



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa



2025/2026

Annual Report

*Thank you for your
amazing support this year.*

Cancer Society Auckland Northland

A Message From Acting President Julian Grennell

I have served on the Cancer Society Auckland Northland (CSAN) Board for the past six years, and on the Cancer Society of New Zealand (CSNZ) Board for the past three years, giving me a unique perspective on both the local and national impact of our organisation. Throughout that time, I have seen the extraordinary commitment of our staff, volunteers, supporters, donors and partners, all united by a common purpose: working together towards a future free from cancer.

This year has been one of significant progress and optimism. As CSNZ President, I have been proud to help launch our new strategic plan, a bold roadmap for the future. Developed through collaboration across the organisation, it provides a clear framework for strengthening our impact in the years ahead.

The plan focuses on four key priorities:

- Providing community support (nurses, psychologists, volunteer drivers and accommodation);
- Championing better outcomes through advocacy, prevention, screening and treatment;
- Supporting research and innovation; and
- Partnering for impact through collaboration with communities, volunteers and supporters.

Together, these priorities reflect our commitment to ensuring every New Zealander affected by cancer can access the support they need, benefit from research and innovation, and experience a health system that delivers equitable outcomes.

Closer to home, one of the most exciting milestones has been the start of the Northland Lodge build. As CSAN Acting President, I have been privileged to witness the years of planning, advocacy and fundraising that have brought this transformational project to life.

For many Northlanders, travelling long distances for treatment adds significant stress to an already challenging time. Our new lodge will provide high-quality accommodation and supportive care close to treatment, helping people focus on their wellbeing and recovery with greater comfort and peace of mind.

The project represents far more than a building. It is a tangible demonstration of what can be achieved when communities come together with a shared purpose and will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

These achievements are only possible because of the incredible generosity and dedication of our supporters. Every donation, fundraising effort, bequest, volunteer hour and community partnership contributes directly to the support, advocacy, research and accommodation services that make such a profound difference in people's lives. Thank you to everyone who has played a part.

I would also like to recognise my fellow Board members, particularly Candace Kinser, who served as CSAN President for more than six years before recently stepping down to pursue political aspirations. Andrew, CSAN's CEO, recognises Candace's contribution in his report.

To our volunteers and supporters, thank you for your unwavering commitment. Together we are building a stronger Cancer Society that will meet future challenges and ensure no one faces cancer alone.



Julian Grennell
Acting President, Cancer
Society Auckland Northland

Auckland Northland Divisional Board Members



Julian Grennell
Interim Chair



Louisa Kraitzick



Ken Lotu-Iiga



Dr Fritha Fanning



Jacqueline Bell



Alexis Cameron



Sally Hughes

We're thankful for our board members who volunteer their time and expertise to Cancer Society Auckland Northland, helping us to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer in Aotearoa, New Zealand.



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

CEO's Report

Andrew Young

Writing my CEO's report enables reflection on our strategic direction and the incredible achievements that have turned our ambitions into real-life impact for the communities we serve.

With the new National Strategic Plan launched in 2026, a key focus is broadening access by ensuring patient services are available, when, where and how they most need them.

One of the most tangible examples of this commitment is the Northland Accommodation Lodge, now under construction on Hospital Road in Whangārei.

This project has been a long-held dream of our departing Chair, Candace Kinser, whose vision, determination and belief in investing for future generations have helped bring it to life.

I'm full of admiration and gratitude for Candace, who has volunteered her time, energy and expertise to the CSAN Board for more than six years.

It's bittersweet to see this landmark project begin just as Candace's time with CSAN has come to an end. She has made the bold decision to pursue a career in Government



(L-R) Charli Timms, Andrew Young, Candace Kinser

If Candace makes it to Parliament, she has vowed to remain a strong advocate for cancer-related issues and to continue championing the work of Cancer Society and the people we support every day.

