

Impact Report

2023





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Our Vision

That no New Zealander will die of bowel cancer

We may not ever completely eradicate bowel cancer, but through better screening, treatments and support, we can catch it earlier – when it’s most treatable. That’s why we won’t stop until we’ve beaten apathy, beaten embarrassment, beaten the lack of awareness and funding ... and above all, beaten bowel cancer.

Our Mission

We aim to combat bowel cancer on every front

Bowel Cancer New Zealand is a nationwide, patient-focused charity dedicated to reducing the impact of bowel cancer in our communities through awareness, education, advocacy, research and support. Our goal is to lead the world with solutions to reduce New Zealand’s bowel cancer statistics and free future generations from the impact of bowel cancer.

Support

We’re supporting New Zealanders recovering from treatment and those living with bowel cancer, and their whānau.

Awareness

We work to spread the word about the high incidence of bowel cancer in New Zealand – and its signs and symptoms.

Education

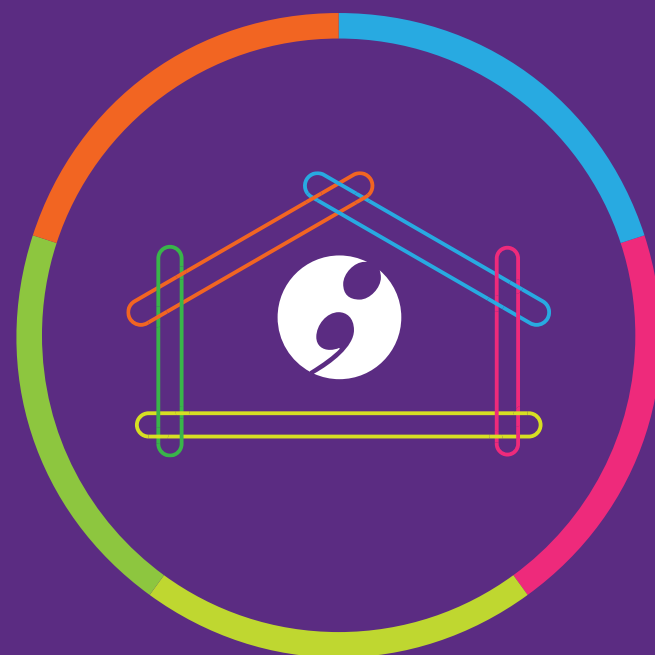
We create and share information about preventing bowel cancer – to both the public and health professionals.

Research

We support world-class researchers in their vital work to develop new treatments and drugs.

Advocacy

We continue to lobby for nationwide bowel screening and to advocate for more testing and drug funding for this beatable disease.



Dean's Story

Bowel Cancer NZ Ambassador

PATIENT STORY

Dean Barker's face and amazing American's Cup career are familiar territory to the New Zealand public. But you may not know of his private and courageous fight with bowel cancer.

It was in 2019, when Dean and his family were living in America, and he was training with the America's Cup team, that Dean first noticed blood in his stool. Dean spoke to the team doctor, who organised an appointment with a gastroenterologist. He initially booked a colonoscopy for three months, but for peace of mind, the team doctor brought this forward, and it took place within just five days.

"Of course, I was hoping the results would be normal, and I'd come out with a clean bill of health, but unfortunately, I was wrong, and the colonoscopy revealed a tumour in the wall of my colon", Dean says.

The treatment was six months of chemotherapy, and Dean started his first round on New Year's Eve. After that, life fell into a surreal routine with fortnightly treatments and barely any time to recover before the next one started.

"Treatment started on a Monday, and my goal was to be well enough to sail on the Saturday. It was so good to have this to focus on, as it helped keep me going. The first 2 or 3 treatments didn't

feel too bad, but after that, it really took it out of me as the chemotherapy has a cumulative effect," Dean recalls.

Dean now has yearly CT scans, colonoscopies, and regular blood tests. He is very thankful for his early diagnosis and grateful for his outcome. He knows the prognosis could have been very different if his colonoscopy had been scheduled for later as originally planned. That said, the shock of his diagnosis at 46 is still hard for Dean to shake.

"The diagnosis came out of nowhere for me. I've no family history of this, and I was a fit and healthy guy in my 40's. Why did I get it? What did I do? You question everything. Your diet, your lifestyle, but there's no point. Sometimes things like this just can't be explained, it's the luck of the draw, and I've just had to accept that."

