



# HospiceTalk

News from our community for our community



**George and Marion, 2002**

## George on a Mission

by  
**Lyn Humphreys**

Even before George MacArthur's adored wife Marion died after 48 years of a loving marriage, he says he was determined to find a way to give back to Hospice Taranaki for the exceptional care they received.

The dye was set.

"My motivation was to do something in return for the love and care that Marion got and all the way through to our extended family.

When she died everyone was offered counselling. I took it up straight away because I needed it big time. From the moment of our first interaction with the hospice staff they were just so warm and friendly."

When the bad news came that the breast cancer had metastasised and her time was limited, Marion was referred to hospice by their GP Peter Rich. It hadn't helped that it was all happening during a covid lockdown. The couple had been on their regular walk around the Hurdon streets and George clearly recalls Marion stopping. "She said, 'Babe can we just stop. I can't breathe.' The breast cancer had come back with a vengeance." The date, July 17, 2020, is forever etched in his mind. Marion spent the night in the Emergency Department undergoing tests. "At 7.30 in the morning we were greeted with the news, 'You need to prepare for the worst.'"

George has immense pride that Marion's staunch bravery in dealing with the initial news back in October 2014 that she had cancer in her right breast never wavered.

"Her strength and courage were unbelievable. She didn't shed one tear. She said to me, 'Babe we will deal with things. We will just deal with reality.' Right up to the end she was just stoic." Just 14 months after her operation the pair were on a river cruise in Europe. "It was the best holiday we ever had." As I said in my tribute at her funeral, she was more worried about us than herself." *Ctd on next page*

## In this issue:

### George on a Mission

George MacArthur shares his story of love, loss, a desire to make a difference, and golf!

### What does Hospice really do?

A detailed look into the services offered by Te Kahu Pairuri Hospice Taranaki

### Fundraising News

Upcoming winter events and thank you to our community.

### Lets talk about... Wills

Andrew Bright discusses the importance of having an up to date Will.