

MERCY MATTERS

MAY 2026



PEARL'S LEGACY OF LOVE:

***“I’m doing
it for Dave”***

In this edition:

Your impact in action / P2

The knitters, the bakers, the candlestick makers:
'It feels good to be able to give back' / P5

Exciting upcoming events / P7



**Mercy
Hospice**
Te Korowai Atawhai

Pearl's legacy of love

When Pearl Robson's sister Teresa was cared for by Mercy Hospice, Pearl was "blown away" by the support her family received.

So much so, that when her husband of nearly 50 years required hospice care, Pearl knew what she wanted his final days to look like: "I wanted Dave to die at Mercy Hospice." She hopes one day to be cared for by Mercy too.

With the future in mind, Pearl has taken a special, selfless step: leaving a living legacy to Mercy Hospice, to help ensure the same compassionate care that Teresa and Dave received will be accessible for generations to come.



Pearl, from a large close-knit family, met civil engineer David Nikorima Robson (Ngāti Maru) in 1973 at a social in Paeroa. They married three years later and had children Nadia and Carl.

Pearl's first experience with Mercy Hospice came in 2016, with her sister Teresa, who had cancer. Just months before a planned trip to Italy for her 60th, Teresa was admitted to Mercy's Inpatient Unit.

At Mercy, Pearl and her brother-in-law spent precious time with Teresa. They could stay overnight, have "happy hour" from the drinks trolley – a glass of wine for Chris, juice for Pearl – and "instead of having to think about what to eat, ordered dinner [in the unit]."

"They looked after us so well."

"I saw the dedication of the staff: a woman came and said she was there to massage my sister's feet – a volunteer! Another stopped by to ask: 'Would you like a cup of tea?'"

The experience stayed with her: "It really changed me... I never ever forgot it – not knowing that years later, it would be Dave."

Their family love to travel. They'd visited Disneyland and many Pacific Islands, and in 2019 planned a two-month world cruise to celebrate Dave's retirement, after nearly three decades with Heritage New Zealand.

But shortly before departure, a routine blood test returned an abnormal result. Bags packed, Pearl and Dave received a call that Dave had prostate cancer.

Surgery went well, but a year later they learned cancer had been found in his colon. Over three years, Dave was "in and out of the hospital," for surgery and treatment. Then came news there was cancer in his liver.

Eventually, the whānau were told little else could be done.

The family did not want Dave to die at home. When he became more unwell, Pearl asked their GP to visit.

The GP took one look at Dave and said "we'd better see if we can get him to Mercy Hospice".

Dave was admitted to Mercy's Inpatient Unit, where he was cared for over several days, before he died peacefully on May 6, 2023.

Dave got on well with everyone. Passionate about his work, and a well-respected colleague and leader, his office was renamed the 'Dave Robson Room' after his retirement, Pearl said.

Mercy Hospice is "very special" to Pearl: "We can't thank them enough."

So, when making her Will, Pearl made a decision that felt both practical and meaningful. Rather than wait to leave a gift after her death, she chose to give a living legacy.

Unlike traditional bequests, a living legacy allows a person to witness the impact of their generosity during their lifetime.

Pearl's gift will support people like her, Teresa, and Dave, today. "Why wait?"

Pearl chose to direct half her gift to Mercy Hospice's Te Korowai Hapori community outreach and half toward covering the cost of running our services.

Te Korowai Hapori's mission is 'palliative care everywhere, with everyone' – equity in access, quality, and dignity of care for all, regardless of their background, location, or resources.



It's a pursuit Pearl is "very pleased" to support and even better, "I get to enjoy it before I go".

Dave's last wish was that Pearl and Nadia complete the planned retirement cruise. They fulfilled that wish in May 2025, and this month, they're going on another in his memory.

When her own time comes, Pearl knows exactly where she wants to be: "I'd like to come [to Mercy]."

"I'll be with my sister and Dave, so it'll be home."

Plan today for peace of mind tomorrow

Everyone over the age of 18 should have a Will

It's one of the simplest and kindest acts of care you can offer the people you love and will one day leave behind – especially if something sudden or unexpected were to happen.

But only half of New Zealand adults have a Will.

A little planning today can bring peace of mind tomorrow. Dying without a Will can be a highly stressful, costly, and time-consuming process for loved ones already dealing with the grief of losing someone dear to them.

A Will puts you in control. It protects your whānau, clearly expresses your wishes, and eases the burden during an already difficult time.

