



# hospice news

## rotorua 2016-17



**By Mata Mihinui** - (Author's note: I went to Whaka School with Nathan Amotawa 60 years ago and our lives have crossed. He was mischievous, fun-loving and good at art. He is a brother of my heart who will not be with us for much longer. It's my privilege to share some of his and his whanau's journey.)

Nathan Amotawa and his wife Debbie bought a van over 30 years ago when they first got together so they could go travelling around the South Island. Those plans were shelved when Debbie became pregnant with their first child and they stayed in Rotorua to build a home for their family. So, about five years ago when the kids were grown, they bought another van to fulfil their bucket list and finally visit the South Island. Now that bucket list wish will never be realised because Nathan, 65, is in the final stages of prostate cancer. Nathan, who had always kept himself in top physical condition, ate organic food, chewed raw garlic because he had read somewhere that it helped fight germs, went to his GP, Paul Revell, for his usual check-up. He passed that, but the now retired Dr Revell had an additional check for his middle-aged male patient: the prostate. That was February 2011. On the Gleeson Scoring scale, used to measure the extent of the cancer, he was 5+4. A score of 5+5 meant there was no hope of recovery.

On July 14, 2011, he underwent a radical prostatectomy at Tauranga Hospital. And that's when they got the ugly news. "The specialist told us it was ugly, the worst possible," the Amotawa's said. "He described the prostate as a dandelion. If it was intact, like the yellow flower, they could cut it all out without killing the plant. Unfortunately, in Nathan's case, the flower had gone to seed, and like in nature, had spread. In this case the cancer had gone through his body."

Debbie and Nathan kept the news of his condition to themselves. He continued at his building job and she at her work in hospitality and cleaning. In fact, he took on more work, with extra jobs at weekends. But they formalised their union and got married quietly that November and celebrated with lunch at Hennessy's. And they still wanted to travel. During this time Nathan worked on his recovery and went into remission in 2012 and returned to work.

From about 2010 to 2014 many members of his extended Moke-Amotawa whanau, cousins he grew up with, died. In that period 12 whanau or friends died, most from cancer. But he was strong for them and still said nothing. Debbie found it very stressful, having to respect Nathan's wishes and keep the news of his illness private.

Their whole life together was family and they worked all sorts of hours to make life easier for them all. Now their children, Betty, Natalie, Moses, Westley and Ihaka as well as

their mokopuna, are helping their parents through this ordeal.

In 2013 the cancer returned. "I was working in the garden, clearing up the section, when a bit of tree hit me and broke one of my ribs," Nathan said. Debbie takes up the story. "He didn't want to know, he went into total denial when the doctors said the cancer had returned. He didn't want anyone to know, not even our own kids. "Then cousin Norman (Scott) died and I had to tell someone. We had a bit of an argument about it but I had to share the news."

In 2014, after the terminal diagnosis, the most obvious change was the loss of his trademark dreadlocks, thanks in large part to his chemotherapy. He looked different but really good.

In May of this year Debbie and Nathan were told there was no more help available -- and from June only pain relief was offered. The pair went to Australia in June, a last hurrah to visit whanau.

"It was great to visit," said Nathan, "and it was only towards the end that I got a bit sore and was glad to come home."

Mates have been turning up from all over New Zealand and Australia to see him at their Ngapuna home, spend a few hours, chew the fat, sing songs and play the guitar. "Guys I knew in the 60s and 70s, we used to plant trees for Forest Products. They all came," Nathan said.

Nathan and Debbie have nothing but praise for his boss, Andrew Burton of Burton Developments, who kept a job open for him all the time he was ill. And who will prepare Nathan's burial vault at the family urupa Whakautupawa when the time comes. The coffin, is typically Nathan, bought from the Coffin Club and painted by Michael Rowe, Debbie's brother. The brothers-in-law had been estranged but Michael, a painter, offered to do this last thing for his bro. It is white and gold, espousing a message of peace and love. Another cousin, Maria Oliver, and Judy Scott decorated the inside of the coffin.

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## From the CEO's Chair



**Sharron Black**  
Chief Executive Officer

Hello to you all

Well it is hard to believe that it is nearly 12 months since I updated you all on the comings and goings at Hospice and what is on the horizon for the next year.

It gives me great pleasure to let you all know that Dr Anne Welsh has joined the Board of Trustees at Hospice, Anne brings with her a wealth of Clinical knowledge at a Governance level to an already professional and experienced board of trustees.

New referrals for the year 1 July 2015 to 31 June 2016 were 330 this added to our existing caseload saw the Clinical team very busy throughout the year caring for an average of 120 patients per month.