Dean is a proud ambassador for Bowel Cancer New Zealand, as despite being a quiet and private family man – Dean only told a few of his teammates he was undergoing treatment – he wants to get the message out there. Especially the misconception that bowel cancer is an older person's disease.

"I'm working with Bowel Cancer NZ because if by sharing my story, I can help just one person to go and get checked out early, then it will be worth it."



Chair Report

2023 was another excellent year for us, so I'd like to personally thank every team member for their energy, commitment, and the heart and soul they pour into Bowel Cancer NZ. Our success is a direct reflection of their hard work.

Some of my personal highlights from our activity this year include:

- The growth of our donation revenue so we can meet the objectives of our mission;
- The expansion of our patient wellbeing programme to include financial support;
- The strategic and governance mahi from the Board;
- The launch of our new symptoms' awareness campaign.

We'd like you to join us in welcoming new Board members Linda Faulkner and Jemma Balmer to the charity and thanking them for their contributions so far. We also said goodbye to Trisha Cooney and Peter Krijger, who, we can all agree, had a significant impact during their time on the Board and helped guide the charity to where it is now.

As always, we extend our gratitude to CottonSofts and Plumbing World for their sponsorship and financial support, as well as to our donors Joy Shivas and Ted Manson for their constant and continued support.

Thank you all for another year of combating bowel cancer on every front. I look forward to continuing this vital work in the year ahead.

Stefan Corbett



GM Report

While this past year has been another challenging one as we enter a 'new normal' post covid, and with the added impact of weather events on many Kiwis, it has been gratifying to step back and see what we have accomplished.

We are hugely proud to have launched another tier to our wellbeing programme just before Christmas last year, with the addition of financial assistance for newly diagnosed patients. This support is particularly timely as the cost of living continues to climb, putting pressure on those already vulnerable.

In February, we launched a new nationwide symptoms awareness campaign, 'Get Off Your Butt', urging Kiwis to recognise the symptoms of bowel cancer and get checked. We are very proud of the vital life-saving awareness it raised, and the response from the public and clinicians was very positive.

We were also delighted to have sailing great Dean Barker join us as a patient ambassador, bravely sharing his personal story in the media to raise vital awareness. Jenny-May Clarkson continues her mahi to help the charity in any way she can, as do our community ambassadors and medical advisors.

Thanks to our supporters and partners' ongoing and generous support, we have kept patients at the forefront of everything we do.

Rebekah Heal

Our People

We're all here to help more Kiwis beat bowel cancer. At Bowel Cancer New Zealand we pride ourselves on being patient-focused, as many of our Board and team have been personally affected by this disease. It's what drives us to make a difference.

The Team



Rebekah Heal
General Manager



Mary Bradley
Communications and
Campaigns Manager



Cheryl McCormick
Database Administrator



Victoria Thompson
Nurse Support Coordinator



Jo Morgan
Grants and Partnerships
Manager



Odessa Weber
Finance and Support
Administrator

Board Members

Stefan Corbett
Chair

Annika Lim
Deputy Chair

Rachel Afeaki Taumoepeau
Secretary

Kevin Jones
Treasurer

Sarah Derrett

Louisa Graham

Linda Faulkner

Jemma Balmer

Our Patron

Hugh Fletcher

Our Medical Advisors

We are privileged to work closely with a dedicated group of medical advisors who share our commitment to reducing New Zealand’s bowel cancer statistics.



Frank Frizelle
Professor of Colorectal Surgery, Christchurch Hospital and Editor in Chief at the NZ Medical Journal.



Dragan Damianovich
Medical Oncologist at Auckland Hospital and Auckland Oncology, specialising in Gastrointestinal Oncology.



Sue Crengle
GP, Public Health Physician and a Professor (Hauora Māori) at Otago Medical School focusing on health inequities.



Anne Mathieson
GP and bowel cancer survivor who offers a unique perspective from both sides: as a doctor and patient.



Alasdair Patrick
Gastroenterologist who consults at Auckland’s Middlemore Hospital and in private practice in Remuera.



Kate Ellison
NZ Registered Dietitian and Nutritionist with over 25 years of experience and is also a bowel cancer survivor.

“Bowel cancer is New Zealand’s second highest cancer killer. So if you have any symptoms, it’s vital get them investigated, no matter what your age. And keep getting checked if you’re not happy with the diagnosis. Many bowel cancer symptoms fluctuate – they can come and go – so it always pays to get checked if anything is bothering you.”

