



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa
Cancer Society Nelson Tasman



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou katoa

It is my privilege to present the Chair's Report for 2025. As many of you know, our Centre – alongside Marlborough and Wairarapa in the Wellington Division – holds a unique place within the national Cancer Society federation. Our structure as independent entities has enabled us to build deep and enduring local connections over the past 60 years. This autonomy allows us to remain agile and responsive to the specific needs of our community, while still contributing to broader regional and national initiatives.

This year, we have continued to provide essential services for those affected by cancer in the Nelson Tasman region. Our support includes financial assistance, transportation to treatment, wellness programmes, yoga and tai chi classes, counselling, and peer support. We're also proud to champion cancer prevention efforts through initiatives such as funded skin checks, our shade loan scheme, and cancer prevention campaigns. Fundraising is a vital part of what sustains our work. In 2025, we had a strong year with successful events such as Jump for Cancer, our 60th Anniversary Charity Ball, and Daffodil Day. A special mention must go to our staff, who threw their full support behind a new event – the Mowsworth Rampage – in October, making it a fantastic success.

We continue to enjoy the generous backing of our Local Hero Sponsors: GJ Gardner Homes, The Cooper Group, Go Media, Jarden, Bowater Toyota, Hamish Fletcher Lawyers, and Master Valet. Their ongoing support, along with that of our many individual donors, is deeply appreciated.

At the heart of our Centre is our team of passionate, skilled staff. Their commitment is the foundation of everything we do.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our deep appreciation for their mahi and affirm our commitment to supporting them in their roles.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our General Manager, Michelle Hunt, who has led from the front for eight years and been a driving force behind much of our progress. In supportive care, Cyndy Smith continues to excel and has played a key role in developing new supportive care team members Maureen Urwin and Tāwhaki Simons in our Motueka Office. Victoria Sharp continues to shine as our enthusiastic and energetic Volunteer Coordinator. Barbara Kotua does excellent work in marketing and maintaining our online presence, and this year we welcomed Sarah Barker to the team as our part-time Centre Administrator.

Looking forward, we recognise that the landscape within the Cancer Society continues to evolve. We have reviewed and updated our Constitution to meet the requirements of the new Charities Act. In addition, we are working constructively on a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen and clarify our relationship within the Wellington Division.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members: Jack Fletcher, Miraka Norgate, Kent Gibbons, Andy Malcolm, Mary-Jane Read, Patrick Smith, our Secretary Megan Clark, and Treasurer Ian MacLennan. Your contribution of time, expertise, and commitment is invaluable.

And finally, thank you to our members, donors, volunteers, and the wider Nelson Tasman community. Your support ensures that we can continue delivering care, hope, and advocacy for all those impacted by cancer in our region.

Ngā mihi nui, Stephen Neas



TREASURER'S REPORT

A SUMMARY OF THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR.



Tēnā koutou katoa

I am pleased to report the following financial return for the financial year ended 31 March 2025.

The Centre's overall revenue was \$1,274,988 (last year audited \$1,332,167) against budget of \$769,000, the majority of the additional income being donations, bequests and unrealised gains on our investment portfolio, while overall expenses were \$1,071,944 (last year audited \$938,959) against budget of \$911,331 with a resulting surplus for the year being \$203,551 (last year audited \$393,209) compared to a budget deficit of \$142,331, noting that the budget deficit anticipated using some of our historic bequest income for supportive care and bequest expenditure.

The operating surplus reflects the amazing efforts of the team of staff and volunteers led by Michelle Hunt. Their work, or 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 audited \$203,551 surplus (Last Year audited \$393,209 surplus) for the year our Accumulated funds has increased from (audited) \$4,746,595 last year to audited \$4,950,146 at 31 March 2025.

A copy of the audited Performance Report (Annual Accounts) is available to members who wish to obtain 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 audited Performance Report be received.

Handwritten signature of Ngā mihi nui, Ian MacLennan.

Ngā mihi nui, Ian MacLennan,
Cancer Society Nelson Tasman Treasurer



CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS

What a rewarding year 2024/25 has been!

Our small but dedicated team has continued to walk alongside individuals and whānau facing cancer throughout the Nelson Tasman region, with a strong focus on community connection, equity, and holistic wellbeing.

Our wellness programme grew significantly, now offering workshops on topics such as nutrition, self-care, fatigue, sleep, communication, movement, and navigating change and loss. We launched new support groups in Nelson, including "Supporting the Supporters" for family and friends, and "MenzChat", tailored for men. In Motueka, we introduced a weekly seated tai chi class, and expanded our weekly yoga sessions to now include Nelson, Motueka, and Tākaka.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, we provided personalised one-on-one support and information to 626 individuals and their whānau, including 332 people who were newly diagnosed, plus 49 re-presenting. We funded 321 counselling sessions, issued 162 financial grants, and recorded 1,790 attendances across our various support groups and programmes.

