



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku
o Aotearoa

Taranaki Centre Annual Report 2026

www.cancer.org.nz



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At last year's AGM the executive committee asked the members to decide whether we should continue as an Incorporated Society or whether we should take the option of becoming a Centre Collective. The members were quite definite that they wanted us to continue as an Incorporated Society so we undertook work and obtained legal advice to rewrite our Constitution/Set of Rules in order to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act. This new Constitution was accepted by members at our Special General Meeting on 3 December 2025. I am very grateful to Executive committee member Rebecca Eaton for the input she had into rewriting our constitution. Unfortunately Rebecca recently resigned from the committee because of increasing family and work pressures. I would like to thank her for her commitment and for her sound advice during our deliberations over the past few years.

We are very grateful for the hard work and dedication that the Centre team have put in over the past year. Unfortunately due to some personality issues there have been a few staff changes in the past year and it has concerned us all that the normally happy dynamic in the Centre has suffered. I was particularly sad to say goodbye to Karen Barkla who has done an amazing job as Centre Coordinator.

On a positive note, two previous employees have recently returned to the Centre in slightly different roles. Kate Dawson used to be the Health Promoter and she has returned in the role of Supportive Care Coordinator. Maryanne Tawhara used to be the Office Administrator and she has returned as Centre Coordinator.

We continue to be blessed with an amazing team of volunteers throughout the province and this is reflected in all the health promotion, support services and, of course, fundraising work over the past year. Fundraising has surpassed all expectations and we are very grateful to Lisa and her teams who worked tirelessly to make Daffodil Day last August such a success and Relay For Life in March such an amazing success. Lisa had set a target of \$225,000 for Relay For Life but in fact surpassed that with \$240,814. We were blessed with another incredible day and there was an amazing atmosphere of joy and enthusiasm. This was quite an incredible achievement considering none of the other Centres in Central Districts were close to reaching their targets.



We also did extremely well at our Daffodil Day events last year, raising a total of \$184,925.

As I write this report this weekend, the participants in the annual Cape Egmont Half Marathon enjoyed a cold crisp morning for their run/walk but were treated to clear views of Taranaki Maunga on a bright sunny morning. Yet again we are incredibly grateful to Nicky Smith and her team for all the work that they put into organising this event which each year generates a significant sum of money for our Centre.

Despite the incredible fundraising that has gone on in the province, finances continue to be a concern. We received another three month Service Fee abatement from Central Districts and this, with the positive fundraising efforts, has left us in a much more healthy financial position than we were a year ago.

Our Te Hawera office is underutilised and we have given considerable thought as to whether owning an office in Hawera which is underutilised is the best use of our finances. We are in the process of trying to work out how best we can continue to have a presence in South Taranaki without having the expense of an empty building.

I would like to close this report by thanking the other members of the Executive Committee who put a lot of work in behind-the-scenes trying to ensure the smooth running of the Centre and ensuring that our funds are put to good work trying to minimise the impact of cancer in Taranaki.

Warm regards,

Ian Smiley

President of The Taranaki Cancer Society

YEAR OF OUR IMPACT



213
new clients
offered
support



116
participants
across our
different
programmes



2,978
contacts
with our
supportive
care team.



134
therapeutic
sessions
with clients.
Massage,
reiki,
reflexology,
and yoga.

KIA ORA – E TE IWI

While hui originally planned for Taranaki were postponed, we were pleased to host a Kia ora – E te Iwi hui at the Cancer Society Centre in New Plymouth in June 2026. The New Plymouth hui was well attended, with participants expressing appreciation for the valuable information provided and the opportunity to have their questions answered in a supportive and culturally safe environment. Feedback highlighted the importance of bringing whānau together to share experiences, gain knowledge, and access cancer support services.

Feedback received across the Division, reflects that the programme continues to strengthen relationships with Māori health providers, iwi, and community organisations throughout the region. It has also increased awareness of the Cancer Society's services and support, helping to ensure that Māori whānau affected by cancer are better informed and connected to the resources available to them.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



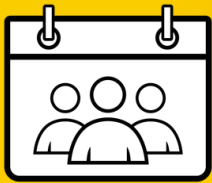
\$240.8K

Taranaki Relay
For Life
fundraising



\$184.9K

generous
donations from
our 2025 Daffodil
Day appeal



\$34.6K

raised through
other special
events in our
community



\$97.5K

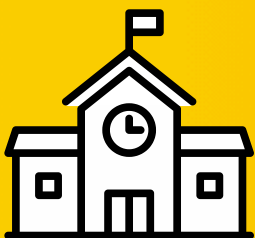
through
individual and
group donations



\$94.1K

grants provided
from our incredible
funders

CANCER PREVENTION WORK



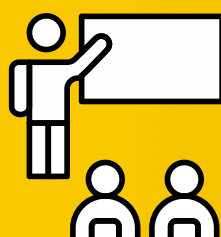
43

SunSmart
accredited
schools, 41%
of our region



33

sunscreen
pole bookings



24

health education
sessions held with
community
groups/organisations

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



10,431km

driven by
volunteers taking
clients to
appointments



3,101

hours dedicated
by volunteers
equal to 60
additional unpaid
staff hours per
week!



61,869km

traveled by our shuttle taking patients
for treatment in Palmerston North

The Difference our Volunteers Make!