Candace's story also reminds us why having a voice at the decision-making table matters. That was brought home for me when I attended Parliament in April to push for five key priorities ahead of this year's election, including our goal of eliminating cervical cancer by 2036.

Being in Parliament was a strong reminder that our voice matters, and that the support of our people and community helps us advocate with credibility and conviction.

As we farewell Candace, we are pleased to welcome Acting President Julian Grennell. Julian has served on the CSAN Board for the past six years and brings extensive leadership experience, including President and Chair of the Cancer Society of New Zealand.

Our future is built on strong foundations. It is powered by a clear strategic direction, strengthened by the dedication of our people, and only made possible through our supporters, volunteers and partners.

Candace's contribution is a powerful reminder of the difference one person can make. Every day, we see that same impact from the generosity of our donors, who ensure people facing cancer can access the care and support they need.

On behalf of Cancer Society Auckland Northland, thank you for helping us strive towards a future free from cancer.



Andrew Young
CEO, Cancer Society Auckland Northland

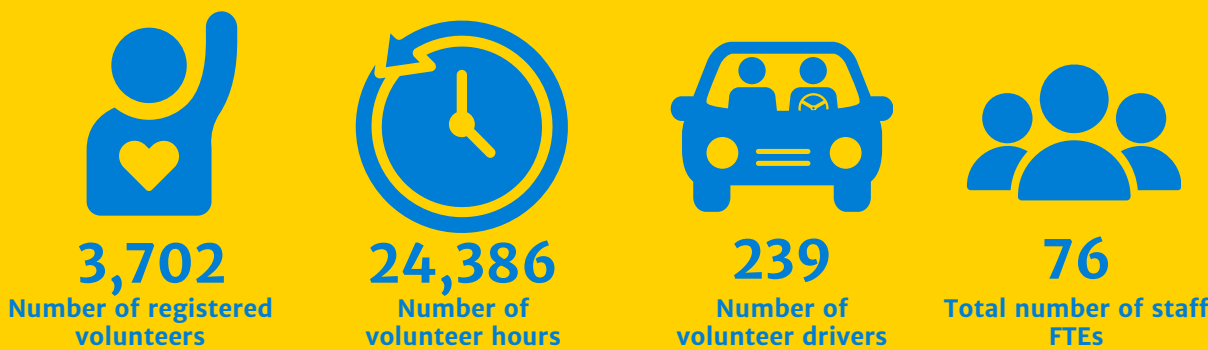
You helped support this many this year

Your Year In Numbers

SUPPORT



PEOPLE



RESEARCH



The effectiveness of the service offering

During the year, more than 2,000 people who accessed Cancer Society Auckland Northland services shared their feedback through AskNicely. Their responses consistently awarded us top ratings, reflecting the positive difference our support makes and our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible experience for people and whānau affected by cancer.

Service type	Average Rating (out of 5)
Accommodation (Domain Lodge)	4.85
Driving Service	4.93
Social Work	4.55
Nursing	4.79
Psychology	4.75



Accommodation

"I was assured the room would be available for me – this took a load off my mind particularly as I was travelling from Whangārei. Also, my daughter joined me which was a change to my booking but the courtesy and ease with which this was handled needs to be acknowledged."

Driving Service

"Always on time. Loved the chats with the drivers. Most of all it took the stress away for getting to appointments."



Psychology

"Felt safe and cared for during a extremely vulnerable time with very a professional service."

Nursing

"Checked it was appropriate to talk, listened and responded and discussed at the level that suited me."



A Life of Giving: Jessica's Story of Love, Resilience and Legacy



(L-R) Jessica and Nelleke

For Jessica, supporting the Cancer Society isn't just something she does, it's part of who she is.

Her connection spans more than 30 years, shaped by a deeply personal journey alongside her partner Nelleke, who was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1994.

"I've worked in health my whole life, but when cancer comes that close to home, it becomes very real."

Nelleke's diagnosis came after a routine mammogram. With surgery and radiotherapy, she recovered well. But just as they approached the 10-year "all clear," the cancer returned.

