



**Soroptimist  
International**

**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

**Year One -**

# **NATIONAL PROJECT**



**SEE US  
HEAR US  
HELP US**

**PROGRESS REPORT 22-23**

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## NATIONAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT 2022-2023

This National Project Progress Report 2022-2023 highlights the efforts and achievements of clubs across Aotearoa New Zealand in the first year of this National Project, which was initiated in May 2022.

The nomination for ovarian cancer as the next National Project was put forth by SI Wellington. This nomination was strongly supported by SI Rangatahi Wellington and it received overwhelming approval at the SIANZ AGM, making ovarian cancer the official National Project for 2022-2025.

Following the AGM in May 2022, a dedicated group of Soroptimists formed the National Project Team, whose primary objective is to provide support and assistance to clubs involved in the National Project.

This progress report serves as a testament to the dedication and collective action of clubs across the country. It highlights the achievements, stories and financial contributions made by clubs during the inaugural year of the project. The report not only highlights the positive outcomes but also underscores the ongoing commitment to reducing the impact of ovarian cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Through education, advocacy, and fundraising endeavours, clubs have taken proactive steps to raise awareness, promote early detection, and provide support to those affected by ovarian cancer. Their efforts have resulted in meaningful progress in tackling this disease and fostering a greater understanding within local communities.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the first year, we extend our deepest appreciation to all the clubs who have contributed to the National Project. Their commitment and enthusiasm have laid a solid foundation for the continued success of this initiative.

In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation to all the individuals, organisations, and supporters who have shown support to our Soroptimist clubs. Your generosity, encouragement, and belief in our mission have played a pivotal role in empowering clubs to make a difference in the fight against ovarian cancer. We are grateful for your contributions, whether through donations, sponsorships, or collaborative efforts, as they have helped strengthen our collective impact.

Together, we can make a lasting impact in reducing the burden of ovarian cancer and improving the lives of individuals and families affected by this disease. Let this report serve as an inspiration to amplify our efforts and reinforce our determination to shift towards a future where ovarian cancer no longer poses a threat in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Madison Chamberlain**

SIANZ Communications Convenor 2023-24

# ABOUT US

01

# SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Soroptimist International is a worldwide volunteer service organisation for all women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

There are around 66,000 members across 121 countries working through awareness, advocacy and action to EDUCATE, EMPOWER and ENABLE women and girls.

Through its General Consultative Status (Category One) as a non-governmental organisation at the United Nations, Soroptimist International works together with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and various UN agencies to bring about change to make the world a better place for this and future generations.

Soroptimists carry out projects at Club, National, Federation and International levels. The Soroptimist Programme of Service covers a broad spectrum of issues and concerns within 8 objectives:

- Education
- Environmental Sustainability, Water & Sanitation
- Healthcare
- Economic Empowerment
- Food Security
- Elimination of Violence
- Disaster Relief & Mitigation
- Peace Promotion & Conflict Resolution

The work achieved through these objectives help to achieve our mission and vision.

As of 1 January 2023, Soroptimism in Aotearoa New Zealand embarked on a positive new chapter with the establishment of a National Association - Soroptimist International of Aotearoa New Zealand (SIANZ). This restructure unifies clubs across the country, enabling stronger collaboration, advocacy, and a more impactful approach to addressing critical issues such as ovarian cancer.

## VISION:

Soroptimist International is a vibrant, dynamic organisation for today's professional and business women. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations, and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful, communities worldwide.

## MISSION:

Soroptimists inspire action, and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

Ko ta nga roopu o te Kahui wahine ara Soroptimists, he whakahihiko whakaaro he whakaara huarahi ma nga wahine me nga taitamahine, e watea ai ki a ratau huri noa i te ao, te torotoro atu ki o ratau na momo hoa wahine, ma roto atu i to ratau kotahitanga.

