

# hospice matters

SUMMER 2015



## Christmas – from the CEO – a time for family, a time for celebration, a time for remembrance.

As Christmas approaches we look forward to the time we will spend with family, the celebrations and we also take time to reflect on the year that has been. For many of us this will be a time of remembrance for those no longer with us.

At Hospice we take time to celebrate our “family” of wonderful staff and volunteers who bring the “Hospice Sparkle” to life 365 days of the year. Our annual volunteers Christmas party is held late November each year and is a chance for us to thank all those who contribute so much to Hospice. With selfless commitment, over 300 volunteers bring life to Hospice each day, from housekeeping, to meals for patients, from making sure the windows are sparkling to the pristine garden, from the dedicated shop volunteers to those manning the Tree of Remembrance, from those supporting the many fundraisers to our Board of Trustees, the Hospice sparkle created by our volunteers is evident for all to see. Our volunteers truly are a testament to the fabulous community we belong to and just how important Hospice is to us all.

We also have a lot to celebrate this year. There have been a number of new initiatives undertaken to grow the services offered by your Hospice. In March we opened our Queenstown store and then in July we appointed a full-time Palliative Care Nurse Specialist Celine Collins to focus on patient needs in the Wakatipu, as well as supporting other health professionals in the area looking after patients with palliative needs. The generosity of the Wakatipu community in support of Hospice Southland has been overwhelming, reminding us yet again the regard with which we are held and the importance of quality end-of-life care.

We have also sought to increase our support for Aged Residential Care facilities throughout the region. This has been extremely timely with a focus from the Ministry of Health on Hospice working more closely with ARC.

This year has seen many celebrations. From the Golf Tournament in March, the “Living Every Moment” event held during Hospice Awareness Week in May, the “Town vs Country” fundraiser in August, the inaugural “Hospice Great Race” held on World Hospice Day in October, to the annual Tree of Remembrance event now held at Farmers and the many, many fundraiser events held by service groups across the region, Hospice really has been a part of our community.

When we reflect on these things we realise just how special our community is. We are all fortunate to be a part of a community where so many give so much, a truly “Caring Community” where no-one needs to feel alone in a time of need. Thank you for your support of Hospice, together we are ensuring those in our community in need of Palliative Care have access to the very best of care. We should all be proud.

Finally, a very special team member of Hospice is leaving us at the end of this year. After seven years as Medical Director here at Hospice Southland, Dr Christian Robold will be returning to live and work in Europe. Over the last seven years we have very much benefitted from Christian’s huge amount of international knowledge and experience in Palliative Care. Christian has played a pivotal leadership role throughout this time, helping to inspire the very best care for both patients and their families and will leave a hugely positive legacy here in the south.

We have a new Medical Director joining us early in the New Year, Dr Amanda Sommerfeldt all the way from Iowa USA. The great team here at Hospice Southland was one of the key attractions for Amanda to her new role and her family is looking forward to settling here in Invercargill.

So the very best wishes for you and your family over the festive season and I look forward to working with you all in the new year to ensure our communities have access to the very best palliative care.



## Tree of Remembrance

Once again all Farmers stores are busy raising funds for hospices throughout the country in the lead up to Christmas.

As well as having the Tree of Remembrance in all 56 stores – Farmers are also selling specially designed, hand painted baubles from early October.

There are two designs – Pohutukawa by Michael Tuffery and Kowhai by Letitia Lam.

Inspired by the iconic “kiwi” Christmas Tree, Michael’s design is in the traditional colours of Christmas, laden with “antipodean holly” symbolising our sense of place. The design also reflects Tivaevae capturing the vibrant beauty and unique design so familiar throughout the Pacific.

Kowhai is the official flower of hospice. The design was inspired by the concept of being looked after which is the essence of the service Hospice provides.

The baubles are available exclusively at Farmers stores at a cost of \$10 each – the full \$10 will be donated to support hospice services in our community.

So please head into Farmers, make a donation to place a card on our Tree of Remembrance and help raise funds for Hospice Southland.



## Merry Christmas from Hospice Southland!

Hospice Southland staff, along with the Board of Trustees, would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Thank you for your support during the past year, whether through donations, as a volunteer, in kind support or corporate sponsorship. We look forward to continuing these relationships into 2016 and beyond.

Happy holidays!

Save the date: Friday 18 March – Craigs Investment Partners Hospice Classic

# Hospice Shops closing dates

All four of our Hospice Shops, Invercargill, Gore, Winton and Wakatipu will be closed over the Christmas period from 24<sup>th</sup> December, re-opening on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

The Hospice Shops continue to fulfil their vision of "turning second hand goods into first class care." This year we opened our fourth Hospice Shop in Queenstown in March and in October opened an Invercargill store extension at 123 Yarrow Street, stocking furniture and all sorts of Christmas goodies!

The sterling work undertaken by Regional Retail Manager Sonia Manaena, Gore Hospice Shop Manager Sue Neiman, Winton Hospice Shop Manager Maree Ronald and Wakatipu Hospice Shop Manager Kay Mortimer and their respective shop volunteers, together with the generosity of those who donate goods for sale, continues to make an invaluable contribution to bridging the gap between our funding and the cost of delivering Hospice services throughout Southland.

Sonia says all of the shops are exceeding expectations. "I'm pleased we have been able to keep affordable prices and such a high standard of goods due to the overwhelming support of the communities. Thank you for your support this year and I wish you a very merry Christmas."



Queenstown Shop



Invercargill Shop



Gore Shop



## Hospice Southland Annual Street Appeal Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March

The 2016 Hospice Southland Street Appeal will be held in various locations throughout Southland on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March. We need volunteers Southland-wide so if you're interested in collecting on the street, would like to have a donation bucket in your business, or would like to organize volunteers for the day at a collection location, please contact Renee on 03 211 2287 or email [renee@hospicesouthland.org.nz](mailto:renee@hospicesouthland.org.nz)

## Volunteer Christmas function

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated the hard work and commitment of our volunteers with a volunteer Christmas afternoon tea at the Invercargill Workingmen's Club. Approximately 300 volunteers provide their time freely to a range of service functions within the hospice facility. They bring a unique and humbling aspect to our services and we consider them to be the 'heart' of our services.

Tasks within the hospice include, cleaning, cooking and baking, gardening, small repairs and maintenance to buildings, administration functions and at the governance level of the Board of Trustees. Volunteer tasks in the wider community include fundraising activities, operating the Hospice Shops and promotional events.

In 2014-2015 volunteers for Hospice Southland contributed 31,254 hours of their time. We would like to thank our volunteers for everything they do, we couldn't do all that we do without you!

Special thanks to Jeannie from Country Manor for kindly donating the wonderful catering for this function.

## Craigs Investment Partners Hospice Classic Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March

The 2015 Craig's Investment Partners Hospice Classic held in April was a fantastic day out and with an outstanding field of players; it proved to be a very close competition. The event raised around \$10,000 for Hospice Southland's specialist palliative care services.

Planning is well underway for the 2016 Craigs Investment Partners Hospice Classic to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The Invercargill Golf Club was an excellent venue and will host the 4 ball best ball stableford event again next year.

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole on the course, sponsoring a prize or entering a team of four in the tournament, please contact Renee on 03 211 2287 or email [renee@hospicesouthland.org.nz](mailto:renee@hospicesouthland.org.nz)



## Wishlist

Festive goodies for patients and their families over the holiday season • Grocery vouchers  
Dishwashing Liquid • Toilet paper • Canned Fruit • Wheat bags • Plastic grocery bags

# Goodbye to Dr Christian Robold

Hospice Southland Palliative Care Medical Specialist Dr Christian Robold is saying goodbye to us at Hospice Southland on the last day of this year – 31st December.



IT IS TIME FOR ME TO SAY GOODBYE. After seven years this is not an easy task and during the last few weeks of this year many memories have come up and I have been reviewing both my work as a hospice doctor and my private life in New Zealand.

The original plan was to stay for two years. And well, here we are after seven. Doesn't that tell a story? When I first arrived in 2008 just in order to take a look and to find out if the hospice position could be an option for me and if the lifestyle would suit our family I was warmly welcomed by staff and the leadership team. When I started in 2009 there were many things to do, to review and to tackle. I loved creating a relationship with our hospital colleagues and getting involved in student training and providing education. Working on a national level helped me get a better understanding of how palliative care is provided in New Zealand. I could feed some of my previous experience into the national development of palliative care. However the most important task was to provide excellent care for the patients and families of our region.

My children love Southland and the nice and calm environment. They certainly embraced the opportunities that they could explore in the far south. My daughter has become an avid horse rider and she participated in some regional competitions. My son loved playing soccer (no, not rugby, there we remained "European").

Leaving Southland and its friendly and warm (and sometimes rugged) people makes me sad. On the other hand developing new ideas, new opportunities and coping with new challenges appeals to me as well. I am looking forward to the change but I will certainly return. All the best to the hospice and to our staff, and thank you for having me.

**SITTING IN HANOVER IN GERMANY** almost eight years ago, Christian was curious to know how palliative care was done in New Zealand and up popped Invercargill.

Whilst Southland didn't provide big city lights, it did provide an abundance of beauty, not too many people, and it seemed like a good place to bring up children. The Robold family duly arrived to take up residence, having to make the many adjustments required when moving to the other side of the world.

Having been without a permanent specialist for some time, Christian's arrival was very welcome and he brought with him

freshness, enthusiasm, and a real desire to make a difference to palliative care services in Southland.

He has been warmly received by Southland patients and their families, who have responded to his genuine interest and concern for them, his calm and reassuring manner and his expertise in palliative care.

Offering education and support for all professionals working with people with a life limiting illness was high on his priority list. Consequently he worked hard to strengthen links with GP practices, Doctors and staff at all of our Southland hospitals, District Nursing services, and Resthomes. He has a particular interest in mentoring students and he welcomed House Surgeons and Medical and Pharmacological students, always willing to give of his time in order for them to be able to learn and understand the important principles of providing excellent whole person care.

As well as supporting Southland palliative care, Christian contributed nationally. He became a member of a Hospice New Zealand working group during his first year in New Zealand, and helped to develop the national standards in palliative care. He was also on the committee of the Australian New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM) and helped to plan the ANZSPM conference in Queenstown in 2012.

During his years in the deep south Christian has become "kiwified." He soon picked up kiwi euphemisms, has learned the meaning of all those phrases we shorten which drove him crazy when he first arrived, he's learned the fine points of rugby and he's been a great supporter of the Southland Stags even though his first love is still "the beautiful game." He's learned cheese rolls are even better than sliced bread and despite not being a fan of Bluff oysters, he agrees that "there is nothing like them".

He's made an impact on the deep South, and a little bit of him will remain with us, as he no doubt will take with him his memories of us.

We thank him for the contribution he's made to Hospice Southland, but most of all we thank him on behalf of the many patients and their families who in experiencing his kindness, compassion and knowledge of palliative care, have benefited from his presence in the most difficult of times.

We wish you well Christian.  
Ka kite ano – God Bless

## Project knit update SCARF CLOCKS UP ITS FIRST KM!

There is 1,006 metres (3,300 feet) of scarf on site here at the hospice and we know there are lots more completed lengths all over Australasia, including a yarn group at Murray Bridge in South Australia who have stockpiled a staggering 60 metres. Project Knit is still gaining momentum with new knitters joining the fun. To put it in perspective, nearly 10 million stitches have been knitted by people intent on helping Hospice Southland bring this world record home!

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## Thank you to our generous donors!

Arrow Events	\$1,500	Proceeds from Gold Rush Fundraiser
Bruce & June Matheson	\$3,737	Defibrillator
COGS - Southland	\$11,500	Grant – Family Support and Education
Cruickshank Pryde Barristers & Solicitors	\$27,161	Estate Mervyn Ronald Thomson
Dutch Club	\$40,000	Sponsorship of two vehicles
Guy Waddel Charitable Trust	\$4,500	Grant – operational funding
Harrex Group	\$1,500	Donation
Hokonui Fashion Awards	\$1,000	Proceeds from event
Hugh Anderson Charitable Trust	\$6,000	Donation
Ian Shefford	\$1,000	In Memory Donation
ILT Foundation	\$35,000	Grant – operational funding
J B W McKenzie Trust	\$1,000	Donation
Jayden Murch	\$1,090	In Memory Donation
John Ward	\$1,000	Donation
Ken Sommerville	\$1,000	In Memory Donation
Leanda Davis	\$2,000	Donation
Lions Club of Clinton	\$20,000	Proceeds from Brassica Competition
Lions Club of Te Anau Kepler	\$1,000	Donation
Lions Club of Toi Tois	\$2,500	Annual Quiz night
Lions Club of Tuatapere	\$10,000	Proceeds from annual Hay Drive
Lois Lindsay	\$1,000	Donation
Motor Trade Association	\$1,300	Proceeds from Fastest Spanner Event
Mrs D M Warren	\$5,000	In Memory Donation
Mrs Kathryn Allen	\$1,000	Donation
Mrs Mary Howard	\$1,000	In Memory Donation
Mrs Olive McKenzie and family	\$1,000	Donation
Mrs Robyn Wrigley	\$7,096	Proceeds from Lonely Dog Book Sale
PH Vickery Charitable Trust	\$25,000	Grant – PCNS in Resthome role
R G & M W Winwood	\$1,000	Donation
Southern Victorian Charitable Trust	\$6,000	Grant – operational Funding
Southland Service Medical Charitable Trust	\$7,899	Donation for Oska Cirrus Pain Therapy Mattress
Vernon Hall Trust Fund	\$4,000	Grant – Contribution towards nurse vehicle
Waiau Town & Country Club	\$4,847	Proceeds from Wild Food Festival

## The Great Race & Family Fun Day

Thank you to everyone who turned up and braved the conditions on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October for our Great Race and Family Fun Day! The weather put a bit of a dampener on the Family Fun Day but The Great Race had a fantastic turnout of 13 brave teams who raised just over \$2,000 for Hospice Southland! The winning team was Are We There Yet with The Headless Chickens and HoTspice coming in 2nd and 3rd. Thank you to the teams who managed additional fundraising and it was great to see everyone dressed up and getting into the spirit of it.