"You're almost at the finish line and then – bang – there's another one."

Once again, they faced it together and got through it together.

"She's still here. That's what matters."

That experience became the foundation for a lifelong commitment to give back.

Jessica began volunteering with Relay For Life, later becoming one of the first Chairs, and went on to deepen her involvement with the Cancer Society — becoming a Life Member and long-time volunteer, including as a Daffodil Day Area Co-ordinator.

"Every time you're out collecting, someone has a story. It's emotional, but incredibly meaningful."

Attending Circle of Hope events and hearing directly from researchers and frontline staff has reinforced the real impact of that support — both now and into the future.

"The passion they have, it's incredible. We're so lucky to have such intelligence people like that working on this."

For Jessica, funding research is essential – from earlier diagnosis to more effective treatments, helping more people survive cancer.

"If it helps save even one life, then it's worth it." As part of that commitment, Jessica has chosen to include a gift in her Will.

"Every little bit helps. Just think about what that small gesture could become."

For her, it's about ensuring support and care are always there when needed, and that vital research continues for future generations. Legacy gifts play a crucial role in funding both.

"Everyone doing what they can, that's what gives hope."

Because this isn't just about cancer. It's about love, resilience, and choosing to make a difference – now and for the future.



Northland Accommodation Lodge: A Vision Taking Shape

Construction is now underway on the Cancer Society Northland Accommodation Lodge, marking a major milestone for the project that will transform cancer support across Te Tai Tokerau Northland. Following years of planning, fundraising, partnerships and community advocacy, earthworks have begun on the Hospital Road site in Whangārei, with contractors now on site as the vision starts to become reality.

Located directly opposite Whangārei Hospital and within walking distance of the Jim Carney Cancer Treatment Centre, the lodge has been designed to provide accommodation and support for people undergoing cancer treatment, reducing the burden of travel and time away from home. The project has become increasingly important as Northland enters a new era of cancer care. With radiation therapy services now available in Whangārei.

However, many patients will still face long journeys from rural and remote communities to access treatment. The lodge will provide a safe, welcoming place for patients and whānau to stay, allowing them to focus on treatment and recovery.

Modelled on the success of Auckland's Domain Lodge, the Northland facility will feature 20 modern bedroom suites, communal areas, patient wellbeing spaces, and meeting rooms for clinicians, support providers and community partners.



"I've always believed that where you live shouldn't determine the support you can access. Seeing this project take shape is incredibly meaningful, not just for our team, but for the countless Northland families who will benefit from it for years to come." – Charli Timms, Regional Manager Northland.

This project represents a transformational step forward for cancer care in Northland.

Built by a Community That Cares

As construction progresses, we are reminded that this project would not exist without the extraordinary generosity of supporters who shared our vision for a better future for Northlanders affected by cancer.

This milestone reflects the power of a community coming together to ensure people facing cancer can access the care and support they need.

To everyone who contributed through transformational gifts, individual donations, community fundraising, grants, corporate partnerships, advocacy or encouragement, thank you. Your generosity has turned an ambitious dream into a tangible source of hope and support for countless Northlanders, creating a place where patients and whānau will find care, comfort and connection for generations to come.



While every contribution has helped bring this vision to life, we would like to acknowledge six donors whose exceptional generosity helped make the construction of the lodge possible. Their commitment laid the foundation for the project and inspired others to join the journey.

With our deepest gratitude, we acknowledge the following donors, who collectively contributed more than \$20 million towards the project:



- ✦ Aotearoa Foundation
- ✦ Douglas and Judith Goodfellow
- ✦ The Douglas Family
- ✦ The Carson Family
- ✦ William Hanley Hutchinson
- ✦ John Bilborough

As the lodge rises from the ground over the coming months, it will stand as a lasting testament to the compassion, generosity and community spirit of those who made it possible. But the journey is not over.

