

Christmas is a very difficult time for the patients in our care. Usually a time for families to come together to celebrate, Christmas with a dying person is very, very different. This Christmas, we ask you to treasure the time you have with family and friends, and if you're able to give a gift to Hospice Waikato this holiday season, we would be truly grateful. Merry Christmas to you and those your love.

Aroha nui from the Hospice Waikato team

December 2024

Geoff's Story

Geoff's son, Jesse, was just nine years' old when his Mum left. It was then that Geoff realised his relationship with Jesse would change significantly, and for the better, as Geoff became fully involved in all aspects of Jesse's life.

Owner of Geoff Taylor Jewellers, Geoff was able to juggle his working life with solo parenting and he talks with pride about watching Jesse grow into a young man and develop a love of art, in particular, their shared love of making jewellery.

When Jesse was 25, and after he had finished a design degree at Massey University, he headed to Japan to learn more about his craft. He attended a jewellery design school and funded this passion by teaching English and acting as a marriage celebrant, learning the language so he could officiate a blend of European and traditional Japanese ceremonies.

Jesse returned to New Zealand with his five-year-old son, Louis, focussed on his own son having the opportunity to experience life in New Zealand, and get to know his New Zealand family. Jesse re-joined Geoff's goldsmith business, and the two men enjoyed working side by side for the next twelve years as Jesse continued to develop his own jewellery brand. Geoff also talked about the incredible happiness Jesse's new wife, Teresa, brought to the lives of the whole family.

Geoff clearly remembers the day when Jesse, just 46 years old, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Jesse had been complaining of a pain in his side, but the diagnosis was a total shock. Jesse was given just eight weeks to live and, because the Hospital was unable to manage his pain, Jesse was referred to Hospice Waikato and spent the next two weeks in hospice's In-patient Unit in Hamilton.

"The team at Hospice Waikato were absolutely incredible", said Geoff. "Teresa was able to stay with Jesse the whole time, sleeping in his room and just being with him every moment of their last precious weeks together."

"Jesse's wish was to die at home and the team at Hospice Waikato made that wish possible. He was able to transfer home in

late May and died almost exactly a month later. His Hospice nurse visited him at home every day to administer the cocktail of drugs which kept him as comfortable as possible. And he was able to be surrounded by his family."

Jesse and Teresa were so appreciative of the love, care and kindness shown to them by their hospice carers that, before he died, he and Teresa made a donation to Hospice Waikato. Geoff remembers having the same desire to give back to the organisation that had provided such wonderful care for his son. "Retired not long after Jesse died and I feel very strongly that I have a role to play in giving back to Hospice, as my way of thanking them for what they did for Jesse."

Geoff joined the team of volunteers who offer drinks to patients in the In-patient Unit and talks about how much of a privilege it is to be able to support families at this challenging time. "It's important to read the room and to take a moment to take stock of where things are at for the patient and their family." And when he leaves the room, he always says, "I'll see you next week." "I imagine it gives the family a little hope, and hope is so important" says Geoff.

Geoff is looking forward to providing more volunteer help to Hospice Waikato. He writes, he sculpts, he loves a good yarn. He feels there are many volunteer roles at Hospice Waikato where he could make a difference.

Geoff is very clear about what works for him as he works through his grief. "I write to Jesse a lot. Sometimes poems, sometimes letters. When I feel grief, I let it flow through the words on the paper. It is a wonderful way for me to express and move past those feelings."

Geoff also credits his wife, Conny, for helping him through the loss of his son, and helping Louis through the loss of his father.

A student of philosophy, Geoff is a strong believer that whilst Jesse's human form has died, his soul carries on. As he says, in part of one of the poems he wrote to his son...

*Now you've gone, I feel you near
Knowing you will always be with me here*

When Geoff visited us, to share his story, he brought a beautiful photo book of his son. He mentioned, almost in passing, that it was the first time he'd looked at the book since Jesse died. And he said "The only advantage of losing a child, is you stop worrying about them."



"The only advantage of losing a child is you stop worrying about them" - Geoff Taylor, loving father of Jesse Taylor - 1 February 1977 to 25 June 2023.

Staffing changes at Hospice Waikato

In a previous newsletter, we announced the resignation of Board Chair, Margaret Devlin, and CEO, Craig Tamblyn.

Existing Board Member, Stephen Ng, stepped into the role of Acting Board Chair, and Board Member Susan Hassall, who had recently retired as Headmaster of Hamilton Boys' High School, took up the role of Acting CEO. This has meant we have not needed to rush the CEO recruitment process. Instead, we have made the most of having time to scope the role, develop a comprehensive CEO Candidate Briefing document which provided all candidates with a very detailed and realistic overview of Hospice Waikato, and also consult with our own Hospice Waikato team to identify the key personal and business attributes that they thought were crucial in their new Chief Executive Officer.