Professor Frank Frizelle

Our Ambassadors

These well-known Kiwis, and our community ambassadors, share our values and have a personal connection to our cause that motivates them to do all they can to raise awareness of bowel cancer.



Jenny-May Clarkson
TVNZ Breakfast presenter Jenny-May Clarkson is committed to raising awareness after her brother died of bowel cancer at age 56.



Dean Barker
Sailing legend Dean Barker was diagnosed with bowel cancer at 46 and wants to encourage Kiwis to see their GPs if they have bowel concerns.



Alex Pledger
Former Tall Black and Breakers basketball player Alex Pledger is a recent bowel cancer survivor, so this is a cause close to his heart.



Duncan Heyde
Rock FM host and TV presenter Duncan Heyde came on board as he lost a good mate to bowel cancer at only 30 years old, driving him to spread the word.



Claire Turnbull
Author, speaker and nutritionist Claire Turnbull has had cancer touch her life in many ways. She believes in the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet.



Kevin Biggar
Adventurer, speaker and author Kevin Biggar lost his beloved mother suddenly to bowel cancer. He has been a supporter of the charity for many years.

Community Ambassadors

Wayne Fa’asega
Tamsyn Cornwall
Rachael Ferguson

Joanna Sharpe
Natalie Reynolds
Alan Sciascia

Sue Soper
Owen Malpas
Jane Lowe

Support

We're here for you. We provide nationwide, accessible patient support from diagnosis through to survivorship.

OUR SERVICES

- 

Free phone helpline
We're here for you – just a phone call away
- 

Financial assistance
Grocery and petrol vouchers to help in times of trouble
- 

Free counselling sessions
Talking to someone can be hugely helpful
- 

Funded physio rehab sessions
For patients going through or finished treatment
- 

Active online support groups
Support from those who have walked a similar path
- 

Virtual coffee group
Connect with others through monthly peer support
- 

Live website nurse chat
Our registered nurse is here to help

Our Wellbeing Programme provides a lifeline to the thousands of New Zealanders affected by bowel cancer. We offer practical and emotional support, and this year, we expanded our programme to include financial assistance for those undergoing treatment. Our grocery and petrol vouchers have been welcomed by patients hit by the cost of living crisis and struggling to make ends meet.

Our support groups continue to grow, and along with our virtual monthly coffee group, provides a safe place for people to connect with others walking the same path. They provide peer support so patients can share information freely and feel less alone or isolated.

Our nurse continues to provide personalised support for patients and their whānau via our helpline and live website chat service. The number of people we have supported with our free physiotherapy and counselling sessions has increased, with twice as many resources downloaded and double the number of people visiting our website for information as last year.

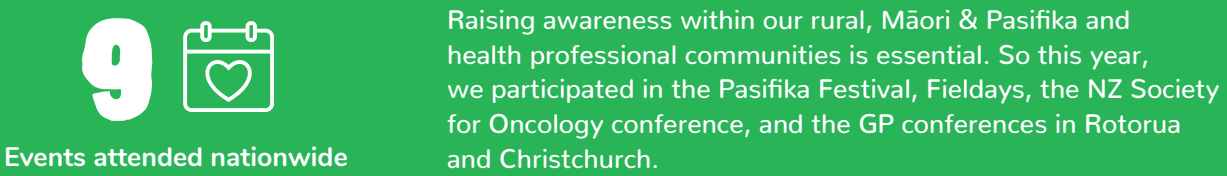


“At the end of chemotherapy, I developed problems with my left leg, and the pain made it very difficult to return to my normal activities. This affected the time my wife and I had become used to sharing. Thanks to free physio sessions from Bowel Cancer NZ, we’re now able to enjoy doing all our normal activities together again.”

Bowel cancer survivor Ian Browne, with wife Jennifer

Thanks to you!
We're making a difference.

A snapshot of how, thanks to your donations, we've supported bowel cancer patients and their whānau during the most challenging of times.



Statistic source dates: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Awareness

We work to spread the word about the high incidence of bowel cancer and its signs and symptoms in Aotearoa, New Zealand.



A TVNZ Sunday story heralded the start of our Never Too Young campaign for its fifth year. In an exclusive interview, our newest ambassador, Dean Barker, spoke to John Campbell about his bowel cancer diagnosis in 2019 while he was training for the America's Cup.