While construction is now underway, funding is still required to ensure the facility can open its doors fully and deliver the level of care and support Northlanders deserve. Community support is still needed to bring this vision fully to life.

Together, we can complete this vital facility and create a place of hope closer to home.

www.northlandlodge.org.nz





**For Jared,
support made
all the difference**

Walking alongside communities to reduce their cancer risk

This year, our Cancer Prevention and Equity team continued to work alongside whānau, Māori, Pasifika and community partners across Auckland and Northland to make cancer prevention information more accessible, practical and trusted.

At the heart of this mahi is relationships. We meet people where they are — in marae, churches, community spaces, workplaces and local events — sharing information about screening, HPV vaccination, early detection and ways to reduce cancer risk in a way that feels relevant to their lives.

We have continued to strengthen kaupapa Māori and Pasifika-led approaches, recognising that prevention works best when shaped by the communities it serves. Through cancer awareness programmes such as Kia Ora E Te Iwi and partnerships with Taime Pasifika Cancer Support, Folauga O Le Soifua Tāmaki Makaurau and Kiwa Te Tai Tokerau, we have supported community leadership, strengthened prevention resources, improved referral pathways, and advocated for dedicated Pasifika cancer navigation in Te Tai Tokerau Northland.

Our grateful thanks to the support of our wonderful donors, partners and community networks, this work is helping more people feel informed, confident and supported to take action earlier. Together, we are building a future where cancer prevention is not just available, but accessible, trusted and equitable for the communities who need it most.

Community impact highlights

- Promoted screening, HPV vaccination and early detection.
- Shared practical cancer prevention messages in local community settings.
- Built stronger connections between community, health and sector partners.
- Strengthened trusted Māori and Pasifika partnerships across Auckland and Northland.
- Supported Pasifika-led advocacy and navigation pathways in Te Tai Tokerau Northland.

At 34, Jared Topsand was busy running his own earthmoving business and raising his four-year-old daughter, Tilly, with his partner. Then he was diagnosed with stage three colon cancer.

Like many people facing cancer, Jared's first thoughts were not about himself.

"When I first got diagnosed, my first thought was, is it too late for life insurance? And my second thought was, what does this mean for my daughter?"

The diagnosis was devastating. Jared later learned his cancer was genetic, bringing difficult questions about what it could mean for his family's future. Alongside surgery and chemotherapy, he faced the emotional strain of cancer while trying to support the people who depended on him.

Treatment was gruelling. As the owner of a small business and the family's main breadwinner, the financial and personal pressures were significant. Through Cancer Society's Nurse Navigator service, Jared was connected with a Cancer Society nurse who helped him understand what to expect, manage side effects and navigate the mental challenges of treatment.

"It was quite good having someone who works with people on chemo every day," Jared says.

I talked to her a lot about what to expect and mental tips because mental fortitude is another big part of chemotherapy. It's not just the physical stuff."

Having someone who could listen, answer questions and provide reassurance helped Jared feel less alone during one of the most difficult times in his life.

"To have that resource is great," he says. "I think it's worth every penny."

Today, Jared describes Cancer Society as a vital safety net.

"It's a fantastic organisation. It's a safety net. When it feels like there's no safety at all, you're in the lurch, and anything you can fall back on is precious."

Jared's story is one of many that show the difference donor-funded support can make. Every year, Cancer Society nurses, counsellors, volunteer drivers and support teams help people and whānau navigate cancer with practical support, trusted information and compassionate care when they need it most.

Because no one should have to face cancer alone.

It would not be possible without our volunteers

Every day across Auckland and Northland, hundreds of volunteers help ensure no one faces cancer alone.

They drive patients to treatment, welcome people in oncology centres, coordinate Daffodil Day collections, support community events and lend their time, skills and compassion wherever they are needed most.

Together, they help Cancer Society reach more people, deliver more support and strengthen communities across our region.

