

It's because of the generosity of our community that Hospice services can remain free of charge. If you are a supporter of Hospice Waikato, our whole team sincerely thanks you for your support.

June 2026

A Night To Remember: The 2026 Hospice Waikato & Montana Food And Events Bucket List Banquet

The Waikato community came together in style for Hospice Waikato's 2026 Bucket List Banquet, proudly delivered in partnership with Montana Food and Events – and the result was an unforgettable evening of generosity, connection and care.

Held at Claudelands Arena, the sold out event brought together local businesses, supporters and friends of Hospice Waikato to celebrate outstanding food and a shared commitment to compassionate end of life care. Thanks to the incredible support of everyone involved, the evening raised a revised amount of \$683,000, helping fund specialist palliative care for people and whānau across the Waikato.

More than a dinner

The Bucket List Banquet has become a much anticipated annual event – not only for its exceptional hospitality, but for what it represents.

It's a celebration of community generosity and a reminder of the role our region plays in supporting Hospice Waikato's work.

With thanks to our partners

Hospice Waikato extends heartfelt thanks to Naming Rights Partner Montana Food and Events for their generosity, expertise and ongoing commitment to this special event. We also sincerely thank our valued event partners and contributors, including H3, the Heathcote Family, 2degrees, Greenlea Premier Meats, Lion and Tegal. Their support is meaningful and impactful and we simply couldn't deliver this event without them.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the organisations and individuals who generously donated items for the auctions and we have included a full list in this newsletter. Their support played a significant role in shaping the evening and its success. Where you have the opportunity, we encourage you to support these businesses and acknowledge their commitment to our community.

Looking ahead to 2027

Planning is already underway for the 2027 event. Any businesses interested in being involved are encouraged to contact Rosemary Poole - rosemary.poole@hospicewaikato.org.nz.

From all of us at Hospice Waikato, thank you for supporting quality end of life care across the Waikato. Together, we continue to make a difference.

We have a winner!

Congratulations to Jeremy Baker from Glasshouse Property Management who won our Ultimate Formula One Singapore Grand Prix raffle. Jeremy and Sara will be winging their way to Singapore in October to experience four days of full-on racing action, along with the very best of what Singapore has to offer. A huge thank you to House of Travel Hamilton and Air New Zealand for supporting this fantastic package.

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Welcome from Alex

Kia ora koutou

As we move into winter, I've been reflecting on the extraordinary strength of our Hospice Waikato community – and the many ways that care, compassion and generosity show up every day across our region.

At the heart of everything we do are our patients and their whānau. It is a privilege to walk alongside them, providing specialist palliative care that supports not just physical needs, but emotional, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing – always with dignity, respect and empathy.

I thought it was worth sharing that we have taken part in the first ever national review of hospice care (a project called Data Commons) which showed that Hospice Waikato treated 23% more patients than any other hospice. It is thanks to the generosity of our community that we have been able to deliver this service, at no cost to our patients and their whānau, and it continues to inspire me is how deeply our community stands behind this work.

In recent months, we've seen that support come to life through two outstanding initiatives. The Hospice Waikato & Montana Food and Events Bucket List Banquet brought more than 1,000 people together in a powerful expression of generosity and connection – a reminder that when our community gathers with purpose, the impact is profound. Likewise, the New World Supermarket Donate at the Checkout campaign demonstrated the quiet, everyday kindness of Waikato locals, with thousands choosing to give in small but meaningful ways.

Together, these efforts are far more than fundraising activities. They are a reflection of shared values – a collective commitment to ensuring that anyone facing a life-limiting illness can access the care they need, free of charge.

I also want to acknowledge our incredible teams – our clinicians, retail staff, support teams, and volunteers – whose dedication brings our mission to life every day across homes, communities and our Inpatient Unit. The difference you make is significant, and it is deeply appreciated.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to continue strengthening our reach, deepening our impact, and ensuring equitable access to hospice care across the Waikato.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Ngā mihi nui

Alex Gordon

Chief Executive Officer



Arky's Story

At this year's Bucket List Banquet, we shared a powerful video telling Arky's story – a story of courage, care and the extraordinary impact of community support. We are proud to now share it with our wider Hospice Waikato community.

Arky entered the world eight weeks early, weighing just three pounds, and fighting from his very first breath. He was later diagnosed with CHARGE syndrome, bringing complex daily challenges including limited vision and hearing, difficulty breathing, and an inability to swallow.

Soon after came another diagnosis – Congenital Athymia, an ultra-rare condition that meant Arky could not develop a functioning immune system. Despite the odds, a glimmer of hope emerged when Arky was offered a life-saving transplant at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. In the midst of COVID, he and his mum Erin made the journey, where donated tissue helped his body learn to fight infection – changing everything.

Today, Arky is 6½ and surrounded by

love – from his family and the dedicated carers who support him each day. He communicates using a tablet and sign language, and while his medical needs remain complex, his joy, resilience and personality shine through.

Arky spent the first two years of his life in hospital. It was through the support of Rainbow Place, and the guidance of Clinical Nurse Manager Lauren Fenn, that his whānau were able to bring him safely home.

