Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

Manawatū Centre Annual Report 2026

www.cancer.org.nz

CHAIR'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this report on behalf of the Manawatū Centre Committee for 2026. Throughout the year, the Committee met regularly to help the Cancer Society provide high-quality support services to people affected by cancer and maintain a strong connection with the Manawatū for the future. Our work has been guided by a commitment to prudent governance, sound financial management, and the wellbeing of the communities we serve. This could not have been achieved without the dedication of the Manawatū Centre's staff and the support of Central Districts Division.

Cancer continues to have a significant impact on New Zealanders and their whānau. Demand for supportive care services remains high, with hundreds of people across the Manawatū, Horowhenua and Tararua districts requiring practical, emotional and financial support during their cancer journey. Our dedicated staff and volunteers have responded with compassion and professionalism, ensuring that many of those who face cancer receive the care and assistance they need.
One of the greatest strengths of the Manawatū Centre continues to be its volunteers. Across governance, fundraising, administration, patient support and transport services, volunteers make an enormous contribution to our success. The work of our volunteer drivers deserves particular recognition. Their willingness to travel long distances ensures that patients can access treatment safely and reliably, often at difficult times in their lives. On behalf of the Committee, I extend sincere thanks to every volunteer for their commitment and generosity.

Financial sustainability remained a major focus throughout the year. As predicted, we experienced periods of cashflow pressure, particularly during the middle part of the year, however we were the beneficiary of stronger than expected fundraising with our fundraisers' success with philanthropic grants and several significant bequests strengthened our position considerably by year end. Careful monitoring of expenditure, investment management and ongoing efforts to increase regular giving and grant income have helped to improve our financial outlook. We are particularly grateful to all donors, grant funders and supporters whose generosity enables us to continue delivering essential services throughout the region.

Relay For Life and Daffodil Day once again demonstrated the remarkable support our communities have for the Cancer Society. Richard Hart, chair of the Relay For Life Committee, who along with an energetic committee and our dedicated staff, ran a very enjoyable Relay For life in March this year.

These initiatives not only generate valuable funds but also raise awareness, celebrate survivors, honour those lost to cancer, bringing communities closer together. We acknowledge the dedication of the Manawatū Centre staff, the Relay For Life committee, sponsors and participants who contribute so much to the success of these events.

The Committee also oversaw several important projects during the year. Improvements included the opening of our Dannevirke premises at 20 Gordon Street and the successful installation of solar panels at Addis House. These projects strengthen our ability to serve local communities while improving our sustainability and efficiency. Investments were also made in vehicles, technology and facilities across the Centre's three service locations.

A key governance achievement during the year was the successful adoption of a revised constitution to ensure compliance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The new constitution strengthens the governance framework of the Manawatū Centre and positions the organisation well for the future. The Committee remains committed to continuous improvement and effective stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors, community partners and supporters. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people affected by cancer. As we look ahead, we remain committed to ensuring the Cancer Society Manawatū Centre remains financially sustainable, community-focused and responsive to the needs of those we serve.

Yours sincerely,

John Waldon
Chairperson of the Manawatū Cancer Society

YEAR OF OUR IMPACT

822 total new clients offered support

282 therapeutic sessions with clients. Massage, reiki, reflexology, and yoga

3,304 contacts with our supportive care team

193 participants across our different programmes

KIA ORA – E TE IWI

Over the past 12 months, the Central Districts Division successfully delivered six Kia ora – E te Iwi hui across Hastings, Palmerston North, Waipukurau, Raetihi, Tikitiki, and Hicks Bay. In Palmerston North, the programme was delivered in partnership with Te Whanake Rangitāne Trust, who co-hosted the event.

Holding the hui in the Palmerston North CBD enabled participation from whānau and patients currently undergoing treatment. Attendees were keen to gain a better understanding of cancer services, treatment processes, and the support available to them and their families. Discussions highlighted gaps in communication and awareness of the range of services available within the community and hospital settings, particularly for those travelling from outside the region as patients or support people.

Looking ahead, the Central Districts Division remains committed to expanding the reach of Kia ora – E te Iwi across the wider Manawatū, Horowhenua, and Rangitāne regions. Plans are underway to work alongside local Māori Health providers to deliver future programmes that continue to strengthen knowledge, connections, and support for Māori whānau affected by cancer.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

$342.5k
Manawatū Relay For Life fundraising

$184.2k
generous donations from our 2025 Daffodil Day appeal

$47.1k
raised through other special events in our community

$163.9k
through individual and group donations

$93.9k
grants provided from our incredible funders

CANCER PREVENTION WORK

65
SunSmart accredited schools, 57.5% of our region

170
sunscreen pole bookings

175
health education sessions held with community groups/organisations

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

136,483km
driven by volunteers taking clients to appointments

11,659
hours dedicated by volunteers equal to 224 additional unpaid staff hours per week!

265
volunteers/groups logged hours and participated in tasks to support the Centre

The Difference our Volunteers Make!

Anne is one of our volunteers at Addis House and has been supporting us for the past nine years across reception, oncology and fundraising for Relay For Life and Daffodil Day.