Annette Dalman: Giving Back with Grace

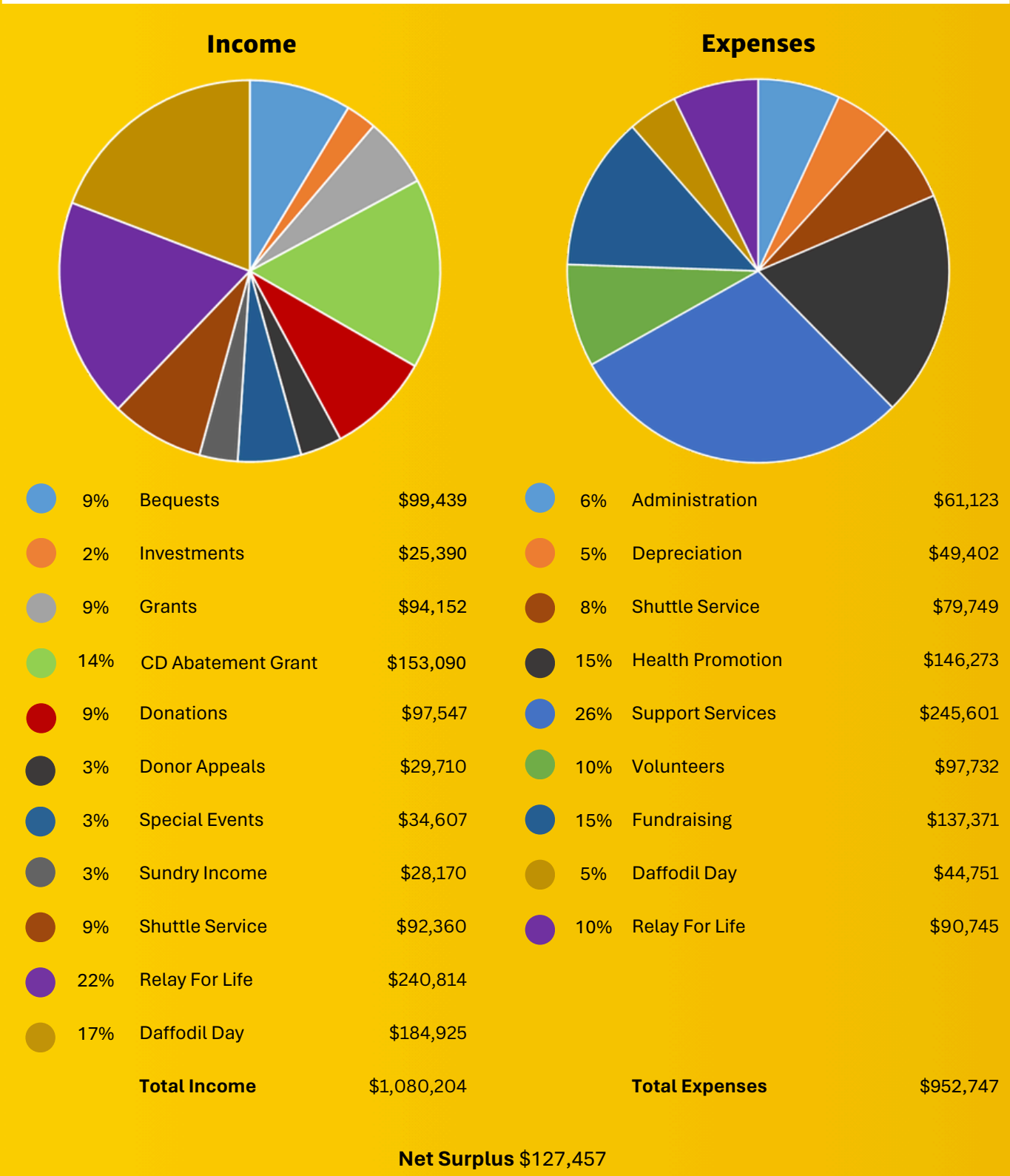
Since moving to New Plymouth in 2021, this retired grandmother of eight has brought not only her organisational skills but also her warm heart to the Cancer Society's team of volunteers.

Having spent 15 years in Brunei working as a secretary at The International School, she's now channeling that same care and commitment into her volunteer work—a personal way of saying thank you for the practical support the Cancer Society gives to people living with cancer.

"To me, giving back means offering a bit of my time to a cause that truly matters. It feels good to be part of something that makes a difference."

One of her favourite activities each year is delivering and collecting the Daffodil Day counter boxes. Businesses are always so happy to help and it is a great way to connect with people who care. "I love seeing the fresh daffodils - they are just beautiful!"

INCOME AND EXPENSES



Explanatory Note

Due to XRB (External Reporting Board) requirements, some figures may differ slightly from what has been previously reported.

THANK YOU

The Taranaki 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.

Aotearoa Gaming Trust
Central Districts Division
COGS Grant
Estate J A McQuattie
Four Winds Foundation
The Lion Foundation
Lotteries Grants Board
Methanex New Zealand
New Plymouth City Council
New Plymouth Club
Noel Yarrow Taranaki Cancer Society Trust

NZ Community Trust
Pakeke Lions
Pelorus Trust
Pub Charities
Taranaki Foundation



Executive

President:

Dr Ian Smiley

Committee Members:

Brendan Clough (Vice-Chair)

Paula King

Jane Snowden

Jill Burge

Matthew Landrigan

Staff

Shuttle Driver:

Andrew Stewart

Relief Shuttle Driver:

Colin Warwick

Supportive Care Coordinator:

Denise Fleming (until July 2025)

Karen Tuck (September 2025 - March 2026)

Service Delivery Manager (Cancer Prevention, Equity, Kia Ora - E Te Iwi programme):

Janine Luke-Taamaru

Centre Coordinator

Janine Luke-Taamaru (until November 2025)

Karen Barkla (from November 2025)

Cancer Prevention:

Kate Dawson (until August 2025)

Carla Alsweiler (from November 2025)

Events Coordinator:

Lisa Russell

Volunteer Coordinator:

Talia Greiner



Taranaki Centre

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9am - 3.30pm

Contact us

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