Over time, with the right support and partnership, they have gained the confidence and skills to manage his care themselves – a powerful example of what hospice care makes possible.

As Arky's mum Erin shared, "Rainbow Place helped us find a beautiful middle ground. They helped Arky grow, flourish, and get the very most out of his life."

Arky's story is a reminder of the difference your support makes – helping children and families not just survive, but truly live.

Please scan the QR code to watch Arky's story.

Connecting at Fieldays

We loved being part of the 2026 Fieldays and connecting with so many of you across the week. Thank you to everyone who stopped by for a yarn – it made our first time a truly special experience.

Our "How much yarn is in the jar?" competition was a highlight. Congratulations to Nicole Greaves, whose guess of 324 metres came closest to the actual 318 metres. Nicole has won a year's supply of Dilmah Tea, generously provided by Dilmah New Zealand.

The yarn doesn't have to stop here... if you missed the opportunity to talk with us about Starting the Yarn, we'd love to connect - you can find out more about how you can 'start the yarn' by scanning this QR code.





The impact of generosity: a golden contribution from our volunteers

Sometimes, it's the quiet ideas – and the people behind them – that make a remarkable difference.

Many will recognise Geoff Taylor as one of the friendly faces behind the drinks trolley in our Inpatient Unit. You might also remember Geoff from a previous Hospice Waikato newsletter, where he shared the story of his son, Jesse, who had died in our care. Geoff continues to volunteer his time each week, offering patients and whānau a moment of comfort, connection and kindness – a simple gesture that means a great deal.

What some may not know is that Geoff is also a highly skilled jeweller, with a lifetime of knowledge in his craft. Recently, Geoff and his partner Conny found a new way to share that expertise in support of Hospice Waikato.

Together, they have begun reviewing and curating the jewellery donated

to our Hospice Waikato shops. Geoff's knowledge ensures items are accurately assessed and appropriately priced, helping the shops achieve the best possible return from donated pieces.

Even jewellery that can't be sold has found new purpose. Broken or damaged pieces are now refined, turning what might once have been overlooked into additional funds that directly support hospice care across the Waikato.

It's a wonderful example of how volunteering doesn't always look the same – and how skills, experience and creativity can be used in ways that truly amplify community generosity.

We're very grateful to Geoff and Conny for sharing their time, experience and practical support – both in the Inpatient Unit and behind the scenes – helping Hospice Waikato make the most of the generosity shown by our community.

Thank you, New World

This year's New World Donate at the Checkout campaign was a wonderful success – a true reflection of the generosity of our community.

We are incredibly grateful to the New World stores that took part and to every customer who chose to give. Your support helps ensure we can continue providing compassionate care to patients and their whānau across the Waikato.

A heartfelt thank you to these New World stores: Cambridge, Glenview, Hillcrest, Matamata, Morrinsville, Ngaruawahia, Rototuna, Taumarunui,

Te Kauwhata, Te Kuiti, Te Rapa, Tokoroa, Waihi, Whangamata, Whitianga

As part of the campaign, we created a short video featuring our people, sharing what it means to deliver hospice care and the difference that support like this makes every day. We're proud to share it with you – you can watch it here by scanning the QR code.



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Banquet auction item donors

Acknowledging our Hospice Waikato & Montana Food and Events Bucket List Banquet auction item donors

Live Auction Items: Harcourts Hamilton, The Rees Hotel, Queenstown, Sentsch Family Trust, Gallagher Chiefs, Project Unite, Zealong Tea Estate, APL Window Solutions, Best Travel Hamilton, Saletoga Sands, Mortgage Express, Greenlea Premier Meats, Transport Trailers, Helicorp, Peninsular Beachfront Resort, Roger and Robyn Giles, Lumo, Lomani Island Resort and Spa, Fiji, House of Travel Waikato, Scenic Cruises, Camerosa

The Vault: Josh Emmett, Malcolm & Marita Barrett, Kevin Deane Real Estate, Glasshouse Property Management, Hanrad Bespoke Rugs, Precious Metals & Diamonds, Sylvia Sinel, 2degrees, Justine McKay, The Glass Gallery, Agapé Jewellers, Shop 9, Global Digital Solutions, Dairy Goat Co-operative, Cosmax

Silent Auction Items: Malcolm & Marita Barrett, Bidfood, NAI Harcourts, Vilagrad, Raewyn Forno, NZ Auto Traps, Northern Districts Cricket, Hobbiton Movie Set, Pure Cruise New Zealand, 2degrees, Ingham Prestige, Wet & Forget, Greenlea Butcher Shop, Hilton Brown Swimming, Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, Dorset Suits, Dianne Derbyshire, Kinross Winery, Photography by Chloe, Precious Metals & Diamonds, Good George Brewing, The Cake Detective, Homegrown Events Limited, Nielsen Law, Nicola O'Rourke, Jade Thorby Photography, Lifted Pilates, NIB Charitable Trust, Dilmah New Zealand, Gates by Paterson Burn, Greg Howard, on behalf of the Hill family, Forgotten World Adventures, Hamilton Zoo, Everyday Eatery, Hamilton Men's Shed, Staging Queens, Paula Southgate, WEL Networks, Coromandel Shelly Beach TOP 10 Holiday Park, Driving Creek, Parshark, Get Wet Waikato, The Lost Spring, Sovereign Pier on the Waterways, Richie and Gemma McCaw, Auckland Whale and Dolphin Safari, Raglan Boat Charters, Maureen Chrystall, Daisy Moon Pottery, The Rite Group, Te Aroha Mineral Spas, Topsy Putt, The Lawrenson Group, Midas Diamond Jewellers, AJ Hackett Bungy Taupo, Taupo Tandem Skydiving, Riverside Adventures Waikato, Hell's Gate Rotorua, Tomtit Farms, Karen Walker, The Lookout Bar, SkyCity Hamilton, Hampton Downs, Ebbett Volkswagen, Thames Golf Club, Tairua Golf & Country Club, Whangamata Golf Club, Manaia Kitchen & Bar, Coastal Motor Lodge, Thames.

Have your
contact
details
changed?
Scan the
QR code to
update.



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.

Thank you

Receiving funding from our community is crucially important in enabling us to deliver our services for free. The income from our retail shops, grant applications and donations contributes approximately 30% of our total operating costs, with the balance being funded by Health New Zealand.

As always, there are simply so many organisations to thank for supporting Hospice Waikato, in addition to the personal donations which are so very important to our organisation. Please take a moment to read these names and support these organisations if you can.

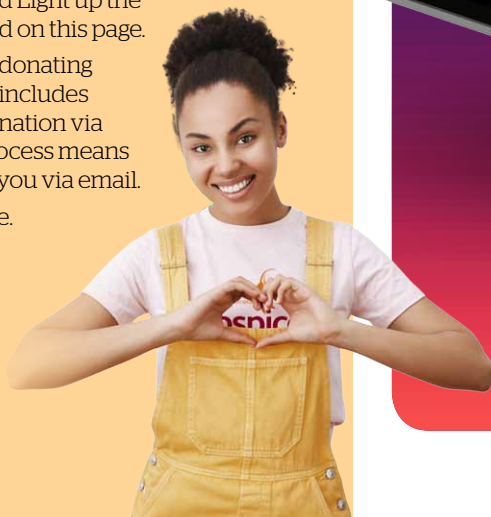
- BNI River City
- Lions Club of Tirau
- Industrial Tube Manufacturing Ltd
- Team Brewer
- Spark Foundation t/a Givealittle
- Inner Wheel Club of Matamata
- Challenge - Dealer Co NZ
- Forest Lake Gardens Retirement Village
- Te Awamutu Funeral Services
- Tauranga Motor Company Ltd
- Flight Structures Ltd
- Provender

We are grateful for every single donation we receive, whether it's clothes, furniture and bric-a-brac donated to our shops, time given by our volunteers, or financial donations - it all helps us to deliver our Hospice services free of charge.

If you'd like to make a donation to support our service delivery, our website has a 'Donate' button, or alternatively, check out our Nourish a Week and Light up the Sky with Love campaigns featured on this page.

Our online donation page makes donating by credit card very easy and also includes information on how to make a donation via bank transfer. This automated process means your receipt will be forwarded to you via email.

Scan the QR code below to donate.



Nourish a Week is a dedicated donation opportunity supporting Hospice Waikato's Inpatient Unit.



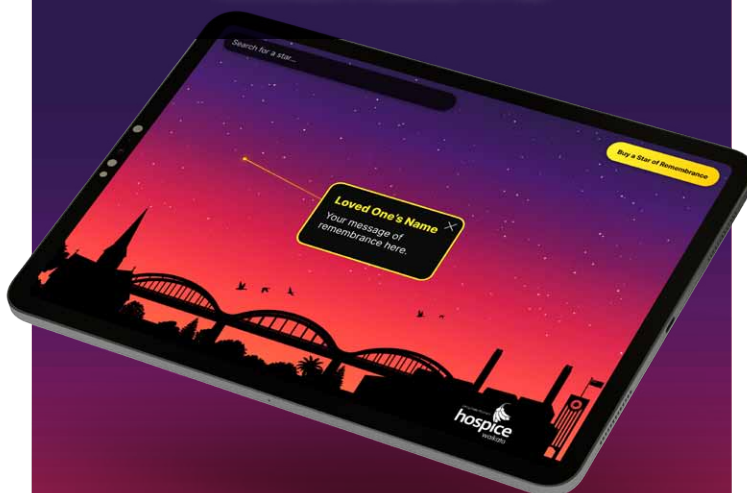
Your tax-deductible gift of \$1,000 provides seven days of nourishing, home-style meals for patients receiving end-of-life care.

It's a powerful way for our community to show compassion – helping ensure comfort, dignity and care for patients and their whānau when it matters most.

Will you help by donating a week of nourishment?



Light Up the Sky with Love



Honour the memory of someone special by dedicating a star in our **Stars of Remembrance** virtual night sky.