Dean had only told those close to him of his diagnosis as he's a private person. However, he wanted to help get the message out there that 'you're never too young'.

The impact of the TV interview was quickly felt. The National Bowel Screening team told us hundreds more people contacted them about bowel screening because Dean shared his story.

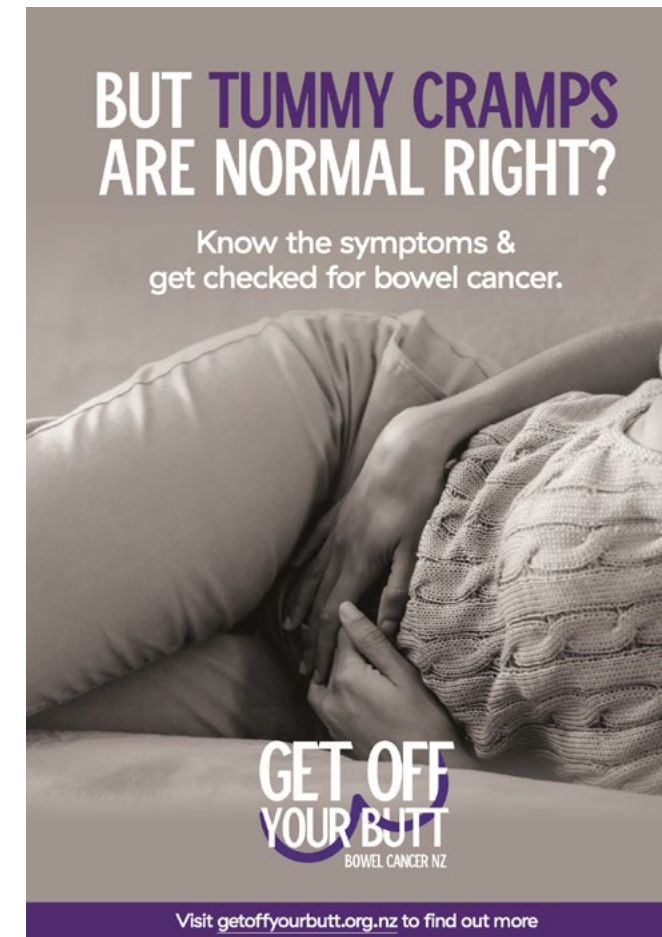
An opinion piece in NZ Doctor and an editorial in the NZ Medical Journal meant

we ensured we also reached health professionals with our 'never too young' message.

This year we launched 'Get Off Your Butt', our new awareness campaign focused on educating the public and health professionals about bowel cancer symptoms.

This comprehensive campaign ran in February and included posters on the back of toilet doors in malls nationwide, digital billboards in main centres, radio awareness ads, and a Health TV promotion that reached 750,000+ people.

As part of 'Get Off Your Butt', we also developed an online symptom checker. This tool allowed the public to tick the symptoms that applied, and a summary was then emailed to them to show their GP. Over 1,500 people utilised the symptom checker, raising vital, life-saving awareness.





Victoria presenting to Deaf Aotearoa

Education

We create and share information about preventing bowel cancer with the public and health professionals.

Our mission to reduce the impact of bowel cancer on our communities is reflected in our dedication to education.

We continue to reach diverse groups, like Deaf Aotearoa and Sealed Air NZ, with our workplace and community wellness seminars. The more Kiwis we can reach with bowel cancer education, the better their chances of detecting it earlier.

We have recently expanded our education programme by introducing webinars for the public and patients in our support groups. These sessions covered a diverse range of topics, including healthy eating tips from nutritionist Claire Turnbull, and a discussion panel featuring young-onset patients talking about their diagnosis and treatment experiences.

Our team and medical advisors remain committed to resource development. This year, we created our most comprehensive booklet yet, *'Just Diagnosed - What Happens Next'*, which has been well received.

Also completed and available is our prevention booklet, *'Keeping a lid on bowel cancer – Ways to lower your risk.'*

"Thank you for coming down to present this workshop which is very much appreciated. The Deaf community found it very useful and have been talking about it with their friends and families."

Annette Hansen, Facilitator at Deaf Aotearoa

"Thank you very much for the Just Diagnosed resource, the information contained was exactly what I was after."

Becky, bowel cancer patient

"Your energy and passion on the subject encouraged staff to interact and ask questions that they may have normally been too shy to ask. Having 'Colin the Colon' here made a huge difference as the event then became interactive, encouraging discussion within the groups."

