



*With You  
Committed to Caring*

*Getting ready for the big day are from left: Sandy, nurse; Jon, Hospitality Manager and Rob, Cook.*

## A day to treasure together

### Christmas is a special day in the Inpatient Unit at Mary Potter Hospice.

While many patients try to get home for Christmas Day, it isn't always possible. So the staff and volunteers at the Hospice do whatever they can to make it a very special day.

Lunch is a traditional turkey roast with all the trimmings, and there is a vegetarian option of camembert and asparagus quiche. Cook Rob Barnet has worked a number of Christmas Days at the Hospice, and has been serving tasty meals for patients and visitors for about eight years.

"We always prepare enough food for the staff, volunteers and visitors too, so everyone can get a special Christmas meal," says Rob. "There will be lots of mince pies and Christmas pudding too, with custard and cream. Most people feel like a bit of a snooze after lunch."

Jon Rouse, the Hospitality Manager said the table will be set for lunch. "While patients are usually served in their rooms, on Christmas Day we try to get as many people around the table to enjoy the meal together."

"The drinks trolley might do an extra round as well – although not for the staff of course," he laughed.

Jon will be wearing his usual elf outfit, specially purchased for his six-foot plus frame!

Nurse Sandy has been working at Mary Potter Hospice for six years. She's looking forward to doing her bit with the rest of the clinical team to keep patients as comfortable and happy as possible on this special day.

"There's always lots of extra treats that people bring in, which is appreciated. We are a great team. Even though we still have our usual work to do in the Inpatient Unit, we'll make sure it's a special day for everyone."

# Kia ora tātou,

Our Enhanced Hospice@Home service where we are providing much more support to our patients who want to stay at home, is going from strength to strength. It is heartening to receive notes of appreciation with comments like...

*"It meant so much to [patient] and our family that we were able to care for her at home, and this would not have been possible without your help and assistance"...and... "Words cannot express how deeply grateful our family are to Mary Potter Hospice for offering this community based*

*care which allowed [name] to spend her last week at home in an intimate environment surrounded by friends and family."*

For these two families and many others, the feelings of anticipation and excitement we usually have at Christmas will be tinged with sadness.

It has been a privilege to support families around the Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti region this year. I wish you all a restful and happy Christmas. I hope you are able to take time to look after yourself and appreciate those around you.



With grateful thanks for your support this year,

**Brent Alderton**  
Chief Executive

## Apartment project blessing



**Board member Sister Margaret Lancaster and the chair of the Mary Potter Apartments Board Malcolm Bruce turn the first 'sod'.**

Work on the apartment complex next to the Hospice on Mein Street, Newtown, has begun.

The first stage of the project is a major renovation of three houses the Hospice owns on Mein Street. Then, in around February or March next year, the digging for the foundations for the apartment building starts.

A short whakawatea to bless the construction work has been held. Thanks to Kura and Alicia Moeahu who helped with the blessing and Spiritual Carer Chris Hartley who prayed for the project.

The apartments will not be sold, but will provide ongoing income for the Hospice on the open rental market.

To keep up with progress during the construction go to [marypotter.org.nz/about-us/mary-potter-apartments/](http://marypotter.org.nz/about-us/mary-potter-apartments/) or contact Diana Pryde [diana.pryde@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:diana.pryde@marypotter.org.nz)

## Honouring our amazing supporters

We couldn't do the work we do for the Wellington community without the support of hundreds of amazing organisations, companies and individuals.

At our recent Year in Review we gave awards to say thank you to just some of the amazing volunteers and supporters of the Hospice.



Pictured here are (from left) Karen White, Judy Tonks and Sharon Ferguson from Summerset at Aotea Retirement Village; Matthew Paice; Shirley Hertnon; Albie Calope, Malvina Major Retirement Village; Mark Cassidy, Chair; Louise Forsyth, Capital and Coast DHB; Olive Stempa; Di Florance; Brent Alderton, Chief Executive; Annouschka Martinsen; Rhys Barlow, Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust and Angela Milsted from Raumati Beach School.

# Laughter at the hospice

If there's laughter in the Inpatient Unit and it's a Thursday, it's likely to be coming from an encounter with Tony de Joux.

Tony has been volunteering at the hospice for 12 years and every Thursday he plates up lunch for the patients. He's also in charge of the drinks trolley that goes around an hour before lunch.

Tony says that Mary Potter Hospice is a nice place to volunteer. "I like what I do there. I like talking to the patients. I get on well with the chaplains. You might say it's a calling."

Tony says he sometimes goes and talks to the patients before lunch to ask them if they are hungry. "I tell them, you don't have to eat it all, but you will still get your pudding. It gets a bit of a laugh from the kids and the family."

"You can't work there as a palliative care person in any shape or form without being compassionate. Death is not a failure of medicine, it is inevitable for all of us."

Thank you Tony, for being part of the Camellia Heritage Club, a group of those who have decided to leave a gift in their Will to Mary Potter Hospice.

Tony's story features in our new bequest booklet, along with information about how to leave a gift in your Will. Please contact Olinka Ching [olinka.ching@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:olinka.ching@marypotter.org.nz) or phone her on 04 381 0163 for a copy.

## Gifts to treasure

Simple thumbprints and carefully individualised written cards were some of the final gifts of one recent patient in the Inpatient Unit to her whānau.

With the support and guidance of Occupational Therapist Tanya Loveard, the patient pushed her thumb into the clay, and dictated the wording for the cards before writing each one carefully in her own hand. A short time later the lady died in the Inpatient Unit.

"Supporting patients in whatever way we can is what hospice is about", says Tanya. "In this situation making small gifts to treasure had great meaning for this patient and her whānau."



## Our Christmas wish list

Can you please help us this Christmas? There are some more expensive items we need, and if you could help we'd be so grateful.

- **Refrigerator for the Family Lounge** - \$2,600 to replace our 15-year-old clunky fridge
- **Bariatric Stroller** - \$639: to loan to patients in Kāpiti. The Strollers give patients independence by enabling them to get out into the community.
- **Cordless sensor mat and monitor** - three at \$839 each: for patients at home at risk of falls.
- **Viking Monarch Power Lift Chair** - \$798: to replace an old chair currently in use.
- **Alenti Bath Chair** - \$1,250: we have already secured \$15,000 for a Bath Chair for the Inpatient Unit, and need just a little more. It allows the Hospice to bathe patients safely and with dignity.
- **Pride Lift Chair** - \$1,795: a new motor recliner chair is needed to replace an old one currently in use.

If you can help, please contact Philippa Sellens [Philippa.sellens@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:Philippa.sellens@marypotter.org.nz), phone: 0204 0590 157



## Recent Events

### Hospice Strawberry Festivals

We've had another amazing year with our wonderful Strawberry Festivals in Kāpiti, Midland Park and Porirua.

The Kāpiti Festival was organised again by a volunteer committee of amazingly competent and committed people. Thank you so much.

Strawberries and ice cream sundaes were enjoyed alongside live music and entertainment for all ages. We're so lucky to be supported by such a caring community, thank you!

### Annual Meeting and Award Winners

On 25 October we held our Annual Meeting, where we celebrated our fantastic volunteers, partnerships and staff members, and launched our latest Annual Review.

The full list of our Award Winners and the Annual Review are available at [www.marypotter.org.nz/news/mary-potter-hospice-annual-awards/](http://www.marypotter.org.nz/news/mary-potter-hospice-annual-awards/)

## Upcoming Events

### Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle returns, and the theme is 'out and about exploring the region'. There's \$9,000 of prizes and you can buy tickets from our three community bases, our eight retail stores or by email. Sales close Wednesday 19 December, 5pm. Tickets are \$3 each or a book of five for \$10. To see all the prizes and purchase tickets go to [marypotter.org.nz](http://marypotter.org.nz) or email [events@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:events@marypotter.org.nz)

### Christmas Gift Wrapping

Get your Christmas gifts wrapped in Wellington city for a good cause. Our expert wrappers can wrap anything from books to basketballs for a gold coin donation per gift. December 8 – 24 at Lambton Quay outside Whitcoulls from 10am, and Willis Street, outside Unity Books from 10.30am. We also need volunteers so if you want to get in to the Christmas spirit email [events@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:events@marypotter.org.nz)

### Hospice Shops Preloved Christmas

Head along to our Hospice Shops this festive season and find fantastic preloved treasures. Gifts, decorations, toys and more – buying preloved helps the environment and your wallet. For locations, visit [www.marypotter.org.nz/contact-us/](http://www.marypotter.org.nz/contact-us/)

### Farmers – Tree of Remembrance and Bauble

Thank you Farmers for supporting us again, with the Tree of Remembrance and a beautiful Hospice Christmas Bauble. Pop into your local store where 100% of all donations and bauble sales go to the Hospice.

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# Thank you to our generous supporters

**BNI Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti Chapters**  
**Hospice NZ Grants Programme (supported by the Harcourts Foundation)**  
**Ian Crabtree Trust**  
**Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust**  
**Kāpiti NZME**

**NZ Lottery Grants Board**  
**Ron Long Charitable Trust**  
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**July to November 2018 \$10,000+**

## Keeping in touch with you through our newsletter



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**0800 MARY POTTER**  
**[www.marypotter.org.nz](http://www.marypotter.org.nz)**

SJM2018