We had 278 patient deaths in the year of which 246 patients passed away in the bed of their choice i.e. their own home, Rotorua Hospice is proud to have the highest in home death rate of all Hospices in New Zealand with 88% of our patients passing away in their own homes. This is a true reflection of the model of care that we offer and the hard work from a dedicated and specialist Clinical team.

The clinical team made 11234 home visits to patients and families/whanau over the year with some cases being very complex, this puts huge pressure, challenges and demands not only on the Clinical team but the total operation and the cost to run the service.

Through the year we received extra funding direct from the Ministry of Health to employ new staff to assist Hospice and the wider health sector to keep up with the increasing Palliative Care demands.

We have commenced this process, however we are very limited on space at the Hospice Cottage and we are eagerly awaiting the completion of our new (second hand) building. I am told that this will be completed around the end of June to middle of July 2017. Our project Manager John Crean has worked tirelessly to get the project underway and between John and Jeanette Crean and the building committee everything is now full steam ahead.

Our Volunteers continue to provide their time to the organisation and last year donated in excess of 11517 hours to the Rotorua Hospice, we are very grateful to each of you for giving your time so freely; these hours do not include the Board of Trustees, the Prayer Group, John and Jeanette Crean and staff that work very long hours to continue to make our Hospice Care free of charge to the Community.

Our 2 shops continue to trade well and the support of the Volunteers in the shops, Hika Reid and his team of men who pick up and deliver goods, is truly appreciated. We are very grateful for all of the beautiful items that are donated and are able to be sold - and put the proceeds going back into the operational running costs of Hospice.

The year ahead will be very busy for everyone at Hospice and for those that support us; we are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Please have a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to 2017 and all that it brings for Rotorua Hospice.

**Sharron Black - Chief Executive**

## Clinical update

Did you know that over 50% of the people recruited into an organisation will leave within two years?

So I'm pleased to report that this is not the case in our team. Our longest employed staff member has been here for 13 years, others between 2 to 12 years. So it was with a sense of surprise and sadness that we had to say goodbye to one of our senior staff members Jenny Jensen. Jenny had been with us for nearly 10 years, 3 of these leading our team in their day to day business caring for patients. Her steady presence and sound clinical skills have guided the team through many a difficult time and we have been all the better for it. She has been a great colleague and is very much missed by our team. But as Jenny would say, nothing stays the same forever. And nor should it. Change brings growth and development, without it we are in danger of not meeting our patient's future needs so here at RCH the clinical team are embracing new beginnings and are looking forward to what change can bring about.

One of the first changes we have made is to appoint Operational Manager Kath Erskine-Shaw. Kath has worked with us for 3 years as a Registered Nurse in a quality and education role. Her new role is to further develop the quality role within our service as well as being fully involved in all other operational matters here at hospice. Another change for us is the appointment of Janine Flowers who is our new Social Worker. We have long seen the need for such a service here at hospice and know Janine will make a significant difference for our patients and their families. Innovative funding that has been secured will provide us with the ability to make more changes in the near future, through the appointment of a Volunteer Coordinator and a Hospital/Rest Home Clinical Liaison Nurse. Both positions offer us the ability to expand our service and the care we provide for patients and families. Watch this space.



**Kath Erskine-Shaw -**  
Operations Manager



**Janine Flowers -**  
Social Worker

## Hospice Relocation

Despite operating out of the Hospice Cottage for the past 11 years, staff (now totalling 21 with more to come) have well and truly out grown our current premises. The Hospice base located near the city's Lakefront, has been our third base since 1987.

With the assistance of a \$750,000 grant from the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and a \$300,000 donation from Bay Trust, work has commenced on the relocation and refurbishment of a much larger Hospice facility.

Thanks also to the generosity of a long term lease agreement, Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust has provided a new site at a peppercorn rental. The Trust has also donated a building three times bigger; the once stately Te Ngako building was split into three pieces and relocated to the Hinemoa section.

Mike Harnett Builders are the successful tenderers for the project and they are beavering away despite being hindered by the inclement weather. Mike is very happy to be alongside Hospice and is enthusiastic about the task ahead of him.

It is an exciting period for all who are involved with Hospice. Those on the Building Committee are committed to ensuring that the building will make a statement the Community of Rotorua will be proud of. It won't be a monument, it will be a functional centre, better equipped and better suited to future proof the needs of a modern Hospice.