Sue, Sealed Air

Another exciting development is our long-time sponsor, CottonSofts, has partnered with our charity to include bowel cancer symptoms on some of their packaging. This provides the public with a regular reminder of bowel cancer symptoms and encourages them to get checked.

New Zealand has one of the worst rates of bowel cancer in the world, and CottonSofts has taken this very seriously, jumping at the opportunity to create awareness and encourage Kiwis to get tested.



Kim Calvert
CottonSofts
Country Manager



Sue, with our nurse Victoria, standing in Colin, our inflatable colon.





Research

We support world-class researchers in their vital work to develop new treatments and drugs.



This year, we established two new research partnerships to provide vital funding in our fight against bowel cancer.

We are proud to be contributing funding to the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research for their CAR T-cell clinical research programme.

Our funding is helping their talented researchers develop cancer-killing CAR T-cells that are more durable and effective at targeting different types of tumours – including those found in bowel cancer.

A one-off treatment works by redirecting a patient's own immune cells (T-cells) in the laboratory to directly identify and attack cancer cells. These modified T-cells are then returned to the patient, where they can attack and destroy cancer cells. CAR T-cells have the potential to act as 'living drugs,' providing long-term protection against relapse.

Our other research partnership is with K9 Medical Detection NZ. We are helping advance their research into the early detection of bowel cancer in patient urine samples using their German Shepherds, Levi and Weta.

These dogs completed a validation for the completion of the "Proof of Concept" stage. The results were world-leading, with a success of 98.4% sensitivity (correctly identifying those with a disease) and 100% success specificity (correctly identifying those without a disease).

"K9MD is absolutely delighted to announce the support of Bowel Cancer New Zealand. K9MD's vision is to create a simple diagnostic urine test for the early detection of bowel cancer, and we are proud to be working alongside the passionate and dedicated team at Bowel Cancer NZ. Together, we can make a difference."

Next is the "Diagnostic Accuracy" stage to estimate sensitivity and specificity with patient urine samples in real-world conditions.

Dogs have an incredible sense of smell. They have up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses, compared to six million in humans, making their smell receptors up to 100,000 more powerful than ours. The part of a dog's brain devoted to analysing smells is, proportionally speaking, 40 times greater than humans.

Dogs in the K9MD program are not restricted by breed but rather selected based on their temperament and ability to work.

It is hoped that the findings from this research will assist in developing a new, early, non-invasive diagnostic test for bowel cancer in New Zealand.



Advocacy

We continue to lobby for nationwide bowel screening, and to advocate for more testing and drug funding for this beatable disease.



Professor Sue Crengle

After years of advocating by our charity, we made change happen.

The bowel screening age for Māori and Pasifika people has been lowered from 60 to 50 years old. The government initiative was launched in selected regions in 2023 to assess how best to achieve a high participation rate before it is extended nationally.

Commencing the Bowel Screening National Programme at 50 years for Māori and Pasifika will help fix long-standing inequities because, compared to non-Māori, a greater percentage of bowel cancers occur before the age of 60 for these ethnicities.

Bowel Cancer NZ has been calling for Māori and Pasifika to enter screening from the age of 50 since 2017, as noted in a letter to the NZ Medical Journal.

Our medical advisor, Professor Sue Crengle said, “It has taken years of advocating by Bowel Cancer NZ, Māori and other advocates to lower the age for Māori and Pasifika. We would want to see the Ministry of Health moving much more quickly in future to correct such known inequities.

“A worrying number of Māori and Pasifika people present with advanced stage 3 or 4 cancer, significantly lowering their chances of long-term survival – screening will help detect cancers earlier. We also welcome the focus on participation as maximising engagement for all Māori and Pasifika age groups is essential for achieving equity in bowel cancer outcomes.”

Professor Sue Crengle, Bowel Cancer NZ medical advisor.



“IT IS A BIG THING
FOR A MĀORI
MALE TO GO TO THE DOC
ABOUT SOMETHING
SO PERSONAL”

Anaru
Diagnosed at 38

Anaru Turei Gray, a father of four, sadly passed away just two years after his diagnosis. He was a strong advocate in helping raise awareness of bowel cancer, particularly for Māori and Pacific people. Rest in peace, Anaru.