Making a Will is far more accessible than many think! Mercy Hospice has partnered with EveryWill (formerly Gathered Here), an online platform which makes it quick and simple to make a Will at no cost.

By choosing to leave a gift to Mercy Hospice, you can extend your compassion beyond your lifetime.

In Aotearoa, just 6% of Wills include a charitable gift. Even the smallest bequest can make a profound and lasting difference – whether as a living legacy during your lifetime or a gesture that continues to care for others long after you've gone.

For more information, visit everywill.co.nz/c/mercy-hospice

Your support in action

AT MERCY HOSPICE IN THE LAST CALENDAR YEAR (JAN 1 – DEC 31, 2025):



TENNIS FOR MERCY



The event in November was fantastic! The tennis courts were buzzing, with more than **120 attendees**. There was a delicious lunch by Catroux, an exciting live and silent auction, and raffle – with the day **raising over \$22,000**. Congratulations to our winners Camilla Campbell-Cree and Bridget Judd, and a very big thank you to all involved.

LIGHTS TO REMEMBER



Hundreds of people made heartfelt dedications in memory of those they have loved and lost as part of Lights to Remember. **Close to \$60,000** was raised for Mercy Hospice, helping to ensure that our compassionate, specialist palliative care remains free of charge for other families. **Thank you to Davis Funerals for giving the gift of light.**

AUCKLAND MARATHON



This is always such an exciting and meaningful day, as Mercy Hospice supporters run to remember a loved one or simply to pay it forward. Thanks to the determination and kindness of our supporters, Mercy Hospice was the 5th highest fundraising charity overall, with our incredible community raising more than **\$35,000**.



TREES OF REMEMBRANCE

The Trees of Remembrance campaign from Farmers raised **more than \$32,000** for Mercy Hospice. A massive thank you to Farmers Newmarket, Sylvia Park, Queen Street and St. Lukes for their ongoing support of Mercy Hospice, and to those who donated, made a dedication, or bought a Christmas bauble.

ROUND THE BAYS

This year's event was amazing! More than 20 individual fundraisers chose to be part of Team Mercy, raising close to **\$5,000**. A huge thank you to ACG Parnell – about 60 students signed up as a team to support Mercy at Round the Bays. You rock!



NOTHING NEW FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

In October, Shop for Mercy teamed up with creative agency True and Public Library PR to launch Nothing New for Good: a vibrant new brand campaign to accompany the refreshed look of our For Mercy stores. Challenging the pull of fast fashion, the campaign aimed to shift mindsets from always needing the latest to taking the time to renew, recycle and refresh: giving pre-loved clothing a second life, and supporting Mercy. Nothing New for Good featured an exclusive masterclass for emerging stylists, whose creativity, care and talent – guided by stylist Dan Ahwa – brought pre-loved items to life in new ways. The one-of-a-kind outfits created were available to purchase at our Ellerslie and Mt Eden stores. **A huge thank you to True, Public Library PR and Dan Ahwa for bringing Nothing New For Good to life.**



FILL-A-BAG!

Our five events at the Ellerslie store continue to be a hit and they have seen queues of people lining up. Each event has raised more than **\$1,000** and helps our stores remain sustainable. Keep an eye on our in-store signage and social media channels for upcoming dates.



BAGS FOR MERCY

Our second annual Bags for Mercy event last October was incredibly popular. There were hundreds of preloved bags of all shapes, sizes and colours for sale, raising approximately **\$11,000** for Mercy Hospice. We are taking donations of good quality handbags again this year – please get in contact if you can support!

The knitters, the bakers, the candlestick makers.



Barbara

"I have been knitting since I was a girl. Our mother taught my two sisters and I to knit and sew, but sewing was never as much fun as knitting. I started making knitted and crocheted items for Mercy when our daughter Emma began working there and I learnt more about how I could help. Since then, I have made quite a few animals, baby clothes, and Christmas decorations for Mercy. I haven't kept count but there have been a lot of animals! As my husband is unwell, we spend a lot of time at home, and I feel so much better when I have a project. I have always volunteered when possible, including Meals on Wheels, Guide Dog puppy walking, blankets for children, beanies for Middlemore newborns, and animals for Starship. It feels good to be able to give back when life has been so good to us." **Barbara is mum to Mercy Hospice CEO, Emma Maddren!**



