There has been a very welcome flurry of activity on the medical front at Hospice Whanganui and we’re delighted to have some new faces with us. The appointment of new doctors to Hospice staff has been met with some excitement!

Dr Ilse Hofmeyr returns to medicine after a departure to enjoy raising her family. She has lived in Wanganui for many years, has been involved with dairy farming and has, on numerous occasions volunteered to help with fundraising at Hospice. An opportunity to look at returning to medicine arose and, after hearing a lecture given by Dr Marion Taylor, Ilse discovered that that possibility existed at Hospice Whanganui. Ilse is now on staff with us under Marion’s supervision.

Dr Mary Andhoga joins us on staff having recently arrived from London. We are delighted to have her as a permanent member of our medical team and she brings with her extensive palliative care knowledge and experience. Mary was born and spent her early years in Nairobi where she also began her medical education. A Commonwealth Scholarship was on offer in 1990 and saw Mary emigrate to the UK to pursue training in plastic and reconstructive surgery. The transition to palliative medicine came as a result of wanting to balance a heavy work and study load with the desire to raise her three children. This transition was not a difficult one she says. Just as the change to palliative care was the right decision, so was the move to NZ. Mary says she knew instinctively that she was in the right place and the settling in to a different life style and change of pace is something she’s enjoying.

Dr Athol Steward has been involved in emergency medicine for many years and has been the clinical director of ED at Whanganui Hospital. Athol says he has a feeling for, and inclination toward, palliative care and palliative medicine, and will be with us at Hospice initially for a period of six months. He says he is looking forward to working with the Hospice team and providing care and services to a special group of patients.

Dr Marion Taylor has made the decision to retire from the permanent position of medical officer at Hospice but remains on staff with us in a supervisory capacity. Marion will lend her expertise and advice to the team as a mentor and educator as well as having some involvement in locum work. There are exciting and interesting times ahead for us all!
Season’s Greetings.

Well it has been another busy and exciting year for Hospice Whanganui. We have undergone some major changes in our clinical leadership and medical team. It was with sadness that we farewelled Heather Brown, our Clinical Services Manager, into a well earned retirement. This led to a restructure of our nursing leadership, which has strengthened our ability to respond to the increasing demands on the nursing team.

The other major change has been Dr Marion Taylor’s semi-retirement. Marion will remain with Hospice offering support to our new medical team, education, training and some locum cover. We are very grateful to Marion for all the years of skill and expertise that she has given to Hospice Whanganui and for her continuing support into the future.

Our new look medical team are: Dr Mary Andhoga, Dr Ilse Hofmeyr and Dr Athol Steward who cover the day shifts, Monday – Friday, ably supported by our after hours team.

It is with great delight that I am able to confirm that Peter Mealey has completed his Masters degree enabling him to apply for Nurse Practitioner status. Peter has worked hard to achieve this and will be one of only a small number in Whanganui. It is a real coup for Hospice Whanganui and will significantly strengthen the service to our patients.

A significant piece of work that has been completed this year is our strategic plan. While “business as usual” continues, our five year plan increases our focus on relationships, education and support for generalist Palliative Care providers.

So, busy times ahead, but also exciting times. The team and I at Hospice bid you all a safe and relaxing holiday season and thank you for supporting us so generously this year. I wish you and yours all the best for 2016.

Karen Anderson
CEO

Our Hospice Whanganui volunteer workforce of more than 200 are a strong reliable team that we have come to depend on. They not only assist with fundraising which is an important part of our everyday life, their input helps to shape and define our service. They are a connection to hospice for many people while offering their support to patients and families in our care. St Wilfrid’s Hospice in Eastbourne in the UK, puts it beautifully... “Volunteers offer a sustained caring connection to people in a way that transcends the purely clinical”.