We were absolutely delighted with the interest in the role and the Hospice Waikato Board, who understand the importance of this appointment, have spent many days reviewing applications, showing candidates around our Cobham Drive site, and carrying out interviews.

Whilst we are not quite ready to introduce our new CEO to you, we are looking forward to doing this in early 2025.

We have also been busy on the Board recruitment front and are delighted to announce that Suzanne Flannagan and David Fuller have joined our Board, along with Claire McDonald, who has joined as the Institute of Directors Emerging Trustee. The new trustees will be formally welcomed to Hospice Waikato at our December board meeting, and we are looking forward to their impactful contributions as we move into 2025.



Our Annual Report is available now

We've recently published our Annual Report to 30 June 2024. It includes very interesting statistics which help illustrate the significance of the care we provide in the Waikato region.

To read our full Annual Report, please visit www.hospice-waikato.org.nz/en/important-documents



Comms in 2025

Due to print and mail out costs, we've made the difficult decision to reduce the number of editions of our printed newsletter to twice per year. However, it is very important to us that we continue to share the story of Hospice care with our supporters and stakeholders. If you would like to receive our updates electronically, and on a quarterly basis, please reach out to Cherie McCleery via email - cherie.mccleery@hospicewaikato.org.nz, and we'll update your records in our database. If we don't hear from you, you'll continue to receive our printed newsletter twice a year.



Christmas Merchandise

We've got beautiful Kiwiana tea-towels, stylish Hospice tees and tote bags, Christmas cakes and delicious sweets available to help you with your Christmas shopping this year. And you'll be helping us deliver patient care too! We've made ordering super easy so please head to www.shop.hospicewaikato.org.nz to take a look at the items. You'll also find details of how you can either collect the items, or how we can courier them to your doorstep!



Hospice Shop Club

You'll probably be aware that we have our own chain of nine Hospice Waikato Thrift shops, all selling quality, second hand furniture, bric-a-brac, books, clothing and much more. What you might not know is that we have a Hospice Shop Club, where from time to time, we share details of special offerings, late night shopping and other shop deals. If you'd like to be a member of our Hospice Shop Club, please sign up at www.hospiceshopwaikato.co.nz

Disco Luxe

As we prepare for next year's Bucket List Banquet, we are absolutely delighted to announce that Dallas Fisher, Troy Reid and the team from Montana Food and Events are back on board as naming rights sponsor for our 2025 event. Montana Food and Events has been a significant partner of the Bucket List Banquet since the event's inception in 2013, and in the capacity of naming rights sponsor for most of those years.

2025 marks the 12th year of this iconic event and we feel very honoured to have the well-respected Montana name alongside ours as we share the details of next year's event.

Disco Luxe, Hospice Waikato & Montana Food and Events Bucket List Banquet 2025

Friday 16 May 2025 at Globox Arena, Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton \$2,800 (including GST) for a table of 10 (including drinks, canapes, a three-course dinner and entertainment)

This event plays a key role in generating some of the shortfall in Government funding of approximately \$3.8 million each year, enabling us to continue to provide our care at no cost to our patients and their families. And at a time where families



are at their most vulnerable, this is very important to us.

We'd like to take this opportunity acknowledge our family of sponsors who are supporting the 2025 event once again: Montana Food and Events, H3 Group, Lion, 2degrees, Heathcotes, and Greenlea. We are welcoming Rabobank and Ricoh as a new event sponsors in 2025 and we're looking forward to announcing more event partners in the coming months.

If you'd like to join us for what is shaping up to be another spectacular event, please contact Cherie:

cherie.mccleery@hospicewaikato.org.nz

1-IN-500 CHANCE TO WIN!

BE IN TO WIN!

Win a Vespa Primavera 150! Get with helmet and on-road costs! Drawn midday, Friday 20 December 2024. Every ticket you purchase helps Hospice Waikato provide compassionate care and support to patients and their whānau. Tickets \$50 each.

T&Cs apply. For details visit: www.hospicewaikato.org.nz

SUPPORTED BY **NTB RACING**

2024 Wills Month Campaign Thank You

The month of September is world Wills Month, and our Foundation ran a Free Wills campaign to raise awareness and encourage people to ensure their personal affairs are in order.

We want to say thank you to everyone who signed up to get a free Will and in turn left Hospice Waikato a gift in their Wills! Your gift will help ensure free care for those in our community facing end-of-life and bereavement in the future.

A big thank you to Nielsen Law and Lewis Lawyers for their continued generosity and support with this year's campaign.



Our wish list

Please drop off donations to Karen Mansfield at our office at 334 Cobham Drive, Hamilton.

- Supermarket Vouchers
- Petrol Vouchers
- Any food items for Christmas deliveries to our families
- Small bottles of bubbly for our drinks trolley, plus Heinekin, Waikato, Lion Red, Stellar, Steinlager.



Thank you!

It's been a few months since we've had a chance to thank some amazing organisations for their support -

Alandale Lifecare Limited, American Classic Car Club - Midlands, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, BlueSky Community Trust, BNI - Matamata, BNI Hamilton, Vertex - Waikato, Bramley Gardens Social Committee, Caiger Charitable Trust, Catholic Womens League, Chung & Associates Ltd, Clydesdale Museum Fire Brigade, Courtney's Christmas Tree Farm, Dragon Community Trust, GJ Gardner Homes, Grassroots Trust, Hamilton Boys' High School, Hamilton City Council, Huntly Lions Club, Mahood Bros Partnership, Matamata Tractor Service, Mount Vista Trust, New Zealand Community Trust, North & South Trust, NZ Psychological Society, Rodmor Charitable Trust, Rotary Club of Hamilton Central, Rural Women New Zealand, Southwell School, St Joans Charitable Trust, St Joseph's School, St Luke's Fellowship, TCS (NZ) Ltd, The Lindsay Foundation, Triple F Waikato Trust, Trust Waikato, Twentymans Funeral Directors, Versus Research, Waikato Lyceum Club International Inc., Waikato Montessori Education Centre, Wells Instrument & Electrical Ltd, Woolertons Funeral Home, Z Hautapu.

We'd also like to acknowledge the Waikato Community Hospice Foundation for their support of our 2024 Volunteer Thank You function which was hosted at Mystery Creek on the 12th of November, and was attended by almost 300 of our volunteers.

Ways you can support Hospice Waikato & Rainbow Place

I would like to...

(Tick all the boxes that apply)

- ☐ Stay up-to-date with Hospice newsletters.
(Fill in section 1 of the panel on the right)
- ☐ Become a friend of Hospice and make regular donations
(Fill in sections 1 & 2 of the panel on the right)
- ☐ Make a one-off donation
(Fill in sections 1 & 2 of the panel on the right)
- ☐ Donate five days of patient meals: \$250
(Fill in sections 1 & 2 of the panel on the right)
- ☐ Donate a community nurse visit: \$520
(Fill in sections 1 & 2 of the panel on the right)
- ☐ Donate a one-night patient stay: \$1,300
(Fill in sections 1 & 2 of the panel on the right)
- ☐ Donate a one-day Rainbow Place child respite stay: \$1,850
(Fill in sections 1 & 2 of the panel on the right)

For more information about donating to Hospice Waikato, please visit www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/en/donate or scan the QR code below.

If you'd like more information about how you can support Hospice Waikato, phone Cherie or Rosemary on **07 859 1260** or email: marketing@hospicewaikato.org.nz



www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/en/donate

Donations over \$5 can qualify for a LD1 tax credit

Hospice Waikato Trust,
Charities Commission
Reg No: CC20547
IRD No: 26-079-713



E-receipts

Would you like to receive your receipt via email?
Please include your email address below and return this to us in the prepaid envelope provided.

Section 1. Your contact information

^ YOUR NAME

^ YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

^ YOUR PHONE NUMBER

Section 2. Your donation

\$

^ VALUE OF MY DONATION

- ☐ **Donate via Internet Banking.** See HW bank details, below.
- ☐ **Credit Card - Monthly.** Debit this amount to my credit card monthly.
- ☐ **Credit Card - One Off.** Debit amount to my credit card just once.

^ NAME OF CARDHOLDER

^ CARD NUMBER

Mastercard Visa

^ EXPIRY DATE

^ SIGNATURE

Please return this form in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope to:

Hospice Waikato, PO Box 325, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240

Donate via internet banking to:

Westpac 03-1555-0091553-00. Please ensure you use your name and DON04 as a reference so we can identify your donation.

Donate over the phone by:

Calling 07 859 1260 and speak to one of our team.



The Privacy Act 2020 requires us to advise you that we keep supporters' names and contact details on file to help with fundraising. We undertake to keep the data safe. Please advise us if you do not want your personal information stored. If you would like to see your information and/or correct any mistakes, please contact us. Also, notify us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list - please email marketing@hospicewaikato.org.nz