

HOSPICE NEWS

Otago Community Hospice Newsletter



CEO MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou,

Can you believe it – 2026 marks 40 years of Otago Community Hospice – 40 Years of Caring – and we want to celebrate with you all. We will be hosting a series of events throughout the year to mark this milestone, along with plenty of opportunities to support our work.

Alongside the celebrations, it is also set to be another year full of challenges as we continue to push for sustainable hospice services across Aotearoa New Zealand. Costs and complexities of care continue to challenge us, so we still need your help to keep our specialist services free for those who need us most.

Otago Community Hospice has continued to serve as a centre of excellence, providing specialist palliative care to over 1,000 patients and their whānau throughout Otago. However, our role has extended far beyond direct service provision. We are excited to be closely involved in an innovative regional collaboration model across the South Island, that will shape the future of sustainable and equitable palliative care across Te Waipounamu and beyond.

Ginny



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

We couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteer crew

2025 saw 402 volunteers do 40,144 hours of service

We also celebrated the service of 47 long-term volunteers

- 12 people - ten years service
- 35 people - five years service

To become a volunteer contact volunteer@otagohospice.co.nz

Otago
Community
hospice

Te Kahu Pairiri ki Ōtākou
Living Every Moment

SERVICE SNAP SHOT 2025

1199 patients

↑ **11%**

*Average number at any
one time 281*

666 deaths

↑ **13%**

*86 in our inpatient unit
139 at home
139 in hospital
295 in residential care*

739 new referrals

↑ **14%**

*40% rural
Central Otago
North Otago
South Otago*

4944 visits

↑ **17%**

*Plus 9141 phone calls to
patients and whānau and
4042 family support
contacts*

HOSPICE

Farmers Christmas Campaign

The 2025 Farmers Christmas Campaign raised an amazing \$30,372 for Otago Community Hospice and over \$800k raised nationally! A HUGE thank you to the amazing staff at both our Oamaru and Dunedin stores. Thanks also to everyone who bought a Hospice bauble, donated or left a message on the Tree of Remembrance.

\$30k

Rotary Club of Dunedin South Christmas 'Trailer' Raffle

The 'Trailer' Raffle transformed into a 'Shed' Raffle this year. Thank you to Rotary Club of Dunedin South, Mitre 10, The Warehouse, and especially the small army of volunteers who sold tickets, and of course all the people who bought tickets. This year we raised over \$31k.

\$31k

Pioneer Energy Central Otago Dinner

The 5th annual Central Otago Dinner raised an impressive \$38k for our Central Otago service. This included a winning bid of \$850 for a pound of butter! Special thanks to Pioneer Energy Group, Russell Garbutt, auctioneer extraordinaire Peter Hishon, Jonathan Usher, The Packing Shed and the many local businesses that supported this event.

\$38k

BNI Bingo Bonanza

Over \$16k was raised at the BNI Bingo Bonanza. Thank you SO much to everyone that came along. So many amazing raffle prizes and excited winners thanks to our generous sponsors. Special thanks to BNI Aspire, BNI Dunedin City, BNI Larnach, BNI Latitude, BNI Octagon, BNI Portobello and BNI Mosgiel.

\$16k

AGT Hospice Golf Tournament

Kevin Galliven, aka Gully, and the Aotearoa Gaming Trust held another terrific golf tournament at St Clair Golf Club. Despite strong winds and icy rain, the hardy players raised over \$46k, thank you SO MUCH to everyone who, year on year, supports this fantastic event.

\$46k

Annual Street Appeal (2026)

On Fri 6th and Sat 7th March a fabulous crew of hospice volunteers lined the streets of Otago shaking buckets and collecting donations. Thanks to them, and all those who gave, we raised \$35k.

\$35k



EVENT BOMB



\$12k

CHARITY CAR CRUISE

The 16th Otago Community Hospice Charity Cruise & Car Show raised an impressive \$12k this year. Our sincere thanks to Ken Schumacher who has made this annual event such a great success.



\$20k

THE HAIR MUST GO FOR HOSPICE

Star fundraiser, Royce Bisset, and 18 mullet loving friends and whānau cut off ALL their hair for hospice and raised over \$20K. We are so impressed with what Royce pulled (cut) off and incredibly grateful. Our community really is amazing.



\$25k

COOK BROTHERS QUIZ

We were very lucky to be nominated by Cook Brothers as the recipients of their annual fundraising quiz night. The event raised an impressive \$25k and included the donation of a brand new smart TV for our Inpatient Unit Whānau Lounge from DLB Construction.



\$19k

EDINBURGH REALTY WOMEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

A sold out field of over 100 women hit the course for The Edinburgh Realty Commercial Women's Golf Tournament and raised over \$19k. A highlight of the day was seeing 10-year-old world champion golfer, Joanna Ke, take first shots for a donation. Despite the rain, an excellent time was had by all.

Help support our work by holding your own fundraising event

Contact tina.reece@otagohospice.co.nz for ideas, help and support

Coming up...

Hospice Awareness Week May 11-17



YEARS OF CARING

A celebration of community



ORIGINAL HOSPICE BUILDING - GEORGE ST '95

2026 marks a remarkable milestone — 40 years of Otago Community Hospice

Forty years ago a simple but powerful idea began to take hold in Otago: that people who were dying deserved more than treatment alone — they deserved comfort, dignity, compassion, and care that wrapped around both them and those they loved. A Hospice.

Today, that 'idea' supports more than 1000 patients and their whānau each year across Otago. At any given time, there are around 280 families on the Hospice service - from coast to coast, up to Waitaki and all the way down to Tapanui.

To celebrate this milestone we're writing a book. But it's not our story to tell, it's yours.

We'd love to hear from anyone with a hospice experience they think might be worth sharing.

It could be a poignant moment. Perhaps, there was one person that made a difference who you still think about. Or it might even be something that made you laugh out loud at the toughest of times.

Your story is our story.

To share your story you can use the QR code or email us at communications@otagohospice.co.nz

"We've gone from a dream to something that's part of the fabric of our community - something that belongs to all of us. That's what 40 years of caring looks like."

- Geoff Mirkin, one of the original trustees



THANK YOU

To the Trusts & Foundations that supported us in 2025/26

- 100+ People Who Care
- ANZ Staff Foundation
- Aotearoa Gaming Trust
- Aurora Fund Grant
- Central Lakes Trust
- Cleveland Charitable Foundation
- DCC Community Grant
- Goodwill Trust
- The Gordon Allen Foundation Trust
- Harcourts Foundation
- John Lemon Charitable Trust
- The Lion Foundation Trust
- Marsh Family Trust
- The Trust Community Foundation

And to our amazing community

"From colleagues across the health system, community groups, granting bodies, volunteers and family carers, to the donors that continue to give, year after year, everyone plays a role in the success of this community asset."

- CEO Ginny Green

DONATE TODAY



CONTACT

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GIVING STAR



LOLLY BOXES

It is the end of an era with the last of the Otago Community Hospice lolly boxes finishing this month. We are incredibly grateful to Julia and Jason Tibble for over \$70k raised for us over the years. An incredible total!

