

Aroha

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

Making space for *grief*

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Te Kahu Pairuri o Cranford
Ki Te Matau-a-Māui

A message from Andrew

As spring arrives across Hawke's Bay, it brings a sense of renewal and new beginnings. It feels fitting that this edition of our newsletter reflects on so much that our community has achieved together in recent months in support of Cranford Hospice.

In this newsletter, you'll find an update on our new build project, with resource consent now granted and the next stages of this important project ahead. You'll also see the impact of your support through our latest service statistics, highlighting the care, compassion and connection our team provides to patients and whānau across Hawke's Bay every day.

I'm particularly pleased to share the story of Rachael Knight, a long-standing volunteer, which shines a light on the importance of bereavement support and the difference it can make for people following the death of someone they love. We also celebrated the opening of our new Waipukurau retail store, strengthening our presence and connection with the Central Hawke's Bay community.

The past few months have also brought wonderful examples of our community coming together, from the Hawke's Bay Wine Auction to Glow Orange Night Walk and the many other ways people continue to support Cranford.

To everyone who has donated, volunteered, sponsored, attended an event, supported one of our stores, or helped us in any way, **thank you**. Your generosity enables us to continue providing specialist palliative care and bereavement support to patients and whānau throughout our region.

I hope you enjoy this edition and take pride in what we continue to achieve together.

Ngā mihi nui



Andrew Lesperance
Chief Executive Officer

Making an impact

Every year, Cranford Hospice supports people and their whānau across Hawke's Bay through specialist palliative care and practical support. Here's a snapshot of the difference your support helped make from 1 July 2025–30 June 2026.



Dates for the diary

- Holly Trail** 12-14 November 2026
- AGM** 26 November 2026
- Farmers Christmas Bauble in store** November/December 2026
- Remembrance event** 3 December 2026
- Go Orange Street Appeal** 4-6 March 2027
- Glow Orange Night Walk** 1 May 2027
- Hawke's Bay Wine Auction** 11 September 2027

Building a new home for Cranford Hospice

For more than a generation, Cranford Hospice has supported Hawke's Bay families in their most precious and difficult moments. As our community grows—with demand for palliative care projected to rise by 38% over the next 20 years—so too must our ability to care for it. That's why we're building a new home for Cranford Hospice; a purpose-built space designed around comfort, dignity and whānau.

We're pleased to share that the project continues to move forward with real momentum.



A night to remember for fundraising

Our new home received a wonderful boost recently, thanks to Hastings Karamu Rotary Club's 35th annual Cocktail Party, which raised an incredible **\$155,000**. This brings the club's remarkable total contribution to \$835,000 raised at this event over five years. This is a testament to the generosity and commitment of Rotary members and everyone who has attended over the years.

Thanks to this result and the generosity of our wider community of donors, total funds raised towards our new home now stand at \$20.55 million. The gap is closing, and we are going ahead.

Design taking shape

Behind the scenes, our architects and design team are continuing to refine the plans for our new home, working towards submitting for building consent later this year.

With the support of Iwi, we've engaged Jacob Scott (Ngāti Kahungunu, Master Carver and Designer) to join our broader architectural team, helping to bring cultural narrative, look and feel into the final design.

Items of significance from our current hospice building are also being reviewed, as we look at how they might be integrated into the design of our new home.

Looking ahead

Building consent and project tendering are on track to be finalised by the end of 2026, with construction set to begin in early 2027 and our new home expected to welcome its first patients by the end of 2028.

If you would like to be part of bringing our new home to life, you can make a gift at cranfordhospice.org.nz/our-new-home. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us get there.

None of this progress would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Thank you for being part of this journey; together we will build a new home for Cranford Hospice, one that expands our capacity, strengthens community services and ensures we can continue delivering outstanding care well into the future.

What our new home will include

Our new home has been thoughtfully designed to nurture wellbeing for patients, the community, and staff.

- InPatient care**
 - ♥ 14 patient rooms (10 operational from opening), each with an ensuite and private garden
 - ♥ A paediatric room, designed in partnership with Health New Zealand Hawke's Bay
 - ♥ Space for whānau to stay, rest, and remain close
- Community & whānau hub**
 - ♥ Areas for day therapy, respite, counselling, and family support services
 - ♥ Purpose-designed spaces for our clinical, medical, and support team and volunteers
 - ♥ Improved equipment and storage areas
- Education**
 - ♥ A dedicated education suite for internal teams and external healthcare professionals

Making space for grief

Grief doesn't follow a timetable. It can be overwhelming, unpredictable, and surprisingly difficult to navigate, even in the most ordinary parts of everyday life. For people who have lost someone close to them, finding a safe place to talk about what they are experiencing can make a real difference.

For nearly 10 years, Rachael Knight has volunteered with Cranford Hospice. With a background in sociology and psychology, and experience in social work, group work and grief and loss, she has facilitated Cranford's bereavement programme for around seven years.

The seven-week programme brings together people who have experienced a significant loss. While participants may arrive as strangers, sharing something as personal as grief can create a strong sense of connection.

The programme is designed to provide a safe and supportive environment where people can talk about their experiences of grief, learn from others and explore ways of living with loss.

"The group becomes quite close because everyone is there for the same reason. It's a safe place to talk about your grief."

Rachael Knight

The programme gradually explores different aspects of grief. As trust develops, participants can talk about their experiences, consider the practical changes that come with losing someone, reflect on regrets and resilience, and think about how to adapt to life without the person who has died.

For Rachael, an important part of the programme is helping people understand that grief isn't something they need to "get over".

"Grief doesn't go away," she says. "It changes. It gets less, and you learn how to manage it."

She has seen how grief can affect people in ways they might not expect. Even everyday tasks can become difficult, and people can sometimes feel as though they are struggling to function in the world around them.

"It's so important to grieve and find ways that you can do it that are useful, because the only way to cope with grief is to grieve."

Rachael Knight



One of the things she values most about the programme is seeing people realise they are not alone in their grief. There can be relief in sitting with others who understand, without needing to explain every feeling or worry.

The impact of that shared experience has sometimes extended beyond the group itself. One group was so enthusiastic about the programme that, after completing it, participants distributed Cranford's bereavement flyers around libraries, doctors' surgeries and churches, wanting others in the community to have the same chance to access support.

That speaks to something fundamental about bereavement support, people don't necessarily need someone to fix their grief. They need space to acknowledge it, understand it, and find ways to live alongside it.

And sometimes, simply being with others who understand can be an important place to start.

Upcoming bereavement programme dates

16 November–21 December 2026

18 January–8 March 2027

12 April–31 May 2027

16 August–27 September 2027

1 November–13 December 2027

Register at cranfordhospice.org.nz/bereavement-programme or visit our website for more information.

Another incredible Wine Auction

For more than 30 years, the Hawke's Bay Wine Auction has brought together the region's winemakers and wine lovers to raise funds for Cranford Hospice.

What began in 1991 as a small fundraising event at the Hawke's Bay racecourse has grown into one of the region's much-loved annual celebrations, with more than 50 winemakers contributing their wines, time and creativity each year.

This year's auction once again showed what can be achieved when a community comes together, raising an incredible **\$454,182** for Cranford Hospice.

We are grateful to the winemakers, sponsors, volunteers, organisers and everyone who continues to support this special event. Their generosity helps Cranford provide specialist palliative care and bereavement support to patients and whānau across Hawke's Bay.

Here's to another year of great wine, great company and an even greater contribution to our community.



You made Glow Orange shine bright

Our inaugural Glow Orange Night Walk brought more than 800 people together on Napier's Marine Parade in May to walk, jog, glow and show their support for Cranford Hospice.

Together, participants raised an incredible **\$38,215.55**, helping Cranford continue to provide specialist palliative care to people and families across Hawke's Bay.

The night was about more than fundraising. It was a chance for our community to come together, remember those we've lost, celebrate those we've cared for and help ensure hospice care is here for the people who need it.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, fundraised, volunteered, sponsored the event or helped bring the night to life.

Glow Orange is back, 1 May 2027. Save the date.



Care beyond the hospice

When people think of hospice care, they may picture our InPatient Unit in Hastings. But much of Cranford’s specialist palliative care happens beyond the hospice walls.

Our team travels throughout Hawke’s Bay to support patients and whānau in their own homes, in aged residential care and in rural communities. For some families, having a Cranford nurse visit them where they live can make a significant difference at an incredibly difficult time.

Visiting our rural communities can mean long distances on the road, sometimes on unsealed or challenging roads and in all kinds of weather. Our nurses might travel from Hastings to Central Hawke’s Bay or Wairoa, visiting several patients along the way.

These visits allow our specialist nurses to assess symptoms, provide advice and support, work alongside local health professionals and help families feel more confident caring for someone at home.

Just as importantly, they provide a familiar face and someone to turn to when things become difficult.

As the number of people needing palliative care continues to grow, having reliable vehicles that can safely get our teams to the people who need them is an important part of delivering care across the region.

For Cranford, being there for patients and whānau means more than having a place for people to come to. It means taking our care to them, wherever they call home.



Compassionate Communities comes together in Hawke’s Bay

In June, more than 100 people gathered at Toitoti in Hastings for two and a half days of kōrero, learning and connection at the third national Compassionate Communities Aotearoa Hui.

Jointly hosted by Cranford Hospice and the Compassionate Communities Collective Hawke’s Bay, the Hui brought people together from across New Zealand, with strong representation from our own region.

Hosting the Hui was an opportunity to increase awareness of the Compassionate Communities movement in Hawke’s Bay and explore an important idea: that supporting people who are dying, caring for others or grieving is a shared social responsibility, not something that sits solely with medical and professional services.

With the theme of *Tai Timu, Tai Pari* (the ebb and flow of the tides), the programme explored the challenges and changes that are part of life, and the ways people and communities can respond to them.

Presentations brought together personal and professional perspectives on topics including caring for carers, experiences of widowhood, looking at terminal diagnoses and grief through a Māori worldview, self-compassion, and insights from Hospice NZ’s Dying Reviews survey.

Over the two and a half days, speakers and attendees shared experiences, ideas, and practical ways communities can offer flexible and responsive support to people through times of dying, caring, and grief.

For Cranford, the Hui was an opportunity to bring people together around a shared vision of communities where people don’t have to face these experiences alone.



A bigger store, a bigger welcome in Waipukurau

For six years, our Waipukurau retail store made the most of a small space, but the team had been looking for somewhere bigger for quite some time. They wanted to stay close to the heart of the town and, importantly, find a space that would give customers a better shopping experience.

Late last year, an opportunity finally came along when Betta Electrical announced it would be closing after many decades in the community. While it was sad to see a much-loved local business close its doors, the larger building offered Cranford the opportunity to create the store the team had been hoping for.

The move wasn’t without its challenges. After many hours spent painting and preparing the new space, a fire broke out while the carpet was being laid. No one was hurt, but the smoke damage left the team’s hard work covered in black soot and delayed the move considerably. Thanks to insurance and a lot of determination, the space was repaired and transformed into a brand-new store.

With a more open layout and dedicated areas for different departments, the new store makes it easier for customers to browse and find what they’re looking for. Generous support from the landlord, who built and donated clothing racks and shelving, also helped bring the space together. When the doors finally opened on 19 June, the Central Hawke’s Bay community’s response was incredible.

Customers lined up to get inside, with many staying to explore the much larger space.

By the end of opening day, the team had raised an incredible \$8,500 for Cranford Hospice.

Store manager Holly says she’s incredibly proud of her team—Janice, Tenille, and the dedicated volunteers who helped make the move happen.

“We’re a small town with great big hearts and love for the community.”

The team looks forward to welcoming customers to the new store and continuing to raise funds for Cranford while providing an affordable, enjoyable shopping experience.

And, as always, quality donations are very welcome. If it’s clean, saleable, and free from holes, stains, or excessive wear, the Waipukurau team would love to hear from you.



Hawke’s Bay brings the Hustle

The Hawke’s Bay Hustle brought rugby, netball and a healthy dose of competition to the region in August, with parliamentary teams taking on local sporting talent in support of Cranford Hospice.

The Hawke’s Bay Has Beens and Hastings High School Old Girls, aka The Hawke’s Bay Hundies, took the honours against their parliamentary opponents, with the Has Beens also taking home the Parekura Horomia Memorial Challenge Cup.

A huge thank you to everyone who played, volunteered, supported and came along on the day, as well as the generous businesses and organisations who helped make the event possible.

It was a great example of our community coming together to support local hospice care.



Holly Trail returns in November

We're incredibly grateful to the businesses and organisations supporting Holly Trail 2026. Their generosity, along with the incredible commitment of the event's volunteers, helps make this much-loved event possible.

The Holly Trail has been held in support of Cranford Hospice since 2000, with gardens and homes across Hawke's Bay opening their gates to visitors each year.

Holly Trail returns 12–14 November 2026, with another wonderful weekend of gardens, homes and stunning Christmas floral displays planned.

A very special thank you goes to the Holly Trail committee, all of whom are volunteers. They have worked tirelessly



over the past two years to bring this year's event together, giving their time, energy and expertise to make it happen.

Thank you, too, to the homeowners who open their gardens and homes, the florists and designers, major, platinum, gold, silver and service sponsors, volunteers and supporters who help bring the event to life.

If you're thinking about coming along, there's an extra reason to get your tickets: 100% of every ticket price goes directly to Cranford Hospice, thanks to the generosity of the sponsors and volunteers.

Tickets are still available. Visit hollytrail.co.nz to purchase.

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Ways to support

There are many ways to support Cranford Hospice. You might give your time, donate quality items to our stores, attend an event, make a donation or leave a gift in your Will. However you choose to support us, thank you. Your generosity helps ensure specialist palliative care and bereavement support are available to people across Hawke's Bay.

Volunteer

Are you able to gift your time? Volunteering at Cranford Hospice offers you the chance to help locals in need. Join our 400 volunteers and start making a real difference. cranfordhospice.org.nz/volunteering

Shop with us

Every item sold in our stores or donated to us helps fund our compassionate end of life care. We have four retail stores: Napier, Onekawa, Hastings and Waipukurau. cranfordhospice.org.nz/retail-stores

Make a gift

Make a one-off donation or set up a monthly payment. Choose your gift to help make every moment matter.

DONATE NOW



Double your gift

Right now, your gift to Cranford Hospice can go twice as far. During our Spring Matched Giving appeal, donations are being matched dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000. That means your generosity can have double the impact for people and whānau across Hawke's Bay.

Make your gift at cranfordhospice.org.nz/donate

Make a bequest

Have you considered leaving a legacy in your Will? Go to cranfordhospice.org.nz/gifts-in-wills