Simply put, much of what we achieve would not be possible without our volunteers. They are an essential part of Cancer Society Auckland Northland, giving their time, skills and compassion to support people and whānau when they need it most. Their commitment helps extend our reach and strengthen our services.

The following statistics provide a snapshot of the incredible contribution our volunteers made over the last year.

Key Stats for 2025/2026 Volunteer Impact



Kapil Chadha far right

"That one or two hours of your time can change someone's life."

Meet Kapil Chadha

Three years ago, Kapil Chadha was working at Cancer Society reception when he noticed people arriving to collect resources and supplies. Curious, he asked what was happening. It was Daffodil Day.

That moment sparked a journey that would lead Kapil to become one of our valued Daffodil Day Area Coordinators, helping organise volunteers and bring communities together to support people affected by cancer.



For Kapil (right), volunteering is deeply personal.

Having faced significant health challenges himself, he understands how quickly life can change and how important compassion can be during difficult times.

"That's where the empathy and humanity came in. It was my time to give back to the community."

As an Area Coordinator, Kapil enjoys working alongside volunteers from all walks of life, building relationships and helping others get involved.

"It's leadership. It's teamwork. It's people management. If you want to build your people skills and make a difference, go for it."

He says one of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering is seeing the collective impact that comes from people simply showing up.

"If you're seeking something from your heart and you want to do something for the community, give it a go. That one or two hours of your time can change someone's life."

"Try it. You will never go back."

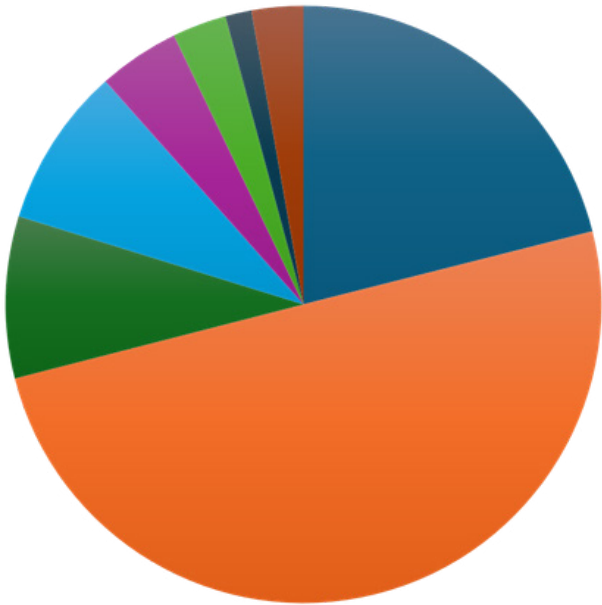
Ngā mihi / Thank you

To every volunteer who shared your time, skills and heart this year, thank you. Your kindness has helped people facing cancer feel supported, cared for and less alone. We are profoundly grateful for all you make possible across our communities.

Financial Summary

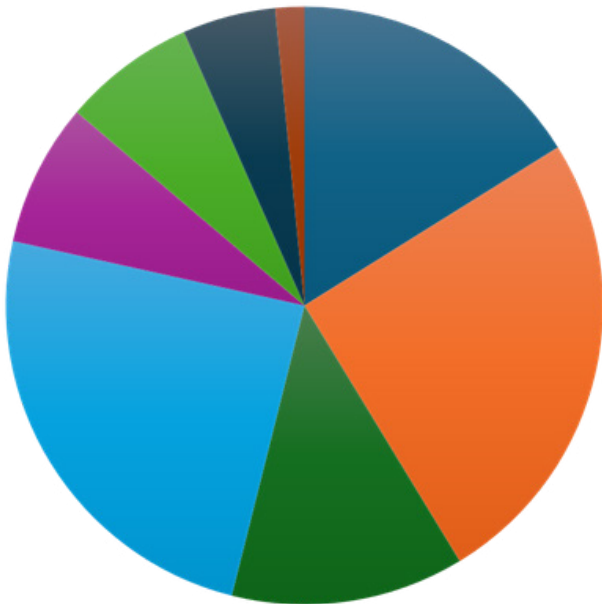
* REVENUE

Gifts in Wills	5,561,921
Donations from individuals	13,189,841
Donations to Domain Lodge	2,312,738
Investments	2,286,848
Daffodil Day	1,165,334
Trusts and Foundations	775,607
Accommodation income	374,093
Relay for Life	740,246
Total	26,406,628