It’s true that for many people who face the prospect of being in contact with the hospice service for the very first time, it can be an ordeal. Our volunteers bring with them their skill, their knowledge, their experience and their personal qualities and it is these attributes that form the connections with the families in our care. Ordinary people doing ordinary things, at the most extraordinary of times. They greet our visitors in a positive, friendly way. They provide companionship and hospitality to patients, relatives and visitors. They are approachable and engaging. Add to these qualities the ease with which they function in the hospice environment, their being on staff helps to put others at ease. It’s a reassuring message at what can be a difficult time.

The value that our volunteers bring to Hospice Whanganui can not be understated, and their involvement in ensuring we can deliver our services is critical. There is far more to it than just showing up and doing the job, and that commitment is a gift we’re appreciative of.

Valda Brechmanis
Volunteer Services Manager
Hospice Whanganui RN Peter Mealey has every cause for celebration! After five years of managing the work/life/study balance, his education on the road to Nurse Practitioner status is finally done and dusted and we’re delighted for him, our patients and our families. “Distance learning can be hard” he says “but Hospice Whanganui have been supportive at every step and I offer my sincere thanks for that support.” In April there is the formality of the cap ‘n’ gown graduation and the next step is to go before the New Zealand Nursing Council. There, armed with his experience and newly minted qualification he’ll undergo an intensive interview to see if they will grant him his Practitioner status. Good luck Pete!

Post-graduate study is ever-present in the lives of our nurses and we congratulate another three of our staff who have, this year, committed their time and resource to the one-year programme and been awarded the Post-Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care. RN’s Frith Teka, Sharon Haughian and Raewyn Gilligan have all been successful in completing this body of work and join a number of our other nursing staff who are practising with this post-grad qualification. Part of the Hospice Whanganui philosophy is to encourage staff to further themselves with post-graduate study whether it be at Certificate, Diploma or Masters level and there will be more of our staff “hitting the books” in the coming year.

Our three retail outlets are the core of our fundraising activity and provide much-needed revenue to ensure that our care and services remain accessible and free of charge to families who need them. It’s comforting for our patients and families on the one hand, and also for those who donate to or shop with us, to know that all the proceeds from those shopping transactions come directly to Hospice Whanganui. It really is locals supporting locals.

Store managers, Sue, Lynda and Leonie oversee enthusiastic volunteer teams who run the shop and take on all manner of tasks you might associate with a successful retail business. Volunteers accept, sort, wash, price and display goods for sale, work “front-of-house” in sales and customer service, work behind the scenes doing handyman or repair work, or are out collecting donated goods in our hospice trucks. They are also the face of Hospice for many of our regular customers and are a connection to the service for them.

The retail staff are keen to offer our customers a great shopping experience and take real pride in presenting an environment that is enjoyable to shop in. Sue says “We’ve had really positive comments about how the store is looking since we started the alterations, and people love to check on the progress when they come to shop or bring their goods to donate. They’re as excited about the changes as we are!”

Lynda agrees and says their customers love the fact that their shop is always so well-presented and that they receive such positive feedback and comments. “The volunteers take such pride in making the store look good”, she says, “and love to pass on and share the compliments they get about how the shop looks.”

There are many “frequent flyers” at our stores and, for some, a visit to the store is an event in itself. Leonie says that they have out-of-town visitors who call in regularly and love to shop, enjoying the experience and what they see as points of difference. “We always have such lovely comments about how nice the stock is, and how good the prices are, from our out-of-town customers in particular. For them, our shop has become a destination!”

With Christmas on the horizon it’s worth looking instore to see what’s on offer. From everyday bargains to special interest and seasonal items, they’re all there.
Inpatient unit nursing staff Jess and Colleen on duty during another busy shift at the unit.

Volunteers Jeannie and Damien on hospo duty at the soiree acknowledging the Farming Friends of Hospice and 200 Club members.

Wanganui Girls College Principal Tania King with Astra Community Awhi students and their donation to Hospice.

Volunteers Baden, Mary, Peter and Sally, burger-flipping at the Craigs IP Pro-Am Golf Tournament.

Valda receives a community donation from Victoria at New World Supermarket.

Hospice social worker Louise Rostron, pastoral care co-ordinator David Bebearfald and accounts administrator Robyn Podjursky organised and led our annual Remembrance Service at Christ Church in Wanganui.
Action stations at the Hospice Grand Estate Auction! Our warmest thanks to Brian and Nicky from Haywards Auctions who contributed significantly to the success of the event, as did the dozens of staff and volunteers who gave up their time to help. 433 lots were auctioned on the day, with some beautiful and interesting items under the hammer. From Moorcroft to gem irons, there was something for everyone.

Community RN Heather busy getting organised to head out and see our patients who are at home.

Eric Weir, Farming Friends founder and chairman for 10 years, hands over the reigns to new chairman Brian Doughty, at their recent AGM.

Hospice staff and our community partners attend the presentation of the Hospice Whanganui Strategic Plan for 2015-2020, held at the Collegiate Motor Inn.

Louisa Craig and Pat Reu from the organising team of “Voices for Hospice”, were singing from the same songbook when they came up to bring us their donation from a very successful event.
Christmas is a special time of year and at Hospice, we’ve got a few special ways that you can acknowledge, celebrate and remember those who are important to you.

This year we will have the Tree of Remembrance at Farmers Department Store where, in exchange for a donation to Hospice, you can write a card to remember loved ones whose company you miss. The cards are fixed to the Tree, and after Christmas are collected for a special remembrance ceremony we have at Hospice in the new year.

The return of our ‘pop-up’ Community Tree at Trafalgar Square will be a welcome one, and you’ll also be able to write a card for this Tree and buy tickets for lovely raffles. We’ll have Christmas cake raffles, our 2015 Christmas Angels, and a few other goodies we’ve got stashed away! Both Trees will be up until close of business on Christmas Eve.

There are also fantastic seasonal bargains to be had at any one of our Hospice shops, so if you’re looking for stocking stuffers or something special or a little bit different, pop into any one of our three stores.

Wanganui East - 74 Duncan Street, East Village  Ph: 343-1292
Gonville - 73 Tawa Street, Gonville Ph: 344-8093
Boutique - 172 Victoria Ave, opposite Stirling Sports Ph: 348-2302
Anndon Lodge
ANZ Staff Foundation
Ascot Motor Lodge, Wellington
C.O.G.S.
Cleveland Funeral Home
Collection Box Holders
Crystal Valley Water
Daly Adams Benefit Trust
Dempsey & Forrest
Dilmah NZ
DX Mail
Estate PI Cook
Farming Friends of Hospice Whanganui
Fonterra Grassroots
Genesis Oncology Trust
H&G Print
Hospice Volunteers
Hospice Whanganui Foundation
Leedstown Trust
Lion Foundation
Mars Petcare, Wanganui
McCarthy Transport
Members of the 200 Club
More FM, Wanganui
Midweek
Mud Ducks Cafe
NZ Community Trust
NZ Lottery Grants Board
NZ Post
Powerco Wanganui Trust
Pub Charity
Richdale Fire & Security
Rivercity Press
Spooner’s Drycleaners
The Warehouse, Wanganui
Wanganui Insurance Brokers
Wanganui Community Foundation

*We also acknowledge the hundreds of people in the Wanganui community who, in a variety of ways, lend their support to Hospice with donations of funds, time, resources, skill and enthusiasm. We appreciate and thank you all.*
Stuck for a Christmas gift idea? Not any more!

Great for home, car, office, boat, camping, caravans!

Fabulous FIRST AID kits just $30!

$10 from each kit purchased is returned to Hospice Whanganui!

Support this fundraiser and get your kits now from the Hospice on Virginia Road, or any of our Hospice stores.

Yes! I would like to support Hospice Whanganui.

Enclosed is my donation.

☐ $100  ☐ $75  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ $10  ☐ Other  $________

Website: www.hospicewanganui.org.nz - find the DONATE button on the homepage.
Under Additional Information, please put the donor’s name and the reference: NL donation
Our bank account: Westpac 03 0791 0571167 00

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