Anne was diagnosed with Cancer in 1985 and while having treatment she found the Cancer Society very supportive especially the Supportive Care area connecting with others and providing valuable information. Her husband John was then diagnosed in 2010 and passed in 2016. He was given a chair from the Cancer Society and they were both linked with people for support. This made her feel that it was such an important place that she wanted to give back.

Anne enjoys the contact she has with the clients first starting their cancer journey in the Oncology role and then seeing them use the facilities, courses and treatments available to them here at Addis House. She likes seeing the link between the two areas and seeing how the support from the Cancer Society is needed.

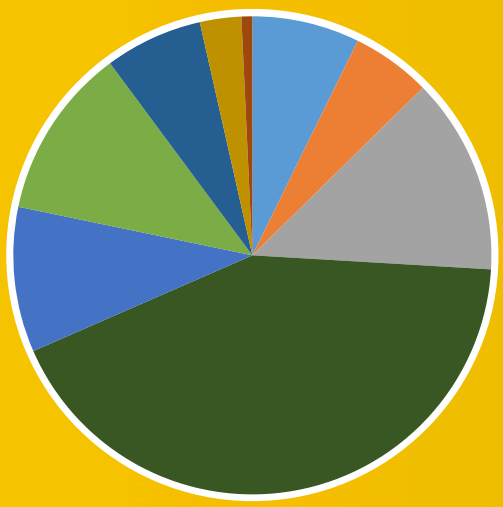
“You feel really appreciated and valued and that the effort you make, makes a real difference to the clients” she says.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income

23%	Bequests	$365,890
3%	Investments	$53,703
4%	Grants - Operational	$56,060
2%	Grants - Capital	$37,950
10%	Donations	$163,863
10%	Donor Appeals	$159,438
3%	Special Events	$43,111
3%	Rental Income	$47,109
8%	Sundry Income	$120,512
22%	Relay For Life	$342,490
12%	Daffodil Day	$184,171
	Total Income	**$1,574,297**

Expenses



7%	Administration	$99,122
5%	Depreciation	$73,255
13%	Health Promotion	$181,401
43%	Support Services	$579,772
10%	Volunteers	$133,881
12%	General Fundraising	$158,123
7%	Relay For Life	$90,266
3%	Daffodil Day	$38,169
1%	Grants	$10,000
	Total Expenses	**$1,363,989**

Net Surplus $210,309

Explanatory Notes

1. Merchandise activity for Relay For Life and Daffodil Day are included in the events above. In the Audited Financial Statements the merchandise income is in Revenue from commercial activity.
2. RFL Grants received ($15K) are included in the Relay For Life income figures above. In the audited Financial Statements RFL grants are included in Grants Received Operational.
3. Grant income above is $15K less than what shows in the Audited Financial Statements. This is due to RFL grants showing in Relay For Life income.

THANK YOU

The Manawatū Cancer Society Centre Incorporated would like to gratefully acknowledge all those who have supported us financially and in kind through grants, bequests, and sponsorships over the past year.

- Aylene Hobson Memorial Trust
- COGS
- Central Energy Trust
- Derrick Ward Scholarhip Fund
- Eastern & Central Community Trust
- Est J Bryant
- Est J E Pierard (Kynaston Charitable Trust)
- Est K J Robinson
- Est P Curran
- Est P L Shepherd
- Horowhenua DC - Operations and Small Assets Fund
- Horowhenua DC - Shannon Community Development Trust Fund
- Jacobs Florentine - Est M Woolley
- Mainland Foundation
- Mercury Energy
- Meridian Energy Ltd - Decarbonisation Fund
- NZ Community Trust
- NZ Lottery Grants Board
- Palmerston North City Council
- Public Trust - The Helen Graham Charitable Trust
- The Lion Foundation
- Trust House Foundation
- Ventia Community Grant

Executive

Chairperson:
John Waldon

Committee Members:
Peter Griffin (Deputy Chair)
Jo Dean
Ashley Shearer
Penny O'Leary
Aaron Phillips
Bridget Percy

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Major Sponsor

Staff

Administration:
Fran Harvey (until December 2025)
Centre Coordinator
Liz Henare (from February 2026)
Centre Liaison & Business Services Manager:
Chris Franklyn
Events Coordinator:
Jo O'Neil (until June 2025)
Events Assisstant
Sophie Bayliss (from September 2025)
Health Promoter:
Jose Gutry
Supportive Care:
Brylee Knowles – Horowhenua
Cherie Rissetto – Tararua
Lois Sinclair – Manawatū
Transport Coordinator:
Kaye Graham
Relief Transport Coordinator:
Janine McCready (from May 2025)
Volunteer Coordinator:
Hayley Puketapu (until June 2025)
Jo O'Neil (June 2025 until January 2026)
Loren McIntyre (from February 2026)

Manawatū Centre

135 Ruahine Street
Roslyn
Palmerston North 4414
Open 9am - 4pm, Monday - Friday

Winchester House

112 Winchester Street
Levin 5510
Open 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday

Daffodil House

20 Gordon Street
Dannevirke 4930
Office hours by appointment

Contact us

T | 06 356 5355
E | enquiries.mtu@cancercd.org.nz

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