



White Christmas at the Hospice

Christmas is all about family, so Tamara's family pitched in and created a mid-winter white Christmas for her at the Hospice.

"Tamara had an unfulfilled bucket list," said her sister Selena. "She had always wanted a white Christmas but thought it was one of the things that was too late to happen for her. We thought it was one thing we could make happen and so we did."

They borrowed white Christmas trees and white decorations and filled the day unit room with white paper snowflakes that everyone pitched in to help make. A friend hired a snow machine that covered the garden in 'snow' as Tamara was wheeled into the room. "With crushed ice piled around the deck and snow (foam)flakes landing on the bushes, it really looked like it was snowing."

A highlight was the arrival of two young firemen to kiss her under the mistletoe. "This was an important

part of the bucket list wish. We searched the Botanic Gardens and Otari-Wilton's Bush for native mistletoe but we had to make do with a fake bunch of it."

"Someone had suggested rugby players to kiss her under the mistletoe, but she didn't follow rugby at all. Then our cousin mentioned that she loved firemen. So I rang the local fire station and asked if they could send around a couple of young, good looking firemen for her!"

"They were more than happy to help, and arrived in their fire engine with the lights flashing. The smile on her face made it all worth it."

"In a very difficult and very sad time, we were able to come together and do something wonderful not only for Tamara, but for all of us. We couldn't change what was happening, but for that afternoon we were all able to smile and laugh and share one last family gathering with her."

Kia ora tātou,

Three women who have had a substantial impact on the Hospice were farewelled at our annual meeting. Ani Waaka, who served on our Board and as Chairman was thanked for her leadership and many hours of voluntary service to the Hospice. Also farewelled was our Patron Lady Susan Satyanand, a loyal and dedicated volunteer for four years. And Ria Earp, our Chief Executive for 11 years was also recognised.

I particularly want to thank Ria for her contribution to the Hospice. In her time here the organisation has grown substantially to meet the needs of patients and their families.

Ria managed the Hospice through tight funding constraints and ensured that Mary Potter Hospice maintained a high reputation in the community.

Most importantly, during this time the annual number of patients has increased. Daily, the number of patients in our care has risen from about 150 to over 270, and has even been as high as over 300 patients a day last year.

As Interim Chief Executive, I am grateful for the legacy of all three women. I am also grateful for the incredible support that the Hospice has received from all



around the community. It is heartening to know we have Wellington behind us.

Di Pryde
Interim Chief Executive

A visual symphony



Wellington artists Adele Eagleson (left) and Kirsty Fyfe have turned the walls of the inpatient unit into a delightful gallery of stunning art.

"It is our pleasure to source and curate the art currently being exhibited in the Hospice," said Kirsty and Adele. "We are very happy to give our time because Hospice does such great work in our community and is such a vital service.

"Personally we've had family members cared for by Hospice and we have first hand experience of the wonderful staff who become so important to the care of loved ones, so this is our way of giving a little back."

All art is for sale with a percentage of sales going directly to the Hospice. "The art is by Wellington artists who are all delighted to support the Hospice with fundraising, although our main desire is to brighten up the walls for patients and their families."

We'll be promoting the Gallery on our Facebook page and website.

A word from our new Patron, Kerry Prendergast

"I was delighted when the Board asked me to consider taking on the role of Patron of Mary Potter Hospice.

Mary Potter Hospice has the ideals, strategy and vision that are very important to me and I felt it was something I could add value to.

I was a grief counsellor for a long time, and I've always been in awe of the work of Mary Potter Hospice does, in providing dignity for inpatients, patients in the community and their families.

I would like to acknowledge our previous Patron, Lady Susan Satyanand. I respect the work that she does in the community. I know I have big shoes to fill.

I feel honoured and privileged to have accepted the role and I look forward to doing my bit to help the Hospice into the future."



0800 MARY POTTER
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Interested in every life

Kerry Martin hasn't lost his enthusiasm for being a volunteer biographer, even after seven years in the role.

He was given a Certificate of Appreciation at the Hospice's annual meeting for helping patients tell their life story.

Each year more than 30 biographies are written by a hard working team of 17 volunteers in Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti.

Kerry can remember starting his first biography. "I sat outside the man's house wondering how I was going to do it. But we are well-trained before we start so I had a good sense of what was required."

"The first meeting can be a bit strange. We don't know each other. Within half an hour of meeting someone they can be telling me things that are very private and emotional."

"You become well-acquainted with each other, and I look forward to every meeting. But it's a professional job I'm doing. As a biographer I'm not made aware of a person's medical condition and I don't need to know.

I've never been to a patient's funeral and that's deliberate from my perspective. You need to be quite emotionally resilient."



Kerry receives his award from Lady Susan Satyanand (left) and Di Pryde.

Kerry says that each biography is different. Some people tell their life story, others may record their professional life, and some want to write letters to their children or grandchildren.

Kerry said he is well supported by the Hospice. "The biographers attend a monthly meeting and discuss ethical issues and difficult situations, while retaining patient privacy. We are a very strong group and contact each other from time to time."

"I love it, to be able to help somebody document what they want to talk about. When they tell their story there is a light in their eyes. Even the humblest of lives is very interesting"

If you are interested in being a volunteer at the Hospice there are many, many roles that may be right for you. Email: volunteer@marypotter.org.nz

Glenis Brown – a Camellia Heritage Club donor

Leaving a bequest to Mary Potter Hospice in her Will means Glenis Brown will be supporting a compassionate and caring end-of-life for Wellingtonians for years to come.

Glenis is one of a group of people who have indicated that they are leaving a gift in their Will to Mary Potter Hospice, called the Camellia Heritage Club.

"Mary Potter Hospice was one charity my late husband and I always wanted to give a bequest to," said Glenis. "It gives so much to so many people."

As a member of the Camellia Heritage Club, Glenis gets information about what the Hospice does, and is invited to a

luncheon with other members every year or so.

Glenis said one of the Hospice services that she has always been impressed with is the biography service. This involves volunteers interviewing patients, writing and publishing their story.

Glenis said it was very easy to leave a gift in her Will. She used the Public Trust Office, but any lawyer can make it happen.

"I've only visited the Hospice once or twice but I've always thought that I wanted to support the work."

"I know it's possible that all my money could go in to care for me when I need it, but I like to think it would get to an



Glenis is a generous supporter of the Hospice

organisation which would really benefit from it."

Please consider leaving a gift to Mary Potter Hospice in your Will. Contact Olinka for information 381 0163 or 027 566 0140, Olinka.ching@marypotter.org.nz



Recent Events

2017 Hospice Strawberry Festivals

We've had another amazing year celebrating Mary Potter Hospice with our wonderful Strawberry Festivals in Kapiti, Midland Park & Porirua over the past few weeks.

Strawberries and icecream sundaes were enjoyed in the wonderful weather, with live music and entertainment for all ages. We're so lucky to be supported by such a caring community, thank you!

2017 Annual Report

You can view our annual review online at http://bit.ly/MPH_AR1617, or contact us if you would like a copy sent to you.

Farewell for past Chief Executive Ria Earp

We celebrated Ria Earp's 11 years at Mary Potter Hospice, with a formal farewell at our Porirua community base in October.

Upcoming Events

Win Cash for Christmas!

First prize is \$1500 thanks to Craigs. Buy raffle tickets from any of our three bases or retail stores, or email events@marypotter.org.nz. Raffle closed 20 Dec.



Get your Christmas gifts wrapped for a gold coin donation per gift:

December 9 – 24 at Lambton Quay outside Whitcoulls from 10am and Willis Street, outside Unity Books from 10.30am.

Hospice Preloved Christmas Sale

Head along to our Hospice shops this holiday season and find fantastic preloved treasures for Christmas. Gifts, decorations, toys and more – buying preloved helps the environment and your wallet! For locations, see <https://marypotter.org.nz/contact-us/>

Farmers – Tree of Remembrance & Christmas Bauble



Farmers is supporting us again this Christmas, with the Tree of Remembrance and a new Christmas bauble in store now. All donations from stores in our region will go to Mary Potter Hospice.

Thank you to our generous supporters

Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust – \$20,000

NZ Lottery Grants Board - Wellington/Wairarapa Community – \$25,000

Thomas Cavell Connelly Nichol Trust – \$10,500

BNI Wellington, Porirua & Kapiti Chapters – \$12,295

WN Pharazyn Trust – \$10,000

Trusts and businesses
July to November 2017 \$10,000+

Keeping in touch with you through our newsletter



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