



# OTAGO COMMUNITY HOSPICE

*Caring For Our Community*

NEWSLETTER

This time last year, the Hospice was facing the real possibility of closing beds due to funding shortfalls. Our community and individuals gathered around us to ensure this did not happen. They did this in many ways – acts of kindness, offers of help and donations of goods or money.

One of these individuals was Michelle Collie. Michelle approached the Hospice when she heard about our plight. What made Michelle's approach so notable was that she was a young cancer sufferer herself and was on the Hospice programme.

Michelle offered to help in any way she could. She was obviously a remarkable young woman who despite her personal situation was willing to get behind a community cause.

As Michelle's illness progressed, the Collies spent more time with us. Michelle, her husband Bevan and their two boys Jacob and Harry quickly became part of the Hospice family. Sadly Michelle died in May this year. The team at the Hospice were in the privileged position of being able to support Michelle and her family through this time.

We can only begin to imagine how difficult this has been and will continue to be for Bevan and the boys. What we do know is that grief and loss can be eased with love and support from family, friends, colleagues and communities. This support comes in many forms as Bevan found out in June.

An amazing member of Bevan's community – schoolteacher Sarah Pledger - decided she wanted to do something special for this family who had been through so much. She orchestrated a meeting with the NZRFU and managed to secure an audience with Jacob's favourite All Black, Dan Carter, at Carisbrook. Rugby Union staff and others pulled out all the stops and Bevan and the boys ended up being treated to meeting all the All Blacks and having one on one time with Richie McCaw, Ali Williams and of course Dan Carter.

It is acts of kindness like this that make a hard day just a little easier, a bad week slightly better and reminds us, yet again, how generous individuals and communities are in times of need.

Love, best wishes and thanks to Bevan, Jacob and Harry for letting us tell a bit of their story and borrow some of their precious photos.

Kind regards to all

**Ginny Green**  
Chief Executive



*Back: Richie McCaw, Harry Collie, Bevan Collie, Ali Williams, Dan Carter, Craig Collie  
Front: Henri Collie, Jacob Collie*

**CONGRATULATIONS** Wendy, Lesley and Bridget for graduating with your Postgraduate Certificate in Palliative Care.

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# THE FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

Most people in the community know that we have doctors and nurses providing Hospice services in Otago – but how many would know that we have other professions working in the service? The Family Support Team is a multi-disciplinary team within the multi-disciplinary team, and we work to provide services not only for patients, but also for families. We are all part-timers, so you may or may not have seen us in the building.

The Hospice philosophy is to provide care not only for a person's physical wellbeing, but also their family/whanau's, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. This is where the Family Support Team has something to offer.

*(From left Rev Russell Thew, Clare Greensmith, Rev Helen Metzger, Trisha Bennett, Bev Park and Keitha Ross)*



## Introducing our new Education Co-ordinator – Keitha Ross

We are delighted to be able to welcome Keitha Ross in her new role as Education Co-ordinator. Keitha is well known to many people at the Otago Community Hospice, as she worked for a number of years with the Cancer Society in Dunedin, developing support programmes for patients and families.

Keitha comes from a teaching background and worked for a number of years in careers guidance, before training in therapeutic group work and counselling/psychotherapy. Her role as Education Co-ordinator will allow her to focus on the training and development needs of our greatest resource – the staff who work in palliative care. Keitha will be focusing on the education needs for staff and volunteers within the Hospice, and also the co-ordination and provision of palliative care education for our colleagues in health and social care agencies across Otago. She has a particular interest in the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of staff.

## Bev Park – Social Worker

Bev has been with the Otago Community Hospice since October 2008, and hails from the Kapiti Coast. She worked for many years in older persons mental health services. Bev has also worked as a care co-ordinator for adult mental health services in the UK. Bev is an invaluable team member and works to ensure that the Hospice service

is aware of the needs of family/whanau, both when patients are in the house and when they are at home. Bev also facilitates the Bereavement Afternoon Teas, which are an informal gathering for families and whanau. She co-ordinates the Biography Service, and works closely with our volunteer biographers and transcribers, in order to provide this important opportunity for a record of an individual's life.