Heather

In 17 years as a Mercy Hospice volunteer, Heather Wheeler has performed many roles: she's worked in the office, written Life Stories, provided companionship, and 'shaken the bucket' during community collections. Each Tuesday and Thursday, Heather drives patients to and from Mercy Hospice to Manaaki active and wellness classes. Those she drives "become friends" – it's "beyond the driving". Last year, Heather started making beaded butterflies for bereaved families as part of Mercy's corporate volunteering days. Heather says a "great deal of fear is taken away" about hospice during the sessions, and they have "enormous fun!" Heather is happy to help: "Doing what I'm doing is a privilege. I will never say no; if I can do anything, I will." *Photo credit: Adrian Malloch Photography.*

Donna
During lunch with a friend, a topic came up that piqued Donna Williams's interest: baking for Mercy Hospice. Aware of the "amazing work" done at Mercy, Donna had been looking for a way to give back but is time-poor during the working week. Now, she bakes biscuits and slices most weekends for Mercy Hospice. She can even bake at 10pm! "It's a really great opportunity to do something useful" and an easy way to volunteer for a cause "dear to her heart" after her mum needed hospice support, Donna says. "It is really hard for those supporting [a loved one needing hospice care] – sometimes the small things can make a difference."

No-One Dies Alone
When facing life's final moments, no one should be alone. Our compassionate volunteer programme ensures that patients in their last hours have a caring presence by their side when family cannot be there. Trained hospice volunteers provide quiet companionship, gentle conversation, or simply a comforting hand to hold. They offer dignity, respect, and human connection during one of life's most vulnerable times. This free service brings peace of mind to families and ensures that every person experiences compassion and care – because everyone deserves kindness in their final moments.

Thank you to all our incredible volunteers: individuals, groups, and workplace teams. We could not do what we do, without you!

There are so many ways to give. Do you have a skill you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you at getinvolved@mh.org.nz

Ko Turia Rawiri ahau. I am Turia Rawiri



He tangata whenua ahau, nō Tāmaki Makaurau.
Whakapapa au ki Tainui waka i te taha o tōku Whaea ko Pare Hauraki,
Pare Waikato, Ngāti Tipa ki Te Puaha o Waikato,
Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Maru, Ngai Tai,
I te taha o tōku Matua nō Te Tairāwhiti, Ko Horouta te waka,
Ngāti Porou te iwi,
Te Whānau a Rākaihoea te hapu, engari he hononga anō ngōku ki
ngā hau e whā.

I joined Mercy Hospice last July, as Kaiārahi Māori cultural liaison.
My background includes having taught Māori performing arts in high schools, supporting Auckland schools when Māori student attendance dropped over Covid-19 - working with whānau who were impacted - and working in the whānau ora and Māori mental health spaces.

What does your role involve? What does a normal day look like?

I support whānau in the Inpatient Unit and the community: whakawhanaungatanga (establish relationships through shared experiences and understanding), and engage them in Karakia (blessing), and – if appropriate – waiata (song).
Manaaki (support, or care for) whānau with rongoā (Māori healing), depending on the patient's needs. Recently, I worked with a patient who was in a lot of pain, using kawakawa to temper their body with the guidance of Rongoā practitioners.

The mahi (work) can be complex. Some families want guidance around legal assistance, social work, or assessments at home with occupational therapists or physiotherapists.

I also connect with outside networks and other Māori providers for support in areas I think need more tending to. Anything to help them have a better journey during unknown and unpredictable times – I lead with the heart, not just with the mind. Anything given to me gets done, with the collaborative support of my wider team.

I also lead Mercy Hospice to support kaupapa Māori, such as Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori language week), and support the organisation with upskilling and developing our spaces in tikanga & Mātauranga.

What drew you to palliative care?
I was my grandmother's caregiver while at university. She had bowel cancer and unfortunately passed in 2017. I cared for her for five years.
I was the apple of my grandmother, Jean's, eye and she was mine.
After leaving my previous role, I was seeking something more profound, more mana-enhancing for me – to rebuild myself after losing my grandmother.
I chose palliative care and it's been a journey! My lived experience is a key component.

Why is your work so important at the end of life?
Patient's mental and emotional needs are paramount – honouring who the person is.
Whānau Māori really need cultural input, because these moments are challenging and they cannot do it alone without the right advocacy.
I get to be a compassionate figure alongside their journey of life and death. This is known as 'Mauri Mate' – dying with dignity.

