



Cancer Society



2025/26

Annual Report

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

Cancer Society Nelson Tasman

Cancer Society New Zealand Wellington Division



Cancer
Society

Major Sponsor



Chair Report

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is my privilege to present the Chair's Report for the Nelson Tasman Cancer Society for the period 2025–2026.

The past year has been both busy and productive for our Centre. We have continued to provide extensive support to people with cancer and their whānau across the Nelson Tasman region. I am particularly encouraged by the growth of our Motueka office, which reflects our commitment to addressing the inequities faced by rural communities in accessing cancer support services.

Reflecting on the past 12 months, one of the highlights was the success of Relay For Life in March. The event attracted a record number of teams and raised \$248,866.17—the highest amount in the event's history. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the fresh approach and leadership of our General Manager, Venus Guy, and the incredible generosity and support of our local community.

At Board level, considerable time has been devoted to discussions regarding a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wellington Division, alongside the Wairarapa and Marlborough Centres. The Nelson Tasman Board has determined that it cannot support the proposed MOU in its current form, as we do not believe transferring governance and decision-making authority to the Wellington Division is in the best interests of our Centre or the community we serve. We are fortunate to have support from Cancer Society New Zealand and are in the process of exploring associate status within them.

The principles that have guided our decision-making throughout this process are:

- Maintaining a successful and vibrant Nelson Tasman Centre that remains deeply connected to and responsive to our local community.
- Supporting our staff and continuing to be a responsible employer.
- Ensuring we are prudent and accountable stewards of the funds entrusted to us by our community.
- A desire to be a constructive and collaborative member of the wider Cancer Society network.

Our greatest strength continues to be our people. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Maureen, Tāwhaki, Vick, Barb, Cyndy and Sarah for the passion, professionalism, and good humour they bring to their work every day. Their commitment to supporting people affected by cancer is inspiring.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our General Manager, Venus Guy, who has led the Centre while Michelle Hunt has been on extended leave. Venus has proven to be an enormous asset to the Society through her strong leadership, strategic thinking, and calm approach to navigating a challenging year. We are fortunate to have her expertise and commitment.

My thanks also go to my fellow Board members who generously volunteer their time and expertise in support of the Society. Since our last AGM, we have farewelled Jack Fletcher from the Board and thank him for his valuable contribution. We were delighted to welcome Debbie Cooper–Norris as a new Board member last year. I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing contributions of Patrick Smith, Miraka Norgate, Andy Malcolm, Mary–Jane Reade, Board Secretary Megan Clark, and Treasurer Ian MacLennan.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to all our members, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Your generosity, commitment and belief in our mission enable the Nelson Tasman Centre to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of people affected by cancer throughout our region.

Thank you for your continued support.



Ngā mihi nui
Stephen Neas
Chairperson
Cancer Society of New Zealand
Nelson Tasman – Te Tai o Aorere Centre

Treasurer's Report

A summary of the 2025/26 financial year.

Tēnā koutou katoa

I am pleased to report the following financial out turn for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

The Centre's overall revenue was \$1,351,018 (last year audited \$1,274,998) against budget of \$1,025,700 the majority of the additional income being donations, bequests and Unrealised Gains on our investment portfolio, while overall expenses were \$1,068,398 (last year audited \$1,071,447) against budget of \$1,087,848 with a resulting surplus for the year being \$282,620 (Last year audited \$203,551) compared to a budget deficit of \$62,148, noting that the budget deficit anticipated using some of our historic bequest income for supportive care and bequest expenditure.

The year's surplus includes a \$168,690 (last year \$152,081) unrealised gain in our Investment Portfolio with JB Were.

The operating surplus reflects the amazing efforts of the team of staff and volunteers led by Venus Guy from August 2025, and Michelle Hunt to August 2025.

The work, or mahi of staff and volunteers 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 challenging economic times.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent accounting support and services from Sarah Steele of BDO and also the Tom Sherwood team who provide our Audit Services.

