

World Indigenous Cancer Conference

What an incredible opportunity to have the World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC 2026) hosted here in Aotearoa New Zealand. Held every two years, the conference provides a global platform for Indigenous peoples to share research, innovations, experiences, and successful models of cancer care. It also creates opportunities to strengthen international connections and support Indigenous-led approaches to improving cancer outcomes worldwide.

Hosted by Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership Aotearoa in partnership with the World Indigenous Cancer Network, the conference brought together Indigenous health leaders, researchers, clinicians, policymakers, advocates, cancer survivors, whānau, and community organisations from around the world.

The Central Districts Division was proud to have two staff members presenting at the conference. Cherie Rissetto presented her research, “Challenges and Opportunities: Whānau Māori Cancer Care Journeys,” while Janine Luke-Taamaru co-presented with colleagues from Cancer Society New Zealand on “Kia ora – E te Iwi: A Kaupapa Māori Cancer Education and Support Programme.” It was a proud and rewarding experience for both presenters to share their work on an international stage.



Kia ora – E te Iwi in our Division

Kia ora – E te Iwi is a Kaupapa Māori cancer education and support programme developed by Cancer Society New Zealand in partnership with iwi (tribes) and Māori health providers across Aotearoa.

The one-day hui (gathering) is designed to support Māori whānau (families) affected by cancer, providing practical information, access to support services, and opportunities to learn from the experiences of others. The programme takes a holistic approach, recognising the emotional, spiritual, and practical impacts of cancer on individuals and whānau.

The Central Districts Division has recently delivered Kia ora – E te Iwi hui across Hastings, Palmerston North, Waipukurau, Raetihi, Tikitiki, Hicks Bay, New Plymouth and Whanganui.

Through guest speakers, plain-language information, open discussion, and shared experiences, participants are encouraged to ask questions, build confidence, and connect with others on similar journeys.

For more information about upcoming Kia ora – E te Iwi hui across Taranaki, Whanganui, Palmerston North, Hawke's Bay, and Gisborne contact Vadelia Wirihana-LeGeyt at vadelia.wirihana-legeyt@cancercd.org.nz.

That's a Wrap on Relay For Life 2026

Hawke's Bay Relay For Life took place on Saturday 6th June at Pettigrew Area in Taradale, the first time the event has happened in four years and the first indoor Relay in New Zealand, offering protection against the uncertainty of the weather during this time of year.

Entertainment across the day included local musicians, dance performers and drumming band Bay Batucada. A performance was especially personal for Ollie Pointon, a 14 year old musician from Napier Boys' High School who dedicated a song to a family friend with cancer who sadly passed away the morning of Relay.



Te Haerenga o te Hauora – Journey towards Wellbeing

Over the month of June, the Cancer Prevention team ran Te Haerenga o te Hauora – Journey towards Wellbeing for its second year. A free and inclusive health kaupapa (initiative), open to anyone, that empowers participants to take small, positive steps toward better health and wellbeing. Te Haerenga o te Hauora celebrates and aligns with the values of Matariki/Puanga the Maori New Year, connected to health and wellbeing, reflection, hope and remembering those who have passed. Participants were provided with resources that included recipes, activity ideas, nutritional advice, and fun facts throughout the month. Alongside these were the weekly inspirations and support from our health promotion team.



The kaupapa had amazing success once again, with 154 sign-ups across the country. We had even more people interact with the Facebook page and join the community events our health promoters hosted throughout the month. We have received wonderful feedback and suggestions for next year. We hope to use this feedback to grow this kaupapa and expand our health services to more communities. *"I very much enjoyed this activity and look forward to 2027"*

This is the reason we continue our work, because we see the benefit it provides to our communities; *"Thank you very much, this has encouraged me to get out and try 3 new things and formed a few new healthy habits over the month and I will continue."*

Daffodil Day is Coming Up Fast!

Daffodil Day is a chance to show your friends and family affected by cancer they're not alone, and help the 1 in 3 Kiwis who will experience cancer in their lifetime. As a non-government organisation Daffodil Day helps us to keep the lights on and enables us to provide our services free of charge.



We are so grateful to all the businesses, groups, and individuals from across our community who hold events, volunteer, donate, purchase daffodils, and so much more. You can get involved by purchasing daffodils, pens, potted daffodils, or cookies from our online store at www.cancersocietycd.org

You could also sign up for a volunteering shift at one of our collection stalls across your community at www.daffodilday.org.nz/volunteer

Taranaki

Business Lunches are Back!