What impact does this work have on you?
The part I love most about this mahi is knowing I did right by whānau and made an impact on their journey of care before their passing.
Learning is constant. I te tuatahi noho tauira i ngā wā katoa – firstly, always sit and remain as a student.
Here is a proverb from a well-known and respected Chief of Auckland to Ngāti Whatua ki Orakei and the East Coast:
"Ki te wātea te hinengaro me te kaha rere o te wairua, ka tāea ngā mea katoa."
"When the mind is free and the spirit is willing anything is possible."
Nā Dr Ngapo Wehi.

'10 – A Celebration of Tastes'



We are just six weeks away from the 19th annual '10 - A Celebration of Tastes' gala – a day of glitz, glamour, gorgeous wine, gourmet food, and giving.

Being held on June 28th at the Grand Millennium Auckland, guests will enjoy delicious dishes from some of Auckland's finest restaurants, while also helping to raise critical funds that enable Mercy Hospice to provide palliative care and support services to an average of 450 Aucklanders and their families at any one time, at no cost.
Over nearly two decades, '10' has raised more than \$6 million for Mercy Hospice – something that simply wouldn't have been possible without the kindness and support of countless individuals, businesses, and restaurants. We're so excited for this year's event!

Participating restaurants include:



More restaurants to be announced!

For more information, visit: galabid.com/ten2026

Hospice Awareness Week

Hospice Awareness Week, May 11th – 17th, is just around the corner.

This awareness week, we are sharing the message that hospice care is a circle – all encompassing, like a cloak (korowai). This circle of compassionate care extends far beyond a patient's bedside: touching communities, whānau, friends, volunteers, supporters and hospice staff. Hospice care is holistic, by community, for community.
To mark Hospice Awareness Week, dedicated Mercy Hospice volunteers will be out in the community taking donations on Friday, May 15th.

If you see them, please show your support:

- New World Remuera – 8am-5pm
- New World Pt Chevalier – 9am-4pm

Dates for your diary:

- **May 11–17:** Hospice Awareness Week
- **June 28:** '10 - A Celebration of Tastes'
- **July 5:** Fabric-a-brac
- **August 13–17:** Art Auction in partnership with Cordy's
- **September 24:** Golf Day in partnership with BNI Remuera
- **November 1:** Auckland Marathon
- **November 2:** Remembrance Service
- **November 13:** Tennis for Mercy
- **December 3:** Lights to Remember Switch-On Event



Thank you to all our Mercy Hospice sponsors and supporters



Thank you to the following Trusts and Foundations, who have supported Mercy Hospice through generous grants

- Akarana Community Trust
- BlueSky Community Trust
- Dragon Community Trust
- Duo Trust
- Four Winds Foundation
- Giltrap Trust
- Heathcote Trust
- Louisa & Patrick Emmett Murphy Foundation
- Milestone Foundation
- New Zealand Communities Trust
- North & South Trust
- N R and J H Thomson Charitable Trust
- One Foundation
- Peter & David Picot Charitable Trust
- Pub Charity Limited
- St Joans Trust
- The Masfen Foundation
- The Sir William & Lady Lois Manchester Charitable Trust
- The Trusts Community Foundation
- Trillian Trust
- Wilks Charitable Trust

Yes! I want to help the doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors and more at Mercy Hospice provide quality care for Aucklanders.

I would like to donate: \$

☐ I would like to make this a monthly gift.

☐ Please contact me about leaving a gift in my Will.

Post is getting more expensive. If you'd be happy to hear from us via email, please let us know by sending your MHC number (on this form under 'reference') and email address through to hello@mh.org.nz

Payment methods

MM – May 2026

☐ Credit card - Please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX Expiry date: /

Card number: CVC: (required)

Name on card: Signature:

☐ Directly into Mercy Hospice Auckland's bank account:

BNZ: 02 0100 0815020 00

Particulars:

Code:

Reference: <Unique Contact ID>

I would like to receive my receipt by:

☐ Post

☐ Email (Please confirm email address below)

<Email>

Update details

Please update or correct your details below. Thank you!

Name and address:

Preferred phone number:

Preferred email address:

Please return this form in the enclosed freepost envelope or send to
Mercy Hospice, PO Box 47693, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144

If you have any questions, please call **09 361 5966**
or email hello@mh.org.nz

Mercy Hospice Charities Commission Number: CC31621

**Thank you for your
generosity and continued
support of Mercy Hospice**