* EXPENDITURE

Cancer Research	2,917,868
Patient Support	4,556,170
Domain Lodge Accommodation	2,282,591
Fundraising Awareness	4,442,006
Organisation Running Costs	1,399,996
Nationwide Cancer Society Initiatives	1,298,698
Assets Depreciation	913,124
Cancer Prevention Campaigns	284,467
Total	18,094,919



Acknowledgements

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

The Lion Foundation
Lottery Community Northland Fund
The North and South Trust
The Trusts Community Foundation
The NZ Community Trust
The Dragon Community Trust
The Trillian Trust
Blue Sky Community Trust
Grassroots Trust
Pub Charity
Four Winds Foundation
Air Rescue Services
Ākarana Community Trust
Milestone Foundation
Rano Community Trust
The Chenery Memorial Trust
The June Gray Charitable Trust
The Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust
We Care Community Trust
Kaiwaikawe Community Trust

PROUDLY MANAGED BY
PERPETUAL GUARDIAN

A K Franks Charitable Trust
Margaret Olive Russell Charitable Trust
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The Ernest Hyam Davis and
Ted and Mollie Carr Legacies
The Room-Simmonds Charitable Trust
NR and JH Thomson Charitable Trust
The Lillian & Walter Wardell Cancer
Research Trust
Claire Simpson Charitable Trust

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Murphy Foundation
The Zelda Roberts Charitable Trust
Alison and Andrew Cochrane Trust
Claire Simpson Charitable Trust
L W Nelson Charitable Trust
John Stewart Booth Trust

Z Energy Good in the Hood Campaign
The Ray White We Can Help With That Fund

LIFE MEMBERS

Kerry Bachler	John Mayo
Anthony Bacon	Lavinia McMillan
Moya Barr	Russell McIlroy
Stuart Bauld	Elizabeth Morgan QSM JP
Muchaela Baxter	Sabine Muller
Joan Baynham	Patricia Noonan
Elaine Black	Merv Norman*
Lesley Brennan	Ravinder Parmar
Nigel Brown	John Partridge
Jessica Buddendijk QSM	Jatin Patel
Bill Burgess	Henry Perkins*
Leonne Burgess	J C Probert
Geoffrey Clathworth MNZM*	Graham Scahill
Maureen Clooney	Gayleen Scahill
The Honourable Justice Cooper	Olive Shanks
Nola Cooze	John Shanks
Jan Dalley	Michael Sharp
Carrick Davidson	Peter Shepherd
Marjorie Davidson*	Glenys Shepherd
Willam Denny KNZM	Dale Siebert
Akshay Desai	Anne Sinclair KSM
Jim Dufficy*	Brian Stevenson
Arvind Dullabh	Joan Swift QSM JP
Judy Dysart	Jennifer Thomson
Karene Gore	Heather Wheeler
Lorraine Hampton	Patricia Williams
Patrina Hardie	Neen Williams
Peter Harwood*	Bill Wilson
George Hitchcock OBE, DFC*	Lillian Reid
Enyth Holdgate*	Prof Sir Bill A Denny KNZM
Linda Holloway	Murray Hutchinson
Michael Horton CNZM	Peter Hyde
Edna Johnson	Sharookh Irani
Rev. Douglas Kidd*	Margaret Tubman
Jonathan Koea	Sandi Renell
Knox Laird*	Kathleen Selby
Wendel Levens*	Prof William Bill Wilson
Murray MacCormick	Karin Urnersbach-Niersbach
Guy Marks	Guenter Niersbach
Diana Marsh	Alison Moffat
Thomas H Marshall OBE	Mary Carthew
Ray Topia	Leah Watson
Eileen Parsons	

* Deceased



A Year in Events Thank you!

