical Homes Tour, a Charity Ball, Daffodil Day, a float in the Santa Parade and most recently Relay For Life which was a heart-warming community event and a very successful fundraiser for us. All these events would not have been possible without our volunteers.

Moving forward we will continue to provide lots of fun and rewarding opportunities to our existing volunteers and continually recognise their importance to our organisation.



*Volunteers setting up 2023 Charity Ball*

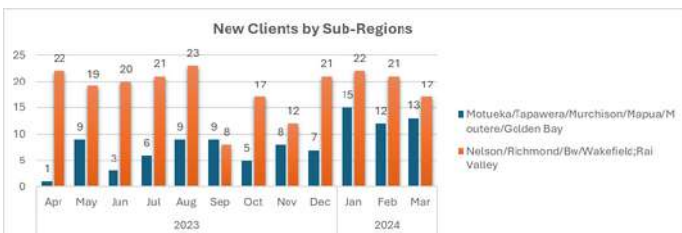
# SUPPORTIVE CARE

## SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER AND THEIR WHĀNAU

An absolute highlight for 23/24 was our new Kōwhairangi; Motueka office opening, with two new team members: Support Coordinator Maureen Urwin and Kaiārahi Hōtaka Tāwhaki Simons. Maureen covers the Motueka, Golden Bay and rural areas, while Tāwhaki's role is to provide outreach support to our Māori community and run our Kia Ora e te Iwi programme for whānau facing cancer.

This decision by our Board was in response to growing needs in the rural regions, plus the need to improve our reach out to Māori in our community who are more impacted by cancer. It shows our commitment to equity and accessibility in a practical way.

Since the Motueka office opened, we have seen a consistent increase in both rural and Māori referrals, with an additional 40 new clients/whānau referred overall, compared to the 22/23 year. We have very positive feedback from local health professionals about having a local base, and people are also regularly calling in. Maureen and Tāwhaki are also able to visit Golden Bay more regularly, and new support initiatives are underway in Motueka and Takaka.



### Volunteer Visitor Programme:

This new service started in Nelson 2023 and 10 trained Volunteer Visitors were matched with clients. We have had heartwarming feedback of the difference a Volunteer Visitor has made in people's lives, reducing isolation and helping them connect socially. The Visitors are an additional option for people for whom our group activities are not suitable, and who can benefit from 1:1 companionship; and complements the work of our Nelson based Support Coordinator Cyndy Smith.

The programme will be extended to the Motueka and surrounding area.

### Ongoing Support:

320 new clients/whānau were referred to us for support, plus another 70 recontacting, such as those sadly facing reoccurrence.

Our ongoing support groups across the region, school holiday events, weekly yoga classes and gym rehabilitation programme continued with steady attendance. Cyndy started regular wellness workshops/presentations including Health & Disability, and Nutrition presentations. 61% of our clients referred were working age and many whānau increasingly struggle with the financial impacts of cancer.

Of 257 support grants approved in 23/24, 38% related to Income Loss, 28% to Rural/Regional Travel costs, and 25% for Cancer Related Health/Treatment Costs.

We funded 270 counselling sessions across the region, including 34% for whānau members including children.

# FUNDRAISING

The past financial year has been a remarkable journey of unity, resilience, and generosity as our community came together to support the Cancer Society Nelson Tasman. Through a series of diverse and inspiring fundraising efforts, we have witnessed first-hand the incredible spirit and dedication of individuals and groups rallying behind a common cause.



The fundraising year commenced in April with our annual Historical Homes Tour, featuring seven privately owned historical homes. The tour included the Longfield 1856 cob cottage in Brightwater, Stafford Place in Appleby, and properties in Stoke and Nelson city centre. This event offered a unique glimpse into the rich architectural heritage of our region.

Jump for Cancer saw 33 people register to raise funds for our cause by skydiving. These brave jumpers raised over \$25,000, including four staff and residents of Summerset in the Sun lifestyle village, showing that age is no barrier.

Many thanks to Skydive Able Tasman and Motueka Aero Club for supporting this initiative in our community.



The annual charity ball, once again supported by The Cooper Group, was another standout event with a sell-out crowd. The evening featured dinner, live auctions, and dancing, with the highlight being a painting by Maico Camilo that fetched \$20,000. We are deeply appreciative of the incredible support from numerous local businesses and individuals that make our ball an unforgettable success.



This year was packed with national fundraising events such as Jump for Cancer, Daffodil Day, and the Longest Day Golf Challenge.