## Trisha Bennett – Counsellor/Therapist

Trisha has been part of the service since April 2008, and has worked for a number of services in Dunedin. She worked at Student Health Services at the University and more recently established a private practice in the city. Trisha comes from a background in social work prior to training as a psychotherapist. She provides a counselling and psychotherapy service to both patients and families of the Hospice. Whilst not every patient or family member who becomes part of the Hospice programme requires this specialist support, it is an important aspect of our service. Trisha is interested in developing therapeutic and support groups for patients and families in the future.

## Helen Metzger – Spiritual Care Worker

Helen has worked for the Hospice for four years, initially as a volunteer chaplain, and more recently as a Spiritual Care Worker since our move to include this valuable service as part of the staff team.

Helen is an ordained Anglican minister, and works ecumenically in the service. She has worked for many years in spiritual care and chaplaincy services. She originally comes from West Otago and worked at the hospital and hospice in Southland for many years. Helen's brief is to work with patients and families in the inpatient setting and she also has a valuable role in providing staff support.

Helen is also involved in facilitating our Remembrance Services, which are held four times a year, and she is taking the lead in ensuring we meet the needs of faith groups and the secular community in this part of our service.

## Russell Thew – Spiritual Care Worker

Russell has recently become a permanent member of the spiritual care service, after providing spiritual care services for the hospice on a casual basis for several months last year.

Russell is an ordained Presbyterian minister, and works ecumenically in the service. He also works as the Chaplain for Presbyterian Social Services. Russell has been involved in parish work in Southland, Dunedin (Otago Peninsula) South Canterbury and North Otago, and his knowledge and experience of the region is invaluable. Russell's brief is the same as Helen's, and they alternate their work hours in order to provide as comprehensive a service as possible.

Russell is also involved in facilitating our Remembrance Services, alongside our Catholic Chaplain, Father Aidan Cunningham.

## Clare Greensmith – Patient and Family/Whanau Support Services Director

Clare has been at the Hospice since October 2007, and worked as the counsellor for the oncology service at Dunedin Public Hospital for a number of years beforehand. She originally trained as an Occupational Therapist, prior to training in psychotherapy. Clare has a background in community mental health and alcohol treatment services both in the UK and in Southland. Clare works with Trisha in a clinical role to provide a counselling and psychotherapy service for patients and families, and also manages the Family Support Team.

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY OF OTAGO FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## EVENTS

### Farmers Celebrating 100 Years (June – August)

Farmers Dunedin have chosen the Otago Community Hospice as their charity of choice to receive funds from a comprehensive list of events they have organised to mark their celebration. The aim is to raise as much as possible for the Otago Community Hospice and Farmers Head Office will generously match dollar for dollar the amount raised in Dunedin.

13 September	Southern Kennel Club	Dog Show at Forrester Park
17-18 September	Antique Charitable Sale	For further details, contact Lyn at the Hospice (473 6005)
2 October	Annual Street Day Appeal	If you would like to assist with the collection, contact Lyn at the Hospice
14 October	Tea at the Savoy	Leading up to the Melbourne Cup – high afternoon tea together with hat making ideas for the big day – contact Lyn at the Hospice for tickets to this event
October	‘Time to Remember’	Luncheons, dinner parties, morning and afternoon teas will be held throughout the Otago region during the month of Otago.
3 November	Melbourne Cup Fever	What promises to be a great day - the Hospice team will have a marquee at Wingatui Racecourse and would love it if you could join us. Contact Lyn at the Hospice for further details
December	Remembrance Trees	Organised by the Rotary Club of Dunedin South in the Golden Centre
December	Trailer Raffle	Organised by the Rotary Club of Dunedin North



Lyn Chapman pictured with the Red Checketts Team who put on a spectacular display at Wings and Wheels on the Taieri.

**MANY THANKS** to everyone who gave so generously of their time and talents to assist us with the numerous fundraising events held for the Hospice throughout the past year:- Jo Seagar and Cadbury for a very busy schedule of events during the recent Cadbury Chocolate Carnival; Flowers in Praise, Cruise Ship luncheon, Mountains to the Sea 24 hour run, Lark in the Park, Card making and selling. Choir Concert, Bowlathon, Fashion Show at the Wellington Café, International Cultural Evening, Variety Show, Gareth Morgan Seminar, Bridge Tournament, Wings and Wheels at the Taieri Airport, Totally Wired donated a percentage of sales during June in memory of their dear friend Leo. Thanks also for ongoing support from our business partners ABN AMRO Craigs, House of Travel and ANZ.



