

Anastasiia's Incredible Research on Endometrial Cancer!

Anastasiia is a Research Fellow at the Cancer Society Research Centre in Auckland. Originally from Ukraine, Anastasiia came to New Zealand eight years ago to pursue her PhD. In 2023 she was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship from the Cancer Society and started her own project dedicated to endometrial cancer.

Thus, with two different approaches we are trying to design clinical tests that are easy to administer, minimally invasive, and better accepted by our patients to detect endometrial cancer early."

Researchers like Anastasiia couldn't do any of this without your support.

Regarding endometrial cancer Anastasiia says *"It's the most common gynaecological cancer in the world. But the current problem with endometrial cancer is that the available current tests for diagnosis and treatment are invasive. That's why less and less women decide to go and be diagnosed, and then decline the treatment. With my research, we are trying to solve these problems and offer affordable and minimally invasive tests to get patients diagnosed early."*



"I'm focusing on cancer research because cancer remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide. And each year millions of lives are being affected by this.

For someone considering a donation to Cancer Society, I would say that by donating you become part of the solution. Your donation directly funds the research that can change the current cancer statistics for the better."

The project is currently in its second microbial study phase, and if all goes well, the tests will be clinically trialled this year!

She says *"We are aiming to find biomarkers for early detection of endometrial cancer and are exploring two different avenues. First, we are looking at the signals that are sent directly from the tumours and can be detected in a blood sample. By examining specific proteins in the patients' blood, we aim to determine not only whether the person has cancer but also what type of cancer it is.*

The second approach will examine whether a certain bacteria in the uterus could indicate the presence of endometrial cancer.

SUN PROTECTION ALERT



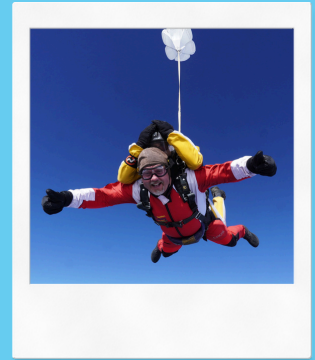
PROTECTION REQUIRED

Even on cloudy and cooler days, slip into some shade, slop on some sunscreen, slap on a hat, and wrap on a pair of UV protected sunglasses.

Be SunSmart this summer!

Get Ready to Jump For Cancer!

Picture yourself at the open doorway of a plane. Feel the air rushing past you, your quickened pulse as you look down on breath-taking Aotearoa New Zealand. Imagine edging towards the door, and then before you know it... 3... 2... 1... jump!

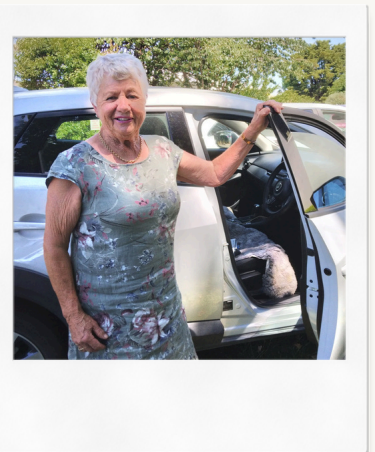


All you need to do is sign up, raise \$1,000, and you'll get a free jump! Experience the thrill of helping to create a future with less cancer! The event is in May but you can sign up and start fundraising now! Go to jumpforcancer.org.nz to sign up!

Meet Judy Evans, an Amazing Volunteer!

Judy joined our amazing team of Gisborne volunteer drivers last year. She first got involved with the Cancer Society when her mother passed from Leukemia. For many years she's bought raffles, helped where she could, and last year decided to take the jump into volunteer driving. Sometimes she transports up to three people a week, other weeks are quieter, it all depends on when a client needs support.

Judy enjoys volunteer driving and says "I have met some very interesting people, any support you can give them as they're going through their journey is really appreciated. It's very rewarding, and the people are lovely."



When asked if she'd recommend others volunteering for the Cancer Society she said "Oh definitely. I think there are a lot of people out there who should volunteer. Broadens your perspective, and makes you appreciate what you've got. The Cancer Society are a supportive group to volunteer with."

Thanks for your work Judy, and to all our volunteer drivers, the difference you make in people's lives cannot be overstated. The Cancer Society is always looking for more volunteers. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in volunteering please give us a call on (06) 348 7402 or visit www.cancer.org.nz/get-involved/volunteer

Don't Miss Out on Relay For Life 2025!

Relay For Life is a community fundraising event full of energy and emotion. Whether you have a connection to someone who has been or is going through cancer, or you just want to make a difference - Relay For Life is for you! Registrations are closing soon for our 2025 Relays! Don't miss your chance to be involved in this meaningful event - sign up your team now!

Scan here to sign up!



Or go to relayforlife.org.nz



22 March 2025 - Whanganui Relay For Life

22 - 23 March 2025 - Manawatū Relay For Life

29 March 2025 - Taranaki Relay For Life

29 - 30 March 2025 - Gisborne Relay For Life

Relay Your Way - Hawke's Bay, run your own relay when and where your community would like. Perfect for school groups, community organisations, and more!

MARATHON IN A MONTH

CBRE Taranaki Does over 1,000km for Cancer

We want to say a massive thank you to CBRE Taranaki who were New Zealand's top fundraising team for Marathon in a Month!

They got involved as an office because "With one of our team members going through his own cancer journey, it was perfect timing for us to get on board and support a good cause."



The team of nine set themselves a goal of completing 1,000km and ended up doing over 1,100km, the equivalent of more than 26 and a half marathons! Each team member set their own target, most adding on a few extra km to make it more of a personal challenge. Their team target was a great motivator as nobody wanted to be the one who didn't do their bit and let the team down. They said it created a bit of in-house rivalry which led to a great vibe and banter within the team.

They'd recommend others get involved saying "It is a great team event with a worthwhile outcome. Anything to get everybody moving has to be good."

They've decided to take part again this year, and we'd encourage you to as well! Whether it's as a workplace, social group, or as an individual, Marathon in a Month is for you!

Rachael Completed over Seven Marathons in November!

At the start of November Rachael challenged herself to complete 160km (almost four marathons), by the end of the month she'd blown past that goal and completed 307km, just over seven marathons! Having been involved with the Cancer Society as a street collector for Daffodil Day and as a part of Relay For Life, Rachael took on Marathon in a Month as another way of giving back. She has a strong family connection to cancer, with her mum passing away from it a few years ago and her brother experiencing cancer recently.



She says that "Throughout mum's journey the Cancer Society was amazing. They supported her with all sorts of programs such as Look Good Feel Better which made a huge difference for her. When the opportunity to do Marathon in a Month came up I thought – 'well why not!'"

She loved Marathon in a Month and thinks you would to, Rachel says "It's good for your health, supporting a really good cause, and the great thing about it is you can set your own goals for a challenge that suits you!"

This year Rachael will be involved in supporting Relay For Life and is planning to take part in Jump For Cancer with her two daughters - because completing seven marathons in a month just wasn't enough!

We want to say a big thank you to Rachael for everything that she does to support those with cancer in our communities, and to all those who took part in Marathon in a Month.

The event will be back again this year so if you'd like to get involved registrations will be open in September 2025 at marathoninamonth.org.nz

Longest Day Golf Challenge - a combination of two passions for William Langslow

William Langslow from Taranaki recently took on the Longest Day Golf Challenge - a grueling but rewarding 72-hole golf marathon. Starting at 5.45am and finishing at 5.45pm, his Etec Services work team approached the 12 hours on the green as a great opportunity for team building whilst raising funds for a good cause. They played across two courses which helped with the challenge by providing a change of scenery. Both courses had let their players know the team was coming and what they were doing, meaning as soon as they got to another group they would let them play through.

THE LONGEST DAY



For William getting involved was an easy decision as the challenge was “a great way to put my love of giving back and playing golf together.” He’s a big supporter of his friends and their kids fundraising efforts, so when the time came to ask his network for support, they were happy to help pay it forward.

If you’re a golfer he’d recommend you get involved, saying “100%. I really enjoyed the day, and when you’re playing for a cause like this it’s real meaningful.”

Thank you to William, his teammates, and all our golfers who took part in the Longest Day Golf Challenge. The challenge will be back at the end of this year for December/January so keep an eye out at longestday.org.nz

Consider leaving a gift in your will to the Cancer Society

Everything you do, such as your connections with your family/whānau and friends, your work, sporting or community activities, all contribute to memories of you. Another way is to leave a planned gift to the Cancer Society in your will. When you support us, you become a partner in helping to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer affecting our families and our communities. A gift in your will to the Cancer Society will:

- change lives for the better by ensuring those going through cancer receive free compassionate care and support
- fund world-class cancer research which helps people live better and longer with cancer
- help reduce preventable cancer through their health awareness work in the community.

Contact us for more information

If you are interested in learning about leaving a gift in your Will for the Cancer Society call 06 356 4011, send an email to bequest@cancercd.org.nz, or go to www.cancer.org.nz/bequest

UP COMING EVENTS 2025

February

All MonthOvarian Cancer Awareness Month
4thWorld Cancer Day

March

All Month.....Lymphoedema Awareness Month
20th.....World Oral Health Day
22nd.....Whanganui Relay For Life
22nd/23rd.....Manawatū Relay For Life
29th.....Taranaki Relay For Life
29th/30th.....Gisborne Relay For Life

April

All MonthOral Cancer Awareness Month
7th.....World Health Day
15th.....Microvolunteering Day
24th-30th.....World Immunisation 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 supporting people with cancer in the community.

- Aotearoa Gaming Trust.
- Lottery Manawatū / Whanganui Community
- Lottery Taranaki Community
- Taranaki Foundation Team
- Thomas George Macarthy Trust