We continued to build our presence in the Tasman region, with our Motueka team moving to a more central and accessible location at 218B High Street. This space "Kōwhairangi" remains a welcoming and supportive hub for the local community.

It's also been a busy year on the fundraising front. Key events included the Historical Homes Tour, our 60th Diamond Charity Ball, Daffodil Day, and the hugely successful Mowsworth Rampage. These events not only raised vital funds for our services but also strengthened the community bonds that underpin our mahi.



L-R: Tāwhaki, Barb, Michelle, Vick, Ruihana Smith (museum guide), Maureen, Cyndy

A special moment of the year was our Volunteer Christmas Party at The Granary, Founders Park, where we celebrated the heart of our organisation - our volunteers. With over 80 people attending, it truly felt like a big family Christmas dinner. In total, our volunteers contributed 2,500 hours over the year. Their generosity and commitment continue to be the foundation of everything we do.

We're pleased to welcome Sarah Barker to the Nelson Centre team as our new Centre Administrator, working 12 hours per week. Sarah's support greatly assists our very busy team, helping us stay focused on delivering care and connection to those who need it most.

I remain incredibly proud of our team of seven. With a strong foundation now in place, each person brings their own strengths to the role, working collaboratively and with heart to support those impacted by cancer.

We're also deeply grateful for the continued support of our community and the guidance of our engaged and proactive Board.

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Thank you for standing with us.

Michelle Hunt, General Manager

VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF OUR ORGANISATION.



Daffodil Day 2024 corporate flowers and street appeal



Crafty Tarts Motueka



Worry Worms

During 2024/2025 our volunteers donated an impressive 2,500 hours of their time to Cancer Society Nelson Tasman. Volunteers continue to be the heart of our organisation. The time, commitment, and energy they provide to us never goes unnoticed by our small team.

We offer a broad range of volunteering opportunities. Drivers transport people to and from appointments and 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. We also now have our signature worry worms which are created each Daffodil Day to bring a smile to people's faces.

The 2024/2025 year was incredibly busy on the fundraising front - essential to ensuring we can continue delivering the services and support we provide. None of this would have been possible without the mahi of our volunteers.

The last year saw an array of events: our much-loved Historical Homes Tour, the Charity Ball, Daffodil Day and all that it entails - not only on the day itself but also the months leading up to it, a presence at both the Positive Ageing and Volunteer Expos, Jump for Cancer, numerous training sessions for new and existing volunteers throughout the year, general office support, our newest fundraiser, Mowsworth Rampage, and the Christmas Tree Festival.

Our end of year volunteer Christmas party was held at The Granary with over 80 people attending. It really felt like a large fun-filled family dinner and truly epitomised the collegiality and warmth that we see as an integral part of our organisation and volunteering as a whole.

As we always say, we could not do any of this without you.



Volunteer Christmas Party 2024

SUPPORTIVE CARE

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER AND THEIR WHĀNAU

Community Outreach - Mōtueka and beyond

We continued to improve and broaden access to our services across the wider region, through our additional office in Motueka (opened Sept 23). This has enabled us to extend our community outreach and support both in Motueka and the surrounding rural communities. Alongside regular yoga classes and support groups, weekly seated tai chi classes started in response to local needs and Wellbeing/Hauora (health) presentations were offered on topics, including “Cancer Related Fatigue”, “Mindfulness”, and “Advanced Care Planning”. Our rural areas Support Coordinator Maureen Urwin has also ensured we have more regular outreach to Golden Bay, with monthly visits; and has also increased our presence at local community and health events. Overall 33% of our new clients referred – 108 people and their whānau – were from the Mōtueka, Golden Bay and wider rural regions, demonstrating the value of having the Mōtueka office embedded in the local community. Maureen also has strong relationships and networks with both local community and government services and is a trusted point of contact.



Peer Support

Our Nelson based Support Coordinator, Cyndy Smith, has extended our support group activities and grown the opportunities for peer support, through organising regular wellbeing workshops on topics including Nutrition, Coping with Fatigue, Sleep, and Navigating Loss and Change. A “Supporting the Supporters” workshop led to a regular supporters’ group for partners/whānau members commencing; and a communication workshop for men led to a regular “Menzchat” group being trialled which is facilitated by a local counsellor. A “Movement and Mobility” session led to a monthly exercise class, targeted towards those in treatment or living with/recovering from cancer, being set up to commence April 2025. An introductory 4-session tai chi class was well received which we hope to provide again. These activities, alongside our existing regular support groups and yoga classes, provide many opportunities for peer support as people have the chance to gather, participate in discussion or a class, and share a cuppa afterwards. We have seen friendships form, watched people encourage and support each other, and had people tell us how important these connections are.

SUPPORTIVE CARE

Kia ora - E te iwi

Our Kaiārahi Hōtaka based at our Mōtueka office, Tāwhaki Simons, has provided focused and intensive support to Māori clients and their whānau impacted by cancer; and also been involved in local Hauora (health) events. Tāwhaki organised two Kia ora - E te iwi hauora and education days, aimed at reaching out to local whānau and community agencies on cancer prevention, education and support services. These days helped us grow our local community connections and the feedback from participants facing cancer help us with our ongoing service delivery. Tāwhaki has strong connections with both Te Awhina Marae and Te Piki Oranga in Mōtueka.

Ongoing Support:

One to One support: 332 new clients/whānau were referred to us for support, plus another 49 recontacting, such as those sadly facing reoccurrences. The 1:1 support that Cyndy, Maureen and Tāwhaki provide is broad and includes providing cancer information, help navigating health services, advocacy, coordinating support grants and counselling referrals, running support groups and workshops, liaising with local health and community services, and being a point of contact and general listening and encouraging ear. Half of those referred to our service are working age, and can face huge pressures when taking time off work for cancer treatment.

In 24/25, 28% of our financial support grants were related to income loss and 30% were for rural travel costs. 11% of our grants supported whānau facing extra travel and accommodation costs.



Rehabilitation and Wellbeing:

- We funded 321 counselling sessions across the region, of which 45% were for whānau members, including children, who are not eligible for public oncology psychology services.
- Demand for our gym programme continued to be steady, with all 36 funded places in our 8 session Nelson programme accessed; as well as 12 people accessing our Motueka based gym rehab assessment.
- We offered regular yoga classes in Nelson, Motueka and Takaka; with 929 session attendances over the year.
- Across the Nelson/Tasman region, there were 587 attendances at our support groups and workshops.

FUNDRAISING

Over the past financial year, the dedication and generosity of our community have been truly evident. Through a wide range of fundraising initiatives and established events, individuals, businesses, and community groups have come together to support the Cancer Society Nelson Tasman. Their efforts have not only generated vital funds but also reinforced the strong sense of connection that underpins our work.



The year was again packed with national fundraising events: Jump for Cancer, Daffodil Day, and The Longest Day Golf Challenge.

On 28th April, we commenced the fundraising year with our annual Historical Homes Tour, featuring seven privately owned historical homes across Nelson, Richmond, Brightwater, and Wakefield. Huge thanks to our dedicated volunteers and researchers for making the tour a success. Guests enjoyed the rare opportunity to step inside some of our region's most treasured historic homes.

Jump for Cancer 2024 saw a number of courageous individuals take to the skies in support of Cancer Society Nelson Tasman, with participants completing skydives through Skydive Abel Tasman.



A standout moment was the remarkable leap of three women, Carol, Joyce, and Dorothy - whose combined age of 241 years demonstrated that you're never too old to make a difference.

Their team, Never Too Old from Summerset in the Sun, raised an incredible \$5,540 and earned second place nationally.



Our 60th anniversary charity ball was a true celebration of Cancer Society Nelson Tasman's six decades of service to the community.

With over 200 guests in attendance and an outstanding \$85,000 raised, it was a night to remember. Our thanks to naming rights sponsor, Debbie Cooper-Norriss and The Cooper Group, guest speaker Amber Arkell from Wairarapa Cancer Society, and all those who supported the evening through donations, attendance, or volunteering.

FUNDRAISING

Held on Friday, 30 August, Daffodil Day 2024 raised a record-breaking \$164,000, our highest total to date. This outstanding result is a testament to the generosity of our community and the tireless efforts of our volunteers, donors, and supporters across the region.

Every dollar raised enables us to continue providing vital support to people in our community affected by cancer. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this incredible outcome.



Local ANZ teams from Nelson and Richmond supported Daffodil Day 2024 through a successful Quiz Night fundraiser. The evening drew strong community participation and raised \$8,193. This event was one initiative led by ANZ staff as part of their ongoing commitment as a major sponsor of Daffodil Day.



The Longest Day Golf Challenge brought together remarkable individuals and teams, all united by their determination to complete 72 holes in a single day. Noteworthy participants included Alyce, Jason, and Tom from Drive for Show, Putt for Donations, who completed an astonishing 100 holes, raising \$3,766. The dedication of these participants, including many who returned for their third year, was matched by the support from local golf clubs and generous contributors.