Jo Seagar with the team from ANZ who man the BBQ each year at the Jaffa Race to raise funds for the Hospice.

## Volunteers

It is widely recognised that the Hospice would not function without the work of the volunteers and their involvement encompasses the Hospice philosophy.

Valuing our volunteers is important. A newsletter is posted four times a year to all volunteers, cards are sent for appropriate occasions, a mid year dinner is partially funded by the Hospice and a Christmas function is held. Badges and certificates are presented to acknowledge five, ten and fifteen years of service.

The Otago Community Hospice has 300 volunteers providing assistance in the areas of fundraising, assisting in the kitchen, gardening, housekeeping, florists, reception, retail shops and complementary therapies. Together these volunteers contribute around 280 hours per week to the organisation.

Paid dedicated staff promote, evaluate and provide ongoing support, training and education for our valued volunteers.

At the midyear function Hospice Volunteers Maureen, Coleen and Lyn dress up for the occasion.



**HOSPICE CARE – is “Giving Quality of Life for the Rest of One’s Life”**

## Certified Builders House Project



The Otago Community Hospice has benefited greatly from a recent auction of a transportable three-bedroom home. This project was initiated by the Certified Builders led by Graham Stevenson. The project was a major success thanks to all the builders, Mitre 10 Mega and numerous trades people and business houses. The new owners are delighted to have such a beautifully built new home.

Mike and Chris from Mitre 10 said "It was great to be involved in this community project and was great to see local Dunedin business working together. It was a great opportunity for Mitre 10 to strengthen our relationship with the Certified Builders team, really enjoyed working with this great bunch of guys. The house came together relatively easy making it a smooth running project from start to finish".

Everyone at the Hospice would like to thank all those involved for raising a significant amount for Hospice services and also for raising our profile in the community.



## “Butterflies of Mosgiel” – breaking news!

The beginning of September will see the opening of our second shop – “Butterflies of Mosgiel” at 178 Gordon Road, just across the road from the new red barn site - The Warehouse. Jolene Wilkinson will be the shop supervisor. Jolene has a wealth of experience in retail and is passionate about shopping herself. She is a regular shopper in our Hanover Street Shop – “Butterflies”.

“Butterflies” in Hanover Street is continuing to astound us with its ever increasing success. The shop turned over more than \$300,000 last year. This success is due to shop supervisor Robyn Elliman and her tireless commitment to “Butterflies”. Robyn, her husband Gerry, and a team of absolutely incredible volunteers ensure that donors and customers come away from “Butterflies” wanting to return.



Jolene Wilkinson and Robyn Elliman – outside the Hospice Shop

## Hospice Wish List

Thank you for considering helping us out with one of our wish list items. This is an opportunity to support the Hospice in a very tangible way and we really appreciate any contribution you feel able to make.

Many of the items are quite specific so just give Raewyn or Catherine a call on 4736005 to discuss details.

- URGENT – 10 Syringe Drivers for Inpatient Unit - \$2,250 each. Due to Medsafe regulations we need to replace all of our 10 syringe drivers in the next two months. These are the pumps patients need to deliver constant and accurate doses of medication.
- Bedside cabinets and tables. Please call to discuss details.
- Wises Map of the Otago Region (6 required).
- Garden and petrol vouchers of any value that we can offer people that provide services for no charge.
- Any items of jewellery, clothes, nic-nacs or appliances that can be sold through our shop **Butterflies**. Items can be dropped off at the Hospice or at the shop. If you have a big load we can arrange for it to be picked up. Give us a call. Wool of any thickness that can be knitted into garments for **Butterflies**.
- Knitted garments (green hats, scarves and socks for next St Patrick’s Day). We have some wool available so please ask at reception.
- Spa Bath Towels for our renovated patient spa room. Ring to discuss details.

*Your Donations stay within Otago and go towards  
Specialised Patient Care*