

George on a Mission ctd

George says there were several times Marion needed to become a short term patient within the hospice itself to receive extra medical assistance “when things were going wrong”. Those four to five inpatient spells were more than complemented by the care given in their own home by the hospice medical staff. “A number of times we needed help at home. It was never a problem for them – doctors and nurses – to come here.”

It was during her final stay in hospice she was given the news the end was very close, possibly that night. “She just said to me, ‘If that’s the case, so be it. I want my boys.’ The night she died we were all in her room.”

And not long after, George was on a mission. He returned to hospice, sat down with hospice community partnership lead Rose Whitaker and offered his services to assist with raising money. The pair shared a similar background in sales, Rose with Taranaki Newspapers and George with radio. “We thought with our experience we could organise an event. The thing I didn’t want was for it to be a one-off event.”

He can now say he is more than proud of what they and a tight team conceived. Teeing off for Hospice has become an annual fundraising golf day which has proved a very popular fixture on the region’s golfing calendar. To date it has brought in more than \$120,000 in the five years it has been running. The consistency of the event committee has meant George feels he has gone some way to reciprocate to a valued organisation which has an eye-watering and ever-increasing deficit to confront every year. “This has meant we have been able to give back what was given to my wife and me, and our family,” George says. “We are so grateful for the support of local businesses and wonderful volunteers we get every year.”

The work involved in organising the event each year sees George a regular visitor to the hospice. There have been suggestions they may even need to find him his own office!

“The staff at the hospice I absolutely adore. I’ve been surrounded by love by these people. That’s why I’ve made a lifelong commitment till I fall off my perch.”



George with Ailsa, Marions best friend at Teeing Off for Hospice 2025

Thank you George for sharing your story with us.

Thank you to our Hospice Champions

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What is a Hospice Champion?

A Hospice Champion is someone who actively supports hospice care by raising awareness, advocating for services and encouraging community involvement. Through a monthly sponsorship, they partner with the hospice to ensure patients and whānau receive the compassionate care they need.