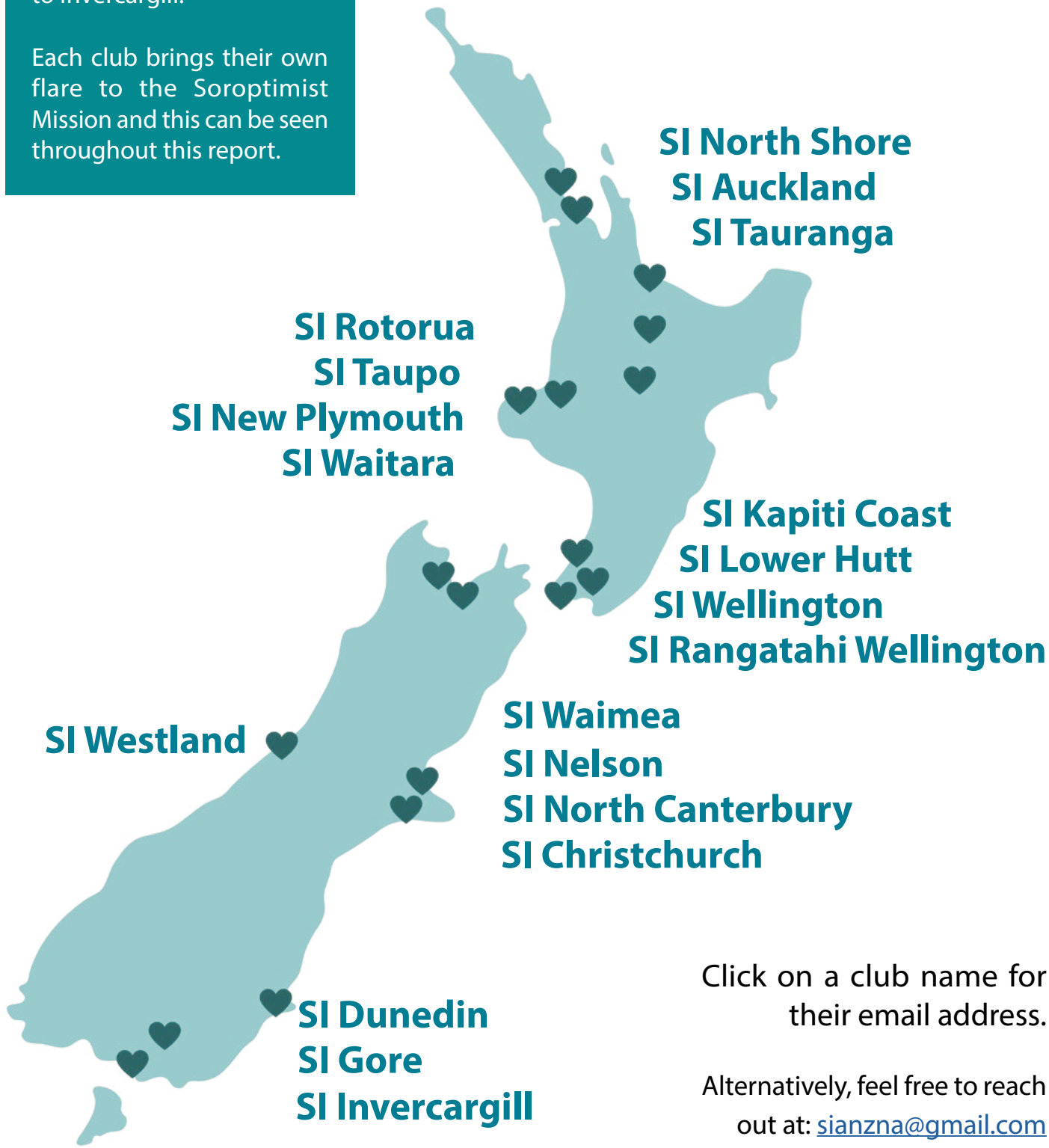
## OUR VALUES:



## OUR CLUBS:

In Aotearoa New Zealand there are 19 clubs, spanning from the North Shore down to Invercargill.

Each club brings their own flare to the Soroptimist Mission and this can be seen throughout this report.



Click on a club name for their email address.

Alternatively, feel free to reach out at: [sianzna@gmail.com](mailto:sianzna@gmail.com)

# EDUCATE, EMPOWER, ENABLE

# NATIONAL PROJECT 2022-2025

02



# THE NATIONAL PROJECT -

**Education, Advocacy and Funding to Reduce the Impact of Ovarian Cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.**

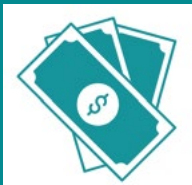
Ovarian cancer is often diagnosed too late, limiting treatment options and change outcomes to reducing survival rates due to:

- Lack of awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer;
- Lack of funding for research;
- Patients not always being heard by medical professionals and delays taking action;
- Access to diagnostic testing and lack of approved and funded treatