



*With You  
Committed to Caring*

*Still smiling in the rain!  
Supporting Mary Potter Hospice at the  
Midland Park Strawberry Festival and  
enjoying summery strawberries were  
Emma Tring (left) and Natalie Kerschner.*

## Strawberry Festivals help build Te Whare Rānui

**Community fundraising events like the Strawberry Festivals are helping to provide the money to build the Hospice's newest hub, Te Whare Rānui.**

Porirua City Council has recently given a green light to the next phase of construction for the building. Director of Development and Infrastructure Diana Pryde said approval for the build was a big moment for the Hospice.

"It means we can now get on and continue building which is very exciting."

It is expected construction work will be completed by April/May 2021.

The development of the community hub will enable the Hospice to better meet the growing and diverse needs of people in the north Wellington area facing a life-limiting illness.

There will be no Inpatient Unit at Te Whare Rānui, with the Newtown base continuing to meet the very specific needs of patients needing care away from home.

Once completed, it will give us a really good space to bring patients and their whānau together," Diana said.

"It will also allow us to host community meetings, conduct training for staff and volunteers and have a space for services like counselling."

A smaller section of Te Whare Rānui was completed last year, and is currently being enjoyed by staff.

Director of Fundraising, Marketing and Communications Philippa Sellens said many people had helped to raise the funds needed to get the project off the ground.

"The Hospice has been fundraising for this renovation project for over a year, and we were so pleased to reach our target of \$1 million.

While the generous donations had allowed the build to take place, the Hospice is still in the process of raising funds, and the Strawberry Festivals will help.

"We still need to fundraise for the fixtures and fittings inside, and to create a beautiful entrance space so all our patients and their whānau who come to visit feel comfortable and welcomed."

## Kia ora koutou,



It's been a year that we'll be keen to see the back of, but there have also been high points in 2020.

The support that we've received from you, our friends and supporters, has literally kept us going. I want to thank our 650 volunteers for your hard work and your patience this year because of Covid-19. Thank you for coming back to us, as willing as ever.

The support from our donors has been above and beyond our hopes. Thank you all for your generosity.

Our staff deserve a special mention too. As essential workers they continued working with patients and whānau through Covid-19. In this newsletter we've introduced you to one of our nurses, Irese, who is a greatly respected member of our nursing team.

I want to thank you all for the role you have played in our successes this year.

**Brent Alderton, Chief Executive**

## Meet Nurse Irese

When Irese Baldock says she works at Mary Potter Hospice, people often react with: 'Oh, that must be sad'.

"Sometimes it is, but actually it is more than that," Irese says, "It is extremely rewarding - and also fun."

Irese is a nurse in the Inpatient Unit in Newtown. Originally from the Philippines, Irese moved to New Zealand to further her nursing career. She was drawn to palliative care, so decided to find work in the Hospice sector.

"I was told about Mary Potter Hospice and instantly wanted to get a job there. I knew it was based in Wellington and looked after a large area. I applied for a role and luckily got it."

"It is the most rewarding job. You are not just looking after the physical needs of the patient; you are looking after the whole patient. That includes their emotional and spiritual needs.

"You are also establishing a relationship and rapport, not just with the patient, but also their family. It is very special".

Being able to spend time with patients was hugely important, and something Mary Potter Hospice prioritises. That allows Irese - and other Hospice nurses - to go the extra mile for patients and their families.

On one memorable occasion, Irese was able to support a young mother who was passing away. With Ireses's help, the mother was able to bond with her young son before she died.



"As a Mum of young kids, I knew what I would want in that situation. I tried to help the family so that everyone was able to be supported in their own, individual way."

"It was a tough time, but also extremely beautiful. That is what I love about working with our patients and their families."

The multidisciplinary team which wraps care around a patient and their whānau made the work even more enjoyable, Irese says.

"You are all working together to help the patient. You can meet their needs in a range of ways - whether that is a counsellor, a physiotherapist or a doctor. Everyone is focused on supporting the patient, which is pretty amazing."

While the work is sometimes sad, Irese says each day working at Mary Potter Hospice is a privilege.

"You get to look after and spend time with amazing people. I am very lucky to have my job."

## Mary Potter Apartments under construction

The Mary Potter Apartments are on track to be rented out and earning income for the Hospice by mid 2021.

The apartments are directly behind the Hospice in Newtown. Rental income from the apartments will help close the large funding gap between what Government pays for our service and the actual cost of providing it. Each year around \$7 million needs to be raised from the generous Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti communities.

In October a Mauri Stone was buried on the site by Te Rūnanganui o Te Ātiawa Chair and member of Te Pou Tautoko, Kura Moeahu. The Mauri Stone is a mark of respect for the land and bestows a blessing on the site and the buildings being constructed.

We are grateful to a generous donor who will match donations up to \$500,000. This will help ensure the bank loan to build the apartments is as low as possible. If you can help with a donation, please contact chief executive Brent Alderton, [brent.alderton@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:brent.alderton@marypotter.org.nz) or fundraising director Philippa Sellens on 0204 0590 157 or [Philippa.sellens@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:Philippa.sellens@marypotter.org.nz) Your donation will be matched by our donor.

### An excellent partnership

Our thanks and congratulations to Caroline O'Reilly at Vinnie Re Sew, who was given an award at the Hospice's annual meeting in October by Hospice Patron Dame Kerry Prendergast.

Caroline and the Vinnies Re Sew team helped to design and sew gowns for the Hospice's bariatric patients. When a patient spends a lot of time in bed or in a wheelchair, or may have a pain-relieving pump or catheter bag, it can be difficult to find something practical and attractive to wear. The smock clothing design works for patients of all sizes.

When two Hospice staff, Tanya Loveard and Therese O'Connell, approached Caroline about the project she was enthusiastic and supportive. Working with her team the gowns were designed and made at Vinnies Re Sew, Kilbirnie.



On a cool and calm October morning the Mauri Stone was laid on the apartment site.

### Our Christmas Wish List



Can you please help us this Christmas? There are some important items that we need and we'd be grateful for your help.

- **Lone Worker Device** – a GPS tracking device to keep our community and Hospice @ Home staff safe when they visit patients at all hours, \$395
- **Handheld fans** – we need a stock of small fans for people who experience breathlessness. We know fans help to increase airflow around patients and reduce the feeling of breathlessness, \$1,260 for 250 fans
- **Aroma diffuser** – to keep patient areas smelling fresh, 2 at \$150 each
- **Community back packs** – robust bags for nurses and doctors to carry equipment they need when visiting patients at home, 3 needed at \$350 each
- **Digital voice recorders** – for patients to record their life story and our team of volunteer biographers to transcribe, 2 needed at \$130 each
- **Clinical trolley** – to hold medical and personal care equipment, \$800
- **Saturation monitor/probe** – helps us find out if patients are getting the oxygen they need. We need 2 at \$156 each
- **Roho cushion** – it's like sitting on air for patients with skin or soft tissue issues, \$1,075

If you can help, thank you! Please contact Phillip Harris, [Phillip.harris@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:Phillip.harris@marypotter.org.nz) or phone 021 210 7276

# More festivities and fundraisers

## Kāpiti Sunset 2021 Calendars



Murray Short is a local photographer who has been taking stunning Kāpiti sunset photos. When people asked if the images were for sale, he would give them away on the proviso they make a gold coin donation to Mary Potter Hospice.

Now local businesses have sponsored the production of a Kāpiti Sunset Calendar featuring Murray's gorgeous photos. Calendars cost \$20 each and can be bought at Reddins in Raumati Beach, the Hospice Shop in Paraparaumu, the Hospice base on Warrimoo Street and other local businesses. All proceeds go towards Mary Potter Hospice. Thank you so much to Murray and all the local businesses who were involved in making this happen!

### Furniture donations urgently needed

Our 8 retail shops are crying out for more donations of good quality furniture to sell. If you've got a spare couch, desk, dining table and chairs, drawers or any other pieces of quality furniture we'd love to sell it in one of our stores. The money goes directly to funding Hospice services in the

Wellington area. To arrange free collection, go to [marypotter.org.nz/supportus/hospiceshops](http://marypotter.org.nz/supportus/hospiceshops), you can contact our Retail Support Centre on 04 237 2300 or email [retail@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:retail@marypotter.org.nz).

### Christmas Gifts – we're wrapping it up!

Give a donation and have your gifts wrapped with love. You will find our volunteer gift-wrapping elves outside Unity Books, Willis Street and Whitcoulls, Lambton Quay from 5 December until Christmas Eve. Email [events@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:events@marypotter.org.nz) if you can help.

### Farmers: supporting Hospice again

Thank you Farmers for supporting us with the Tree of Remembrance and beautiful Hospice Christmas Bauble. 100% of the donations in our region will be donated to Mary Potter Hospice. Please consider buying the bauble as a Christmas gift for family, whānau, staff or customers – it all helps the Hospice.

### Cheques – going... going...

We are very concerned that most banks are stopping the processing of cheques over the next few months. This makes things very difficult for many people and organisations who prefer to make donations this way. If you have been making donations by cheque, please consider other ways that you can donate. For more information please talk to your bank, or contact our Hospice donations team on 0800 627 976 who will be happy to assist you over the phone or will send you a helpful brochure.

# Thank you to our generous supporters

BNI Wellington, Porirua & Kāpiti Chapters  
Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust  
James R Gaynor Charitable Trust  
Johnsonville Charitable Trust  
NZ Lottery Grants Board  
Pelorus Trust

Ron Long Charitable Trust  
Sutherland Self Help Trust  
Thomas George Macarthy Trust  
Trust House Foundation  
Wellington Community Trust  
Wellington Regional Stadium Trust | Sky Stadium

**Trusts and businesses**  
July to November 2020  
\$10,000+

## Keeping in touch with you through our newsletter



Thank you for your wonderful support of Mary Potter Hospice!

Name

Address

Email

Phone

### Please send me information about:

- making regular gifts to the Hospice through my bank account or credit card
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Please accept my gift of \$

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