

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025

## A Message from the Chief Executive

### Welcome to our Autumn newsletter!

Thank you to our supporters and a warm welcome to those reading our newsletter for the first time. Your interest and engagement are crucial in helping us build awareness within the community about our vital services. By staying informed and spreading the word, you play a significant role in supporting Hospice Tairāwhiti and the essential care we provide to our patients and their whānau.

We have some wonderful stories in this edition that celebrate our generous community and keep you informed about what's happening at Hospice Tairāwhiti.

Have you ever thought about helping hospice but felt you lacked the time or resources? This edition highlights three remarkable individuals who have contributed in unique ways:

Bevan, by promoting hospice; Gael, through volunteering; and Sean, through his parents, by donating. There is always a way to help, and while it may seem small to you, it can make a significant impact on our patients and whānau.

We are excited to welcome our first NETP nurse, Tiara, who shares her story about choosing hospice as a new graduate. Palliative care is often overlooked as a specialty nursing area, so it is wonderful to see someone starting their career with such a meaningful focus.

Advocating for a fairer funding model and equitable service delivery of hospice services throughout NZ remains a national priority. While the restructuring of Health NZ may slow this process, we are committed to continuing our efforts. We are fortunate to have one of the most generous communities in the country, who are committed plugging the gap to ensure hospice service remain free of charge to those that need us.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Barbara**



Barbara Grout



## Concern Grows Over Future of Palliative Care in NZ

**There is growing concern about the future of New Zealand's already strained palliative care system following a government proposal to disestablish two national advisory roles.**

Established in 2022, these dedicated palliative care policy roles were designed to create a national strategy and ensure equitable access to palliative care, helping to eliminate a "postcode lottery" faced by more than 38,000 New Zealanders who die each year.

As part of the latest health sector restructuring, these roles are set to be disestablished, with palliative care responsibilities expected to be absorbed into a broader primary care portfolio. However, there is significant concern that without these dedicated roles, palliative care will lose focus at the national level.

Hospice New Zealand and hospices across the country are alarmed by the potential loss of these critical positions within Health NZ – Te Whatu Ora. Barbara Grout, Chief Executive of Hospice Tairāwhiti, warns that disestablishing these roles could severely impact progress in palliative care in New Zealand.

"These roles marked the first time palliative care had dedicated positions within a national health entity, and their loss will likely have a significant impact on the progression of palliative care in New Zealand," says Barbara.

"Based on our experience, when palliative care is simply placed within a broader team for 'oversight,' progress often stalls, and meaningful action at the national level is minimal. Responsibility shifts between teams, and without a dedicated role, the critical importance of palliative care—especially specialist community palliative care provided by hospices—is often overlooked.

"We believe the loss of the roles does not reflect the work and impact the roles are having, it is simply to save money. Our sector cannot afford to lose these key contacts within Health NZ. Retaining these roles is essential to ensuring New Zealanders can not only live well but die well; experiencing quality end-of-life care."

Hospice NZ and other stakeholders are urging decision-makers to reconsider the disestablishment of the two dedicated national advisory roles, emphasising the importance of maintaining dedicated roles for palliative care at a national level.

## Busy Life - Big Heart

**To say Gael Richardson leads a busy life is an understatement. Married for 30 years with two adult children, she juggles a full-time job, a six-day-a-week CrossFit routine, and is a volunteer with Hospice Tairāwhiti.**

Gael has always loved being active and connecting with people. "I love—love—talking to people," she says. Before having children, Gael worked in retail and later spent 14 years as a teacher aide while raising her family. Volunteering was always on her mind when her mother was in an aged care facility. However, after losing her mother and facing a challenging period caring for family, volunteering had to take a back seat.

By 2021, life had settled, and Gael changed jobs and started working as the administrator for Waiapu Kids Te Hapara Whānau Aroha, a community-based early childhood education centre. Beyond administration, she helps out wherever needed, including working with the children and even driving the centre's van. But she also felt the pull to give back to the community in other ways.

After a year of volunteering with the Gisborne City Vintage Railway on the steam train, Gael explored the idea of helping at the Hospice Shop. Following an induction with volunteer coordinator Jane Kibble, Gael's been a dedicated Hospice volunteer ever since.