Our long-term investment fund performance this year provided a material positive income and growth, thanks to the assistance from the JB Were (formerly Jarden) team.

With the audited \$282,620 surplus (Last year audited \$203,551 surplus) for the year our accumulated funds has increased from (audited) \$4,950,146 last year to audited \$5,232,766 at 31 March 2026.

A copy of the audited Performance Report (Annual Accounts) is available to members at the AGM and those who wish to obtain a copy it will be available via the Charities Commission website 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.



Ngā mihi nui
Ian MacLennan
Treasurer
Cancer Society of New Zealand
Nelson Tasman – Te Tai o Aorere Centre

General Manager Report

It has been a privilege to step into the role of Interim General Manager and to work alongside an incredible team of six. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such a small but mighty team and to collaborate closely with our Board, kaimahi, volunteers, sponsors, and wider community as we continue our shared mahi supporting people affected by cancer across Te Tau Ihu.

Preparing this annual report provides me an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved as a small team, and it fills us with pride to know that we are in this together. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Board for their trust, guidance, and support, which has empowered the team to deliver and achieve our goals.

The 2025–2026 year has been one of continued momentum for our centre. While it is not possible to capture every aspect of our work within this report, it reflects a year underpinned by purpose, commitment, and strong community connection.

We are proud not only of what has been achieved, but of the way in which it has been delivered — with care, integrity, and a focus on those we are here to support.

At the heart of our mahi is our local community. Each day we support people affected by cancer, working to reduce the practical and emotional impact of a diagnosis for both individuals and their whānau. All our services are provided free of charge. These include transport to treatment, counselling, practical and welfare support, advocacy, one-to-one support, group programmes, and information and referral. This work remains central to our purpose and continues to guide all that we do.

Our Supportive Care team has continued to provide consistent support to individuals and whānau throughout and following treatment. Between April 2025 and March 2026, over 600 people received one-to-one support and information, including 413 newly diagnosed or re-referred clients. Across our support groups and wellness programmes throughout the region, 1,445 attendances were recorded. In addition, 41 people were supported to participate in gym-based rehabilitation programmes following treatment, contributing to improved strength, wellbeing, and recovery outcomes.

We have also placed a strong focus on our own wellbeing as a team. It has been a privilege to foster a culture where balance is encouraged, ensuring that our people feel supported both in their work and personal lives.

As a team, we are strong, connected, and committed —and I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated and passionate people.

The strength of our service delivery is closely linked to the strength of our fundraising. This year saw the return of our biennial Relay For Life. The level of community engagement, generosity, and participation was significant, and a strong reflection of the value placed on the work we do.

Other key fundraising events include the Historical Homes Tour, Daffodil Day, The Longest Day Golf Challenge, Jump for Cancer, and Mowsworth Rampage. These events not only generated essential income to support our services but also strengthened community awareness and connections across the region. Fundraising remains an enabler of our mahi, ensuring we can continue to provide free support to those who need it.

Our volunteers play a vital role in every part of our work. From driving and event support to Board governance, we are fortunate to have people who so generously give their time, skills, and energy. We sincerely thank every one of you.

We also acknowledge the importance of our partnerships across the region. Our ongoing relationships with Nelson Hospital, local health providers, and community organisations ensure coordinated support for people affected by cancer. These connections remain essential to delivering effective wraparound care, and we are committed to strengthening them further.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to our centre team, volunteers, Sponsors, donors, supporters, and Board. This work is only possible because of your continued commitment and support. We stand firmly by our promise to support anyone, anywhere, with any cancer. We are here to connect with you and your whānau, ensuring you feel supported every step of the way—and that is exactly what we have been doing and will continue to do.



Ngā mihi nui
Venus Guy
General Manager
Cancer Society of New Zealand
Nelson Tasman — Te Tai o Aorere Centre

Our mahi

Cancer Prevention

Broadening access to cancer awareness and services

We worked with local refugee health and social service workers to explore how we could improve our outreach to the local former refugee communities.