In partnership with Little Fed Cafe and The Y Taranaki, we're offering delicious and convenient lunch options perfect for workplaces, teams, and groups looking to get involved. Individual Lunches are \$20. Sharing Platters for 10 people are \$100. If interested, request an order form via email at fundraising.tar@cancercd.org.nz

Hawke's Bay

Daffodil Day Colour Will Return Bigger and Better!

The Daffodil Day Colour Run is returning to Mitre 10 Park on **Sunday, 1 November 2026**, following a hugely successful inaugural event that attracted more than 1,100 participants. Registration details and further event information will be released soon.

Whanganui

Daffodil Day Raffle 2026 – Tickets On Sale Now!

For just \$5 per ticket, you'll go in the draw to win one of many fantastic prizes generously donated by local businesses and our wider community. Better yet, purchase a book for only \$20 to increase your chances of winning while making an even greater contribution to this important cause. Get your tickets online or pop into our centre at 3 Koromiko Road. Together, we can make Daffodil Day 2026 another outstanding success.

Manawatū

Join the Courtesy Ford & Steelfort Charity Car Show for a fun, community-spirited afternoon on **Saturday, 22 August 2026, 11am–2pm at Steelfort Yard, 500 Rangitikei Street, Palmerston North.**

Enjoy an impressive display of vehicles and car clubs, with all proceeds supporting Daffodil Day and the Cancer Society Manawatu. Entry is a gold coin for spectators and \$10 for vehicles. Come along, admire amazing cars, and make a difference!

Gisborne

Keep your eye out on Wednesday 26th August as Ray White Real Estate help us 'turn on the yellow' with business deliveries! Their fleet of yellow cars will be out in force, delivering pre-ordered items off to local businesses ahead of our **Daffodil Day Street Appeal on Friday 28th**. If your business is interested in placing an order, please email fundraising.gis@cancercd.org.nz

Our biggest THANK YOU in advance to everyone who contributes to our fundraising efforts this year. Every dollar makes a real difference to the community education we provide, the clients we support and the advancements we can make through cancer research.

Meet one of our volunteer drivers - Terry!

Terry has been a volunteer driver in Hawke's Bay since 2018 but has been helping out the Cancer Society selling raffle tickets and offering similar support for many years prior since his retirement.

He notes the incredible support the Hawke's Bay Centre offered his mother when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer as one of the main reasons for choosing to be involved with and give back to the Cancer Society. The cause became more personal following a lymphoma cancer diagnosis that meant he was instead on the receiving end of the support the Cancer Society offers.



He describes his time at Ozanam House and 'all the good things happening at the Cancer Society' such as the free massages as an absolute blessing when people are suffering. After taking a break from driving following his diagnosis he is now back as an on call driver and having gone through chemo he can relate to those he's driving on a deeper level. Terry owns a Model A 1928 Ford, which he 'used to court his wife with back in the 60's' which in recent years he's decorated with daffodils for the Hasting's Blossom Parade as a chance to give back to and bring joy to those who have donated to the Cancer Society.

"You get more out of it than you put in it as you get the joy and the pleasure of helping somebody else." he says when talking about his experience volunteering and comments on how well the volunteers are looked after and appreciated. Volunteers like Terry help us provide support to those when they need it most.

If you'd like to learn more or volunteer call 06 348 7402 or visit www.cancer.org.nz/get-involved/volunteer.

Marathon in a Month is on its way

Walk, run, bike, swim, skip... complete a marathon in the month of November, get active, and help cancer patients in your community. It only takes 1.4km each day. By joining the Cancer Society team, your support will ensure that the 81 New Zealanders a day who are diagnosed with cancer will not go through it alone.

You get to set your own challenge, so if one marathon over a month isn't enough, why not do two, three or five!

Registrations open in September so keep an eye on marathoninamonth.org.nz to be ready!

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

August

10th-16th.....Women's Health Week
28th.....Daffodil Day

September

Awareness Months...Cervical Screening
Blue September, Prostate Cancer
Gynaecological Cancer
14th-20th.....Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori
Language Week)

October

Awareness Months...Breast Cancer
10th.....World Mental Health Day
12th - 18thMental Health Awareness Week

GRANTS THANK YOU

The Cancer Society Central Districts Division and its regional centres are immensely grateful to the following grant providers who have provided support in the past few months.

Their support alongside our generous donors allows us to continue helping people with cancer in the community.

- First Light Community Foundation
- Royston Health Trust
- TOI Foundation