Statement of Financial Performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Grants	1	320,204	432,506
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	675,994	425,781
Revenue from providing goods or services	1	4,917	-
Bequests	1	6,193	876
Sponsorship	1	35,000	60,000
Movement in fair value of investment	1	(683)	1,214
Interest	1	6,323	3,435
Total Revenue		1,047,947	923,812
Staff costs	2	437,565	343,147
Professional Services	2	36,241	25,821
Research	2	87,683	17,317
Administration	2	45,121	19,954
Meetings & Conferences	2	19,208	17,384
General Expenses	2	16,962	9,323
Fundraising & Awareness	2	172,663	165,741
Wellness Programme	2	56,893	112,241
Depreciation	2	2,924	3,344
Total Expense		875,260	714,271
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		172,687	209,541

Statement of Financial Position

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Bank accounts and cash	3	20,409	423,456
Debtors and prepayments	3	10,540	-
Goods and services tax		9,838	12,875
Total Current Assets		40,787	436,331
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	-	2,604
Investments	3	152,105	152,788
Other non-current assets	3	524,417	-
Total Non-Current Assets		676,522	155,392
Total Assets		717,309	591,723
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	1,477	9,796
Revenue in advance	4	4,261	65,683
Employee costs payable	4	26,955	4,315
Total Current Liabilities		32,693	79,794
Total Liabilities		32,693	79,794
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		684,616	511,929
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	684,616	511,929
Total Accumulated Funds		684,616	511,929

Notes to these financial statements can be accessed via Charities Register (CC44166)



Mary, our Communications Manager, and Rebekah, our General Manager, manning our stand at Fieldays.

Entity Information

Charity Structure

Bowel Cancer New Zealand Inc. is an incorporated society registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The charity is governed by an executive committee of eight unpaid members, which meet quarterly, and a General Manager. The organisation was registered as a charitable entity with the Charities Commission on the 10th of May 2010, with the registration number CC44166.

Its operations are governed by its constitution, which aligns with and supports the requirements in the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

Legal name of entity

Bowel Cancer New Zealand Incorporated

Postal address

PO Box 301517, Albany, Auckland 0752

Entity type and legal status

Bowel Cancer New Zealand Inc. is an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

Registration number

CC44166

Contact

Phone: 0800 226 901

Email: info@bowelcancernz.org.nz

Website: bowelcancernz.org.nz

Kiwis helping other Kiwis beat bowel cancer

We couldn't achieve all we do without YOUR amazing support!

Bowel Cancer New Zealand is 100% community-funded and receives no government assistance. As ever, our bowel cancer community stepped up and helped fund our research, awareness, education and support programmes.

1011 incredible Kiwis signed up to Move their Butts in June





371 direct donations to our charity

15 fundraisers created their own event to support us



43 people ran Round the Bays and raised funds





51 hairy heroes joined Decembeard to raise money

18 runners fundraised for us for the Auckland Marathon



Bowel Cancer New Zealand is grateful for the support of all our donors

Corporate Sponsors



Trusts & Foundations

- Pub Charity Limited
- ANZ Staff Foundation
- Freemasons Foundation
- Rotorua Trust
- Milestone Foundation
- Nikau Foundation
- Aoraki Foundation
- Harcourts Foundation
- Rata Foundation
- Four Winds Foundation
- Trust Waikato
- Maurice Paykel Trust
- Western Bay of Plenty District Council – Community Matching Fund
- BlueSky Community Trust
- Aotearoa Gaming Trust
- Grassroots Trust
- Dragon Community Trust
- Central Lakes Trust
- Louisa and Patrick Emmett Murphy Foundation
- Lottery National Community Fund
- DV Bryant Trust
- Estate of Ernest Hyam & The Ted & Mollie Carr Endowment Trust
- Thomas George Macarthy Trust
- Trillian Trust
- The Lion Foundation
- WEL Energy Trust
- Elsie Steele Trust
- Foundation North
- John Ilott Charitable Trust
- Tauranga City Council – Match Fund Grant

In-Kind Support

HGM
hgmlegal.com

Individual Donors

Thanks to all those who have participated in events, sponsored others to participate, made a one-off donation or a monthly donation.
Special thanks to Joy Shivas for her generous support of research.

The bottom line is, we couldn't do what we do without you all. Thank You!



Bowel Cancer
NEW ZEALAND

| *Reducing the impact of
Bowel Cancer on our community*

EMAIL. info@bowelcancernz.org.nz

POST. PO Box 301517, Albany, 0752 Auckland

WEBSITE. bowelcancernz.org.nz