Two projects resulted:

- A cancer information pamphlet in plain language and using clear visual symbols, in English and then translated into 7 local former refugee languages. The pamphlet was distributed through GPs, pharmacies, and community settings.
- A Cancer Health Expo held at Victory Community Centre in September 2025, involving health professionals covering skin, lung, bowel, prostate, breast and gynaecological cancers. Interpreters circulated to translate for each refugee group, and over 70 people attended. The Cancer information pamphlet was also given to all attending in their own language.



Pictured from left are Interpreter and Health Navigator at Victory Square Pharmacy, Sushma Suba; Refugee Health Social Worker for Te Whatu Ora, Freyja Stocker; Community Navigator at the Victory Community Centre, Norma Sequera; and Cancer Support Coordinator at Cancer Society Nelson Tasman, Cyndy Smith, with the new pamphlets. Pic: Kate Russell (Nelson Weekly/Nelson app).



Cancer Health Expo attendees at Victory Community Centre.



Breast and Gynaecological cancers – Treatment updates and HPV vaccination

In October 2025, Dr Kate Gregory, Nelson Hospital Oncologist and Co-Medical Director of the Cancer Society, generously shared her expertise with those facing cancer, volunteers, and local health professionals. She shared updates on breast and gynaecological cancer research and treatment; and emphasized how critical HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination is to eliminating cervical cancer, as well as preventing other cancers. Dr Gregory highlighted UK evidence showing the HPV vaccine reduced cervical cancer rates by 78%, underscoring the urgent need to increase HPV vaccine uptake in New Zealand.



Community outreach

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

- At The Spectacle Nelson, our team shared SunSmart messaging with competitors and supporters alike, promoting simple but important ways to stay safe in the sun while being part of this vibrant community marathon event.
- At the Positive Ageing Expo, our team connected with the community alongside the Prostate Cancer Foundation Nelson, sharing information, support services, and volunteer experiences while strengthening valuable local partnerships.
- We distributed 1,105 skin check vouchers worth \$110,500 to help reduce barriers to skin cancer checks.
- Shadeloan and sunscreen were used by 58 community groups for their community events.
- Cancer prevention messaging across our social media channels throughout the year.

Our mahi

Supportive Care

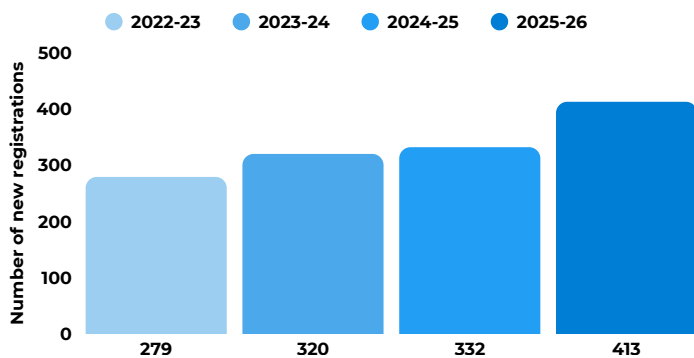
One-to-one support

Our Support Coordinators Cyndy and Maureen, and Tāwhaki our Kaiārahi Hōtaka, continued to support people and their whānau facing cancer to access the supports they needed wherever they are at – in treatment, post treatment rehabilitation and recovery; adjusting to living with cancer or facing bereavement.

Our support is broad and aimed at helping people live as well as possible through and beyond cancer. It includes providing cancer information, help navigating health services, advocacy, coordinating support and counselling referrals, liaising with local health and community services, and being a point of contact as well as general listening and encouraging ear.