Architect – Darryl Church's impression of the finished \$1.5ml project. The 'frog' will turn into a prince in a few months time!



the once stately Te Ngako building, donated by the Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust

## Pururu and Eruera Street Hospice Shops

Time flies when you're having fun. I love this picture of our Hospice Shop Volunteer Barbara Hedgman, taken in 2008 with the late Frank Fenton, the then Hospice 'Garage Sale' Manager. And this is Barbara today, still going strong enjoying the time she spends helping the Pururu Street Shop customers and supporting her favourite charity - Hospice.

Thanks to the recent **Mitre 10 Mega Ladies Night Fundraiser**, we were able to showcase a great variety of yesteryear ensembles from the Eruera Shop with a fashion parade. The parade was a huge success thanks to fashion designer Kharl WiRepa for selecting the fabulous retro designs and organising professional models. He also introduced us to Miss World Peace Rotorua, Te Rua Wallace, who will be wearing some of these stunning donated gowns on the world stage in China next month. Kharl was astounded by the quality of these NZ designer made creations.

I am delighted to report that we have a fantastic Volunteer base, they're a great bunch who will do anything they can to ensure the customers visit to our shops is a great experience. They each bring their own skills which reflect in the presentation of both our Hospice Shops.

We are always on the look out for Volunteers who have a willing smile and good communication skills, who can volunteer either a few hours or a day to sort, iron, wash, clean and polish. If this of interest to you, please call into either 1134 Eruera or 80 Pururu Street Shops, or better still give us a call on (07) 349 4231.



Frank & Barbara



Retail Manager Gianne Read & Volunteer Barbara



Shop Volunteers Neeti and Justine with Te Rua and Gianne



Professional Models from Designer Kharl Wi Repa



Mitre 10 Mega staff turned models Chris, Harmony Dani & Ed



Miss World Peace Rotorua Te Rua Wallace wearing another fabulous Hospice Shop gown

Special thanks to Hilda and her amazing Salon St Bruno ladies, Olivia, Amy and Marie for hair and makeup of the models

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### Ngongotaha Womens Institute

This marvellous group of ladies support Hospice by baking delicious cakes and loaves for the Weekly Day Stay patients who are well enough to attend the volunteer run programme. They also support the Street and Remembrance Tree Appeals and... provide morning tea and lunch for the Rotorua Bridge Club Hospice Tournament players.

from left Natalie Trumper, Ann Dawber Wendy Heinstman, Raewyn Sadgrove & Joan Lickfold



### Craigs Investment Partners



Martin Lobb, Ross Fisher Graeme Leigh and Glenn Austin enjoy perfect golf conditions

The 7th annual Craigs Investment Partners Hospice Golf Classic teed off early November with a full compliment of teams. Hospice is grateful to James Twist for his amazing organisational skills. Thanks to sponsors Bid Vest, Stewart Taylor Tutor Chef Toi-Ohomai Institute of Technology, Volcanic Hills Winery, Urbano Bistro, Rotorua Canopy Tours, VIP Realty, Scenic Circle Hotels and Kilwell Sports for their generous contribution. The event has raised \$56,000 over the past few years.

### Jenny Coker Artwork

Introducing the multi talented Tauranga Artist Jenny Coker. When it comes to support Jenny's been more than generous, this fabulous donated oil painting was auctioned off at the Harcourts Dancing with the Stars for a staggering \$3,700. Jenny has also donated the use of 3 gorgeous watercolours from her Botanical collection which have been made into blank greeting cards.

The triple packs are on sale at the Eruera Street Hospice Shop. Check out her web page [www.jennycoker.com](http://www.jennycoker.com)



Above - (Austin rose 'Evelyn' sold for \$3,700)



left - (one of 3 greeting card water colour images)

### Remembrance Tree Appeal 2016

The beautiful Remembrance Trees will once again be appearing around town. The memory trees are a long held tradition, offering people the opportunity to leave a message for loved ones, friends or pets who cannot be with their families during Christmas, for a donation to Hospice.

When the trees are returned to Hospice the special messages are removed from the trees with the utmost respect and care. The cards are blessed at the annual Memorial Service to be held in March 2017. This year the cards will be burnt in a ceremony of fire and the ashes will be buried in the Hospice gardens. A special thanks to Diane and John Coleman of Treeline Native Nursery for donating native seedlings which will be given to our families at the Memorial Service as a symbol of their loss.

Farmers have very kindly produced 8,000 Xmas Baubles to be sold and donated to Hospice for \$10. They will also give their customers an opportunity to make a donation and place a personal message card on their beautiful tree. We are so grateful to Farmers staff and generous customers who donated a total of \$18,674 to Hospice Rotorua last year.

Over 50 volunteers will be needed to sit with the trees over six days from Monday 12 to Saturday 17th December, if you are interested please contact Jan Morgan 021 9000 88 or phone hospice 07 3436591 ext 3.



Nurse Janet Ryder and her husband Dennis.



Farmers 2016 Xmas bauble was designed by NZ artist FLOX, Hayley King.

# Harcourts Rotorua



## Harcourts Dancing with the Stars

*Hospice extend our deepest gratitude to all who assisted us in presenting the most glamorous contest of the year. Thank you for helping raise \$107,000 for Hospice.*

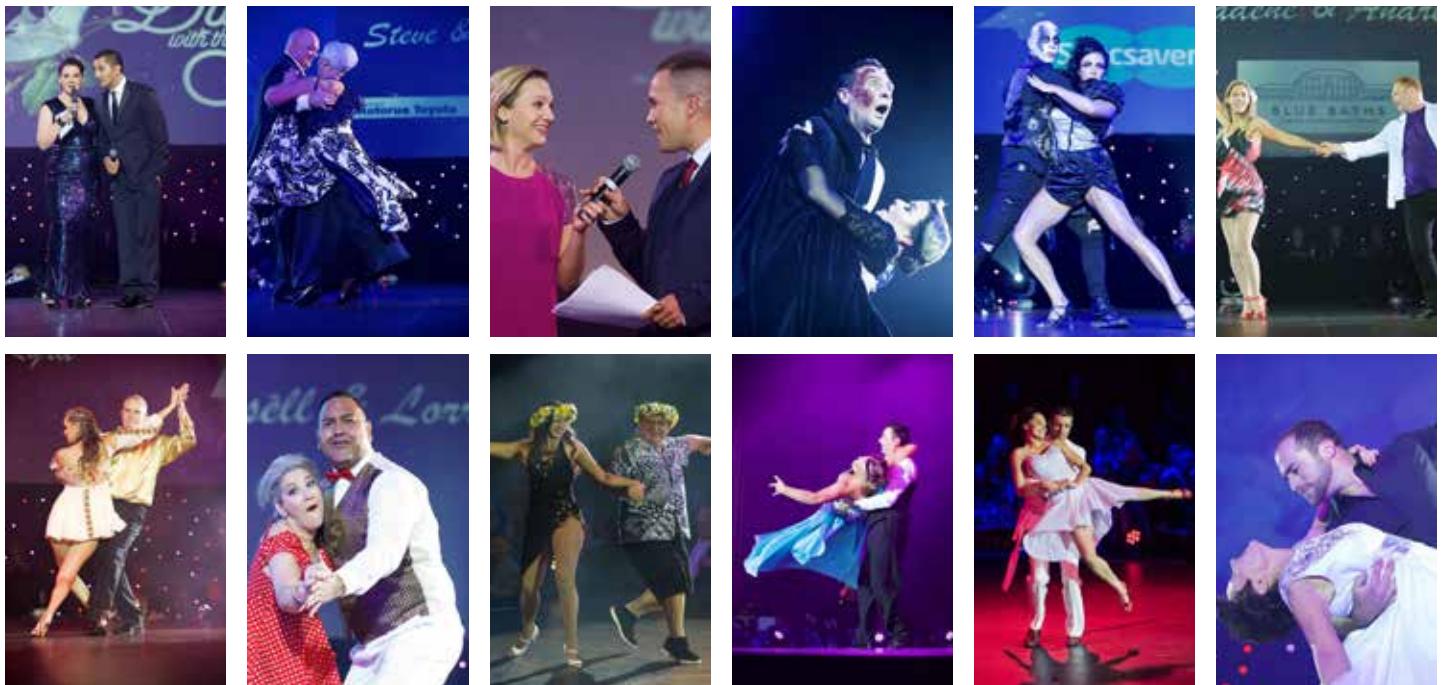
Special thanks to our Dancers and their generous sponsors

Nadia Burborough & Darrin Walsh (Western Heights Pharmacy), Nadene McClay & Andrew Martin (Blue Baths), Tania Tapsell & Paul Hickey (Tompkins Wake Lawyers), Lorraine Taylor & Russell Harrison (Motion Entertainment), Steve Chadwick & Charlie Windell (Rotorua Toyota), Donna Bates & Justin Nichols (Specsavers), Tracey Robinson Scott & Brodie Fowler (Mobil TeNgae), Judi Geenty & Rodney Conrad (Smiths City), Kyra Dawson & Brent Parks (Zoom Cloud)

### And our Corporate Partners



Thank you to the many businesses and individuals who have so generously donated time, services and goods to this event Tamati Coffey, Jackie Clarke, Cliff Curtis, Hayley Holt, Hika Reid, Robert Tulp, Krissie Knapp, Evelyn Falconer & the Finely Tune Group Ladies, DJ Shane, Nikki Blackledge, Amjazz Dance Studio, Shelley & Chris Martin, Troy Smith, Glen Law, Paul Hickey, Colin Watkins, Westbrook School, Tracey Robinson Scott, Charlie Windell, Helen English, Alick Saunders, Helena Gratkowski, Lara Northcroft, Western Heights High School Students, Karrie-Ann Tuck, Claudine Bartle, Marie Farquhar, Kim Tapsell, Pam McGrath, Bub Hohepa, Jill Noone, Diane Covell, Sue Taylor, Mitre 10 Mega, Colin & Lisa MacPhee, Fiona Winfield, Monty Morrison, Jenny Coker, Dianne Reynolds, Quest Rotorua Central, Pollards Mens Apparel, Envy, Rotorua Florist, Pascoes the Jewellers, Hallensteins, Victoria Grove Costume and Formal Suit Hire, Lakes Medical Services Trust – Glen Downes, Cobb & Co, Flip Out Indoor Trampoline Centre, Alpha Displays, Andrew Warner, Sheree & Robbie Warner, Salon St Bruno, Todd McClay, CBK Craft Bar And Kitchen, Atticus Finch, Leonardo's Pure Italian, Pig & Whistle, Love Your Bones Osteopath, Urbano Bistro, Capers Epicurean, Volcanic Air, Day Two Ltd, Polynesian Spa, Indian Star Tandoori Restaurant, Stevens the Cooking Specialist, Rotorua by Segway, Anytime Fitness, Gold's Gym, Western Heights Pharmacy, Specsavers, Farmers, Spark Central Mall, Go360 Health & Wellness, Wayne Rush Bodywork, The Salon, Touch Massage, Jo Anne La Grouw, Elite Mobile Hair & Beauty, Steiners Interiors, Skyline Skyrider, Rebel Sports, Sandy Margolin – Atlantis Book Vouchers, Eleanor Ashcroft, Volcanic Wines, White Island Tours, Wairakei International Golf Course, Millennium Hotel & Resort Manuels Taupo, Ohope Beach Resort Apartments, The Fisherman's Wharf Cafe & Restaurant, The Bean Coffee Roastery, The Kinloch Golf Club Course, Quest Napier Apartments, Vines & Views Winery Tour, Quest Hobson Auckland, Ma Higgins Cafe, Rotorua Plumbing Services, Fineline Graphics, Michael Staite



### And our Gold Sponsors



dubzz  
DIGITAL MARKETING



Tracey Scott  
PHOTOGRAPHER



The Harcourts  
Dancing with the Stars 2017  
Hospice fundraiser  
will be held Sat 5th August  
(don't forget to put it in your 2017 dairy)



## THE HOSPICE PRAYER GROUP

The Hospice Prayer Group have been meeting in QE's 'quiet room' for many years now, all 12 their members very much look forward to meeting twice a month in the new Hospice building.

If you would be interested in joining the Prayer Group please contact Pat de Carteret 345 6232



## Hospice needs you!

Shop Volunteers are needed for both Pururu and Eruera Street Shops, to sort, wash, steam, iron, clean and polish.

If your keen to join a great team and support Hospice, please contact Sharron Black , 343 6591  
ceo@rotoruahospice.co.nz

## Wish List

If you can donate any of these items, we would be very grateful.

Coffee, Milo & Sugar

Petrol Vouchers for the Clinical Team

Stationary

Stamps

Your email address so we can save on postage and printing



Please like us on face book or visit our web site [www.rotoruahospice.co.nz](http://www.rotoruahospice.co.nz)

P O Box 1092 | Rotorua Lakefront | QE Hospital Grounds | ROTORUA 3040

Phone (07) 343 6591      Fax (07) 347 8377

Hospice Shops Pururu St (07) 349 4538 | Eruera Street (07) 349 4231



**NB: Your donation will be gratefully received, the self addressed donation envelope is provided for cheque, credit card or online banking to—**

**Rotorua Community Hospice 02 0412 0482480 00 BNZ Rotorua**

**Registered Charity Number CC21602**

For further information contact **Jan Morgan** | Funding Development Manager | email [pr@rotoruahospice.co.nz](mailto:pr@rotoruahospice.co.nz)

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