This year, we have had some amazing fundraising events across Auckland and Northland, including marathons, a games fair, and even people jumping out of a plane! This is our year in photos.

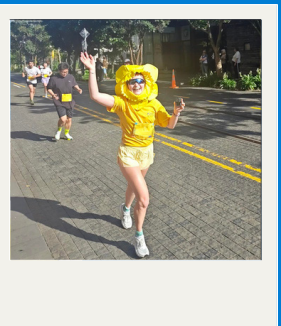


Games Fair
May 2025



The Cloud in Auckland is transformed into a gaming wonderland for Games Fair, all in support of those impacted by cancer.

Auckland Marathon
November 2025

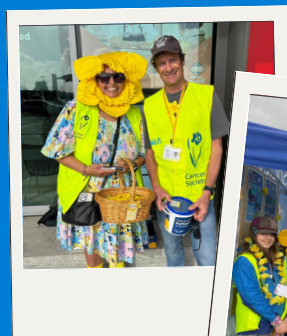


Runners take on the Auckland Marathon and raise funds for Cancer Society.



Brave individuals and groups jump out of a plane to support Cancer Society.

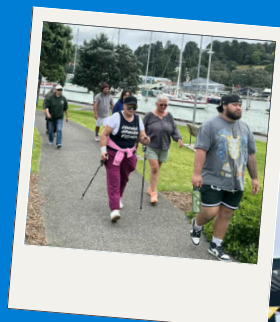
Jump For Cancer
May 2025



Daffodil Day
August 2025



Daffodil Day is a huge success, bringing communities together to volunteer, fundraise and support the one in three New Zealanders affected by cancer.



Marathon in a Month
November 2025

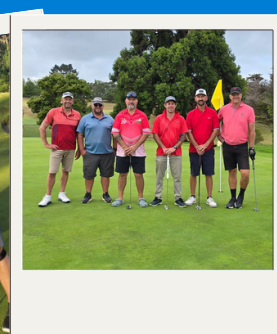


Communities across Auckland and Northland take on Marathon in a Month, challenging themselves to complete more than 42km throughout November.

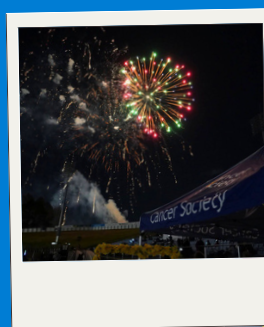


The Longest Day kicks off, with the first teams playing a whopping 72 holes of golf to raise funds for Cancer Society.

The Longest Day
November 2025



Fireworks Spectacular
November 2025

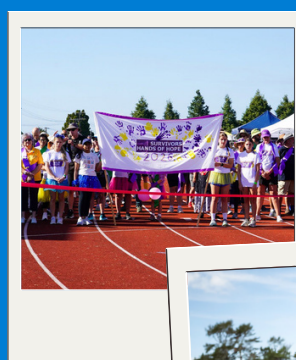


The Whangārei Lions host the Fireworks Spectacular at Semenoff Stadium, with all proceeds supporting the Northland Accommodation Lodge.

Ram-A-Thon
December 2025



The Shri Ram Mandir community hosts the Ram-A-Thon, walking 20km from Auckland Domain to the temple to raise funds for Cancer Society.



Relay For Life
March 2025



Two incredible Relay For Life events at Auckland's Triggs Arena and Whangārei's Trigg Arena bring communities together to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer.

OUR VISION

Working together towards a future free from cancer

Te mahi tahi mō te anamata mate pukupuku kore



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

0800 CANCER (226 237)

www.cancer.org.nz

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSOR