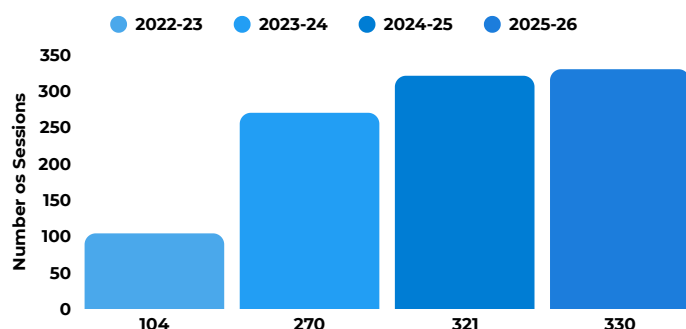
Demand for our services has continued to grow, and in total a record 413 individuals and their whānau were referred to us in the 2025/2026 year, in addition to 260 clients continuing from the previous year; meaning in total our team supported 673 clients and whānau.

New Client Registrations



Ninety people were referred for counselling during the year, including whānau members; and we funded 330 sessions. Of the 117 support grants were provided, 52% of these were for food vouchers; 30% for petrol and 18% for other cancer related costs such as St Johns Ambulance membership / specialist physiotherapy.

Counselling Sessions



Peer Support and Rehabilitation

We continued to run regular peer support groups across Nelson, Motueka, Tapawera and Golden Bay which have a steady attendance.

We supported 41 people to access post treatment gym rehab programmes and provided regular Movement and Mobility / Tai Chi classes, as well as weekly therapeutic yoga classes in Nelson, Motueka and Takaka. Wellbeing seminar topics included self-care, managing fatigue and sleep, and coping with fear of re-occurrence. We also ran 3 school holiday activities for families, including a Canoe Journeys trip at Stephens Bay and the local trampoline parks.

Cancer Awareness and Community Education

Our Supportive Care team played a key role in improving access to cancer information and support across our region. *Refer to page 4 on this report.*

Working alongside community partners, Cyndy Smith led a project to make cancer information more accessible for former refugee communities. This included coordinating a Cancer Health Expo at Victory Community Centre, where interpreters, health professionals and translated resources helped people learn about cancer prevention, screening, early detection and available support services in their own language.

The team also supported community education through a public information evening with Dr Kate Gregory, sharing the latest updates on breast and gynaecological cancers, treatment advances and the importance of HPV vaccination in preventing cervical and other cancers.

Throughout the year, our team continued to connect with the community at local events, including The Spectacle Nelson and the Positive Ageing Expo, providing trusted information, promoting cancer prevention messages and raising awareness of the support available through the Cancer Society.

Our mahi

Volunteering

Volunteers are the heart of our organisation.

Volunteer hours

During 2025/2026 our volunteers donated an impressive 3,765 hours of their time to Cancer Society Nelson Tasman, the equivalent of over 100 full-time weeks showing how significant their contribution is.

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

Volunteer driving service

We experienced a significant increase in demand for this service which transports patients to and from hospital appointments. Overall 295 drives were provided in the 25/26 year; however around a third of these, 99, were provided in the final January to March quarter; an increase of over 100% from the previous quarter of 48 drives. We are pleased people are using our services although it is putting pressure on staff resources to coordinate and on our volunteer driver pool, especially during the current fuel crisis. Our amazing drivers often go the extra mile, especially those providing transport for longer distances such as rural Waimea.



Volunteering opportunities

We continue to offer a broad range of volunteering opportunities that allow those who are part of the organisation the opportunity to help in whatever way suits them. From volunteer driving to appointments, regular visits to those who may be socially or physically isolated, creative endeavours that bring comfort to those using our services, to being on hand at community events with a cheery welcome and smile while representing our organisation beautifully. Throughout the year, volunteers also provide valuable general office support, helping with day-to-day tasks behind the scenes, and take part in numerous training sessions designed to support both new and existing volunteers in their roles.



Fundraising events

The 2025/2026 year was again another busy and varied year in the fundraising space, with funds raised enabling us to continue to provide the services and support that we do. None of this could have been achieved without the generosity of our volunteers. The last year saw an array of events:

- Historical Homes Tour
- Daffodil Day and all the many events that come with it
- A presence at Active Ageing Expos
- Jump for Cancer, The Longest Golf Day Challenge and Marathon in a Month
- Mowsworth Rampage
- Nelson Motorhome and Caravan Show
- Nelson and Richmond Santa Parades
- The Christmas Tree Festival
- Relay For Life 2026

With heartfelt thanks

Our end of year volunteer Christmas party was held at Saxton Oval with over 100 people in attendance. We were lucky enough to have Nicola Coom, Chief Executive of Cancer Society New Zealand fly in to celebrate our volunteers in person and share her story with us all. We love our end of year party because it brings us all together and there is always such a sense of love and warmth which makes this organisation so special. As we always say, we could not do this without you, thank you!



Our mahi

Fundraising

Throughout the 2025–2026 financial year, our community once again showed what can be achieved when people come together with generosity, compassion and a shared commitment to supporting those impacted by cancer. From long-standing signature events to creative grassroots fundraisers, individuals, schools, businesses, clubs and community groups across Nelson Tasman rallied behind the Cancer Society Nelson Tasman in remarkable ways.



Historical Homes Tour 2025

Held on 6 April 2025, the Historical Homes Tour gave more than 300 attendees the opportunity to explore a selection of treasured historic homes across Nelson and Richmond. Guests enjoyed a self-guided tour and Devonshire Tea while discovering the unique architecture and stories behind each property. The tour was made possible through the generosity of homeowners, volunteers, researchers and supporters who helped bring the tour to life.



Jump for Cancer 2025

Jump for Cancer continues to grow in popularity across Nelson Tasman, with participants taking the leap at Motueka Aerodrome alongside the professional team from Skydive Abel Tasman. In 2025, 12 participants raised more than \$23,000. Highlights included long-time volunteer Jan Holt and the team from Summerset in the Sun, whose enthusiastic fundraising efforts placed them among the top fundraisers nationally.

We also acknowledge Kayden and Cory Trusler, who completed their jumps in honour of their grandmother, Yvonne Harvey. Sadly, Yvonne sadly passed away in July 2025, and we extend our sincere condolences to her family.

Thank you to everyone who jumped, donated, volunteered and supported this successful community fundraiser.



Lois with a goal of walking 75km, raised over \$2,000. Motivated by the support she received from us.



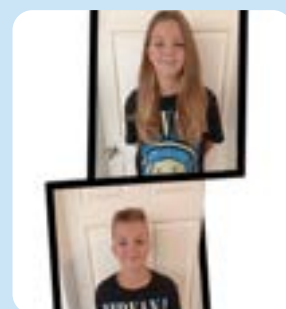
Nina with a goal of running her first-ever marathon, raised over \$4,000 in honour of her dad Pete.



Paul and Paige Brockie chose to support us in place of receiving traditional wedding gifts.



Glen challenged himself to run 200km over the month of March and raised over \$2,000.



12-year-old Fergus raised over \$2,000 with his Big Chop For Cancer fundraiser after growing his hair for 4 years.

These highlighted individual 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.

Our mahi

Fundraising

Daffodil Day 2025

August once again brought a wave of colour, generosity and community spirit as Daffodil Day 2025 unfolded across Nelson Tasman.

Daffodil Day remains our largest annual fundraiser, and the success of the campaign is only possible thanks to the dedication of volunteers who spend countless hours preparing flowers, coordinating sites, collecting donations and supporting events throughout the month.

On Daffodil Day, Friday 29 August, across the region, our volunteer collectors gave their time and energy, encouraging donations and helping make the day a success. It's a huge effort to coordinate and deliver, and we're so thankful for every person who played a part. This day continues to remind us just how strong and giving the Nelson Tasman community is.

We are also deeply grateful to the growers and landowners who generously allow us to pick daffodils each year, including the late Don Heslop's field, Ravensdown, and the property of Marlene and the late Peter Lines.



Community-led events once again played a huge role in the Daffodil Day campaign's success.

Highlights included the ANZ Aotearoa Bingo Night at Nelson Golf Club, which raised more than \$8,000. And the Nelson Vintage Car Club Daffodil Day Rally for Cancer Show & Shine; alongside The Moutere Hop Daffodil Rally, which raised more than \$11,000 – an incredible effort by all.

Our schools and early childhood centres also went above and beyond, raising a record-breaking \$23,369.70. Special congratulations to Waimea Intermediate, one of just three schools nationwide to receive a \$5,000 ANZ Sports Grant, and to Tōtara Kids, who won a special staff morning tea prize.



Mowsworth Rampage 2025

It was an EPIC day for our second Richmond Glass Mowsworth Rampage held on Saturday 18 October. 50 riders took on rugged terrain from Molesworth Station to Hanmer Springs and absolutely smashed it. Wind, grit, and lots of good humour carried the Rampagers across 86km of Molesworth magic – Twelve hours of stunning scenery, laughter, and teamwork, topped off with a escort by the Rural Fire Brigade through Hanmer township!

Over \$64,000 was raised for Cancer Society Nelson Tasman and Nelson Tasman Hospice.

Our mahi

Fundraising



The Longest Golf Day Challenge

Golfers across Nelson Tasman came together in an outstanding show of endurance, teamwork, and community spirit, raising a total of \$25,648.30.

Motueka Tees Up for Cancer raised over \$10,000 with strong support from their local golf community. Nigel Oldham completed a 72-hole challenge and became one of the top individual fundraisers nationally raising over \$6,000, while 8-year-old Josh Hawken-Illes completed 36 holes in honour of his late grandad, raising over \$1,000.

Tasman Golf Club participants continued their strong tradition in the event, raising over \$2,500 in their fourth consecutive year of participation.

Adding a unique endurance challenge, the Par “fore” a Purpose team completed 24 hours of continuous golf at Totaradale Golf Club, raising over \$5,000. We are grateful to all participants and supporters who made the 2025/26 challenge another outstanding success.



Relay For Life Nelson Tasman 2026

In March 2026, Relay For Life returned to the Nelson A&P Showgrounds in Richmond and became the largest Relay For Life ever held in Nelson Tasman.

With 70 teams and 995 participants, the event was a powerful display of community spirit, connection, and aroha. Together, participants raised an outstanding \$248,866 to support people and whānau affected by cancer across our region. This remarkable achievement was made possible through the dedication of our Relayers and the incredible support of friends, families, workplaces, local businesses, sponsors, volunteers, and donors.

We were especially grateful for the continued support of Shirley and Stephen Vercoe and GJ Gardner Homes Nelson, long-time supporters of Relay For Life Nelson Tasman. Alongside their major sponsorship of the event, they also raised an additional \$34,755 through their own fundraising efforts.

Relay For Life 2026 was filled with memorable and emotional moments — from the opening ceremony celebrating survivors and those living with cancer, to the moving candlelight ceremony honouring loved ones, and teams continuing to relay through the night before crossing the finish line 16 hours later.

For our small team, it was humbling to witness nearly 1,000 people come together as a community with a shared purpose, showing such aroha and strength. We look forward to bringing Relay For Life Nelson Tasman back again in 2028.

Our Gratitude

With sincere thanks

Thank you to our Local Hero sponsors



G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**




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MASTER VALET

Supporters 2025–2026 – Ongoing supporters, donations and bequests over \$1,000.

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Estate Jim (James) & Fleur Ring
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Storage Nelson
Vintage Car Club of NZ Inc
Waimea College
Waimea Intermediate

A big thank you to our wider community of supporters

In addition to the sponsors listed above, we also want to acknowledge the many others who gave so generously of their time, goods, and services throughout the year. From local businesses and community groups to volunteers and individuals, your support—big and small—helps make everything we do possible. We're so grateful to be part of a community that continues to stand alongside us in supporting those impacted by cancer.

To each and everyone of you, thank you. Your support makes our mission possible.





Cancer Society Nelson Tasman

Nelson 102 Hardy Street | Motueka 218B High Street | PO Box 335, Nelson 7040



Nelson 03 539 1137 | Motueka 03 528 7669 | info@cancernelson.org.nz | cancernelson.org.nz