"I volunteer at least twice a month at the Hospice Shop, and I love working in the shop and helping with other Hospice events and raffles. The team is so welcoming—we have a lot of fun! I think it's important to give back to the community. Hospice does so much, not just for people with cancer but for those with a range of illnesses."



Gael Richardson

Gael appreciates the flexibility that volunteering at Hospice offers. "I help where I can, and the staff work within my schedule."

Her story is a reminder that even the busiest people can find time to make a difference as a volunteer.

## Spotlight on Supporters Finger on the Pulse

**Bevan Chapman, host of *Bevan for Breakfast* on MoreFM, is always up for a challenge. However, none have been as life changing as his decision to move to Gisborne in 1999 after completing his studies in broadcasting in New Plymouth.**

"I moved to Gisborne having never been here before, for a job in radio, and 26 years later I'm still here and loving it," says Bevan.

For him, the decision wasn't difficult. The community was welcoming and kind from the start, and that remains unchanged. "The community's support has enabled me to do and experience so much in my role as morning radio host," he says.

While his role has changed over the years, the *Bevan for Breakfast* show has been going strong since its inception in 2006. The programme's focus is entirely local, which Bevan sees as a key part of its success. "It's our point of difference as a radio station and as a breakfast show. We're here, we're local, and we're all about Gisborne."

This commitment to the community was especially evident when Cyclone Gabrielle hit. Bevan, who received the New Zealand Broadcaster of the Year Award in 2024 and the Gisborne District Council Citizens Civic Award in 2023 following the cyclone, reflects on how the Tairāwhiti community came together during the crisis. "People just helped and supported those who needed it. Everyone got stuck in and did what needed to be done. When the cyclone hit, we all did what we needed to do."

For Bevan, his role was clear: keeping the community informed. "I thought, okay, this is how I can help. The community needs peace of mind during this time. Hopefully, I can provide them with the information they need to hear."



Bevan Chapman

## A Journey of Care

**During two years of caring for her grandfather, Tiara Grayndler-Hollis never considered becoming a nurse.**

“When my papa needed care, he asked me to be his nurse. I said no because I wasn’t qualified,” she recalls. Four years later, she has graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing from EIT, Tairāwhiti.

After earning a qualification in travel and tourism, Tiara left Hamilton in 2019, returning to Tairāwhiti with her children to be with her whānau and care for her grandfather. When he passed away that year, she felt lost but ultimately chose to honour his wishes by pursuing nursing.

Balancing studies with family responsibilities was challenging. “In 2022, we lost my auntie to cancer, and soon after, my dad was diagnosed,” Tiara says. She travelled to Hawke’s Bay in 2023 to care for him while studying remotely. After six weeks, he returned to Gisborne to be with whānau.

“I was lucky that my course allowed me to look after my dad while still studying. During my nursing placements, I was able to support him with the help of Hospice Tairāwhiti. Even when he was very sick, my dad encouraged me to keep studying.”

Through this experience, Tiara saw firsthand the impact of Hospice care. “Hospice nurses and doctors made a difference in my dad’s care. They support not just patients but whānau. People don’t always hear about their incredible work.”

When an opportunity arose to develop her skills and knowledge as a new graduate through the Health NZ Tairāwhiti

Nurse Entry to Practice (NEtP) programme, Tiara chose Hospice Tairāwhiti for her one-year placement.

The programme provides newly registered nurses the opportunity to advance their professional practice, knowledge, and skills within their area of practice in a supportive learning environment.

“Hospice feels like my calling. Nursing is about advocating for patients and ensuring quality care at every stage of life. I feel like Hospice truly does that. For me, it feels like I’m honouring my papa and my dad as a nurse with Hospice Tairāwhiti.”



Tiara Grayndler-Hollis

## Honouring Sean’s Dream



Sean Thompson

**Sean Thompson dreamed of creating a fun museum where children in our community could explore a world of wonder and joy. Though he sadly passed away last July before his vision could be realised, his legacy of bringing happiness to children lives on.**

In loving memory of Sean, his parents, Kevin and Pauline Thompson, recently made a heartfelt donation to Hospice Tairāwhiti. The donation will support children in Tairāwhiti who are in some way affected by life-limiting illnesses, helping to bring them comfort and joy.

The funds were raised through the sale of hundreds of toys Sean had originally purchased for his fun museum. Honouring his wishes, Kevin and Pauline shared, “Sean wanted this donation to help brighten children’s lives—allowing them to enjoy a special gift or experience that might not have been possible otherwise.”

Expressing their deep gratitude to Hospice Tairāwhiti, they added, “Sean received such compassionate and extraordinary care during his time with Hospice. Words cannot fully express our appreciation for the comfort and support your team provided to him and to us during those difficult days. Your dedication to maintaining dignity and offering solace to those nearing the end of life’s journey is truly remarkable.”

Kevin and Pauline hope that their donation will contribute to Hospice’s vital work, ensuring that other families receive the same kindness and support. “Please accept this as a token of our appreciation and know that your efforts are deeply valued by all whose lives you touch.”

## Fashion with a Purpose

**Introducing the boutique section at the Hospice Shop—a space dedicated to high-quality clothing, shoes, handbags, and accessories. This exclusive area, known as the “Top Notch” collection, features stylish, sought-after pieces perfect for fashion enthusiasts.**

The boutique showcases an impressive array of designer labels, including Karen Walker, Trelise Cooper, KILT, Kate Sylvester, Kowtow, alongside premium brands like Kathmandu, Adidas, Puma, Nike, Converse, Vans and many more. For those in search of the perfect outfit for a special occasion, we offer a dedicated rack of evening wear, wedding dresses, veils, and accessories.

“Thanks to generous donations, we frequently receive brand-new items—sometimes directly from local

retailers,” says Brenda Kinder, Hospice Shop manager. “These may include end-of-line pieces or items from seasonal sales, allowing shoppers to purchase high-end fashion at a fraction of the original cost.

“Best of all, every purchase helps Hospice Tairāwhiti continue to provide free palliative care and support, making your shopping experience not just enjoyable but truly meaningful for our community.”

Whether you are drawn to contemporary fashion or timeless elegance, there is something special waiting for you at the Hospice Shop.



## Wish List

People often ask us what they can do to help provide for our patients and whānau so staff have put together a Wish List. If you'd like to help support those in our community who have a life limiting condition you can make a donation of:

### Goods:

- » **Sugar, eggs, butter** - For jam making which we sell in our Hospice Shop as well as baking that we give to our patients and their whānau.
- » **Plastic containers with lids** – suitable for soup
- » **Paper bags** – To pack shop purchases for our customers
- » **Plants and produce** – for our Hospice Shop

### Professional Services:

- » Pedicure, manicure at patient's home
- » Hairdresser at patient's home
- » Volunteers for delivery/pick up and setting up of equipment

### Contribution of funds towards purchasing patient equipment that we will be replacing/upgrading in 2025:

- » Electric Beds (2)
- » Pressure care mattress (1)
- » Syringe drivers (2)
- » Nebulisers (2)
- » Oxygen concentrator (1)
- » Wheelchairs (2):

**Total cost \$21,000**



## Bequests & Donations

As with all hospice palliative care services throughout New Zealand, much of our funding comes from grants and donations from people like you. Raising money from our community keeps our services free.

If you are passionate about making a meaningful impact on the lives of others in our community, we invite you to be part of something extraordinary.

Each year we need to raise a significant amount of money to continue to provide our current services free of charge to people with life limiting illnesses and their families.

By making a financial donation or including Hospice Tairāwhiti in your will, you support patients, families, and whānau in receiving free palliative care services. Your gift will ensure that hospice care is accessible to those in need, providing comfort and support during some of life's most challenging moments.

If you would like to make a donation or leave a bequest, please visit our website, speak to your lawyer or accountant, or contact us directly.

*Making a donation or leaving a bequest holds profound significance, extending far beyond one's lifetime.*

## Getting to Know About Hospice

Are you interested in learning more about Hospice Tairāwhiti?

- » What is Hospice, and what does it do?
- » What services does Hospice offer?
- » Why are Hospice services free for our community?
- » How does Hospice collaborate with others in our community?

If you or your organisation would like to learn more, please get in touch!  
Contact KJ on 027 254 3671 or email [kj@hospicetairawhiti.org.nz](mailto:kj@hospicetairawhiti.org.nz)



KJ is the marketing and fundraising coordinator for Hospice Tairāwhiti and has been involved in Tairāwhiti organisations in both operational and strategic leadership roles. She says, "I love working alongside our community to help make a difference to individuals and their whānau where living every moment is the focus."

### Get in touch

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