# FUNDRAISING

On Friday, August 30th, Daffodil Day 2023 turned into a sea of yellow, with over 400 dedicated volunteers from around the region making it a resounding success. The sight of Daffodil Pins proudly worn by locals warmed our hearts and inspired us beyond measure. The generosity of our community knows no bounds, and we are always moved beyond words by the impact you have made.



The Longest Day Golf Challenge was another highlight of the year. Participants took on the grueling task of completing four rounds of golf—72 holes—in a single day. The dedication of these individuals was matched by the support from local golf clubs and generous contributors who helped spread the word. Every participant completed the challenge, showcasing their remarkable stamina and spirit.



One of the standout events of the year was Relay For Life Nelson Tasman 2024, proudly sponsored by GJ Gardner Homes Nelson. This monumental gathering saw 545 participants and 49 teams come together, showcasing the power of community solidarity. The enthusiasm of our fabulous Relay For Lifers was contagious, and their collective efforts raised over \$202,000, surpassing our initial goal of \$100,000.



Held in conjunction with Relay For Life was our car raffle, which saw around 1,200 tickets sold. The grand prize, a 2024 Toyota Yaris Cross Limited Hybrid SUV, was won by Sarah Hewison, a breast cancer survivor. Sarah's win was a poignant reminder of the resilience and strength within our community. Special thanks go to Tony Bowater and the team at Bowater Toyota for their unwavering support.



# FUNDRAISING



In addition to these events, numerous individuals supported us throughout the year in various ways that warmed our hearts. One such person was eight-year-old Barney Hossain, who set up Barney's Lemonade Stand. Motivated by the news that his former preschool teacher had been diagnosed with breast cancer, Barney turned his lemonade stand into a fundraising venture. By selling lemonade, popsicles, and lolly bags, Barney raised \$651.80. His plans to continue fundraising with a hot chocolate stand in winter further underscore his commitment to making a difference.



In November, Meghan, a dedicated member of our local community, completed her remarkable "Chop the Mop" fundraiser, raising a staggering \$2,805. This isn't the first time Meghan has grown her hair out to donate; it's her third time making this incredible gesture.

The students of Nayland College Level 2 Business Studies also made a significant impact this year. Their business ventures raised \$2,730.80, demonstrating their outstanding dedication and entrepreneurial spirit. This generous donation will greatly aid our mission to support cancer patients and their whānau in our community.



These stories of incredible fundraising efforts reflect the unwavering support and dedication of our community. Each initiative, big or small, has played a vital role in our mission to fight cancer and support those affected by it. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed, showing that together, we can make a profound difference.



*Lois & Dave Gibson Whitebait Stall Fundraiser at Connings Market Day, December 2023*

# CANCER PREVENTION

## WORKING TOWARDS A FUTURE WITH LESS CANCER.

### HPV:

The Cancer Society of New Zealand launched a campaign to encourage the uptake of the free HPV vaccine that protects against six types of cancer. It comes after concerns that childhood HPV vaccination rates have plummeted during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public health nurses provide the HPV vaccine through school immunisation programmes. However, due to the different Covid-19 lockdowns, approximately 45,000 young people have missed out on the vaccine.

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against the strains of the HPV virus, which can lead to cervical and anal cancer and most vaginal, vulval, penile and throat cancers. The best time to be vaccinated is around 11 or 12 years old. At this age, the vaccine works best and provides long-term protection.

Cancer Society Medical Director Dr Kate Gregory says: "We are very fortunate that the HPV vaccination is free in New Zealand. All tamariki – both boys and girls - should have the HPV vaccine to protect them from developing cancer in later life. We encourage tamariki who have missed out on receiving the vaccination or didn't receive the full dose at school or kura to visit their whānau doctor, GP or medical centre." The Cancer Society also developed a toolkit for health promoters to spread the word in our community.



### Community Outreach:

We have also advocated in cancer prevention in our community in many ways:

- Hosting Bowel Cancer NZ Nurse for kōrero about living with and challenges with bowel cancer.
- Attending whānau days at Golden Bay and Motueka with other health and social services.
- Allocated 1,000 skin check vouchers of \$100 to reduce the barriers for skin cancer checks.
- Continued our work with The Fresh Air Project with local business in supporting them with Smokefree and Vape Free venues.
- Shadeloan and sunscreen used by 35 community groups for their community events.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to every person who has supported us – it all makes a difference.

A special thank you to the following organisations who help us continue supporting people affected by cancer.



## Our Local Hero Sponsors

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*Ongoing supporters or donations and bequests over \$1,000.*

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Tom Marston



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[info@cancernelson.org.nz](mailto:info@cancernelson.org.nz)

[www.cancernelson.org.nz](http://www.cancernelson.org.nz) | 0800 CANCER (226 237)



# Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku  
o Aotearoa