The inaugural Mowsworth Rampage in October was an outstanding success. Forty-six riders tackled an 86km journey on ride-on mowers from Molesworth Station to Hanmer Springs, navigating dust, dirt, and rugged terrain with humour and determination. After 12.5 hours on the mowers, the event concluded with a memorable police escort into town. Together, participants raised over \$60,000 for Cancer Society Nelson Tasman and Nelson Tasman Hospice. Our sincere thanks to Stuart Newport from Richmond Glass for turning this bold idea into reality, and to Richmond Glass NZ for their generous support.



Registered Master Builders & NZ Certified Builders Associations' Charity Golf Day, held at Greenacres Golf Club in November - raised \$2,780.84.

10-year-old Oakley shaved his head and raised \$650 - over triple his goal, with support reaching as far as the UK. Local donors were thanked with homegrown tomatoes.

These fundraisers are just a snapshot of the many generous efforts we've seen throughout the year. From individuals to community groups and businesses, each contribution, no matter the size, has helped us provide vital support to those affected by cancer. We're deeply grateful for the compassion and commitment shown across our region.

CANCER PREVENTION

WORKING TOWARDS A FUTURE WITH LESS CANCER.

Every day, 71 New Zealanders are diagnosed with cancer, and around 9,500 die from the disease each year. Māori are twice as likely to die from cancer as non-Māori, and with a growing, ageing population, these figures are expected to rise. There is no quick fix - but prevention remains our strongest tool. Around 25,000 New Zealanders are diagnosed with cancer annually, and up to half of all cases are preventable through reduced exposure to risk factors such as tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

In 2024/25, Cancer Society Nelson Tasman prioritised cancer prevention across several key areas: skin cancer, cervical cancer elimination, breast screening access, and our new Kia ora - E te iwi programme.

We issued 1,097 \$100 skin check vouchers to Nelson Tasman residents. New Zealand and Australia have the highest skin cancer rates globally, yet around 90% of cases are preventable through reduced UV exposure.

We actively promoted the HPV vaccine at community events, highlighting its role in preventing several types of cancer. Uptake remains low, with just 56% of eligible young people fully vaccinated - fewer still among Māori and Pasifika.

We also supported the extension of free breast screening to include women aged 70 to 74 from October 2024 in the Nelson Tasman region.

Finally, we proudly launched Kia ora - E te iwi in Motueka and Nelson, offering culturally safe spaces for Māori to learn, share and connect through their cancer journey.



Community Outreach:

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

- Hosted and promoted Community Health Talks on Cancer Research by Mackenzie Cancer Research Group in Nelson and Motueka in collaboration with Otago University.
- Attended and hosted Whānau Hauora days at Tapawera, Takaka, Motueka and Nelson with other health and social services.
- Allocated 1,097 skin check vouchers of \$100 to reduce the barriers for skin cancer checks.
- Continued our work with The Fresh Air Project with local businesses in supporting them with Smokefree and Vape Free venues.
- Shadeloan and sunscreen used by 53 community groups for their community events.
- Cancer prevention messaging across our social media channels throughout the year.

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

Platinum Sponsor

G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**

Gold Sponsor



THE COOPER GROUP
ESTATE AGENTS



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



**BOWATER
TOYOTA**



**Hamish.Fletcher
Lawyers**



MASTER VALET

Supporters 2024-2025

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

A & D Kerr	Nayland Primary School
Ailsa Cowan	Nelson City Council
ANZ Nelson & Richmond	Nelson Vintage Car Club
Avoca Web Design	Otahuna Lodge
B & L Hawkes	Public Trust
Brick Eatery	Richmond School
Clifton Terrace School	Sandra Downs
D & I Wither Trust	Shone & Shirley
D & S Ussher	Sprig & Fern
Estate Ashby	State Cinemas Nelson
Estate Charlie Symonds	Stella Van Gelder
Estate Elise May James	Storage Nelson
Estate Eric Sullivan	Tasman Mako
Estate G. Skeggs	The Concrete Company
Estate James & Fleur Ring	The Rees Queenstown
Estate L. Knapp	Turf Hotel
Estate Mr JB Busch	Woolworths Stoke
Estate N.R. Granger	
Estate William & Orma Currie	
FC Nelson	
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Jens Hansen	
Judy Green	
Le Plonc	
Magna Trust	
Mandy Gargiulo	
Mega Mitre 10 Nelson	
Motupipi School	
Mrs M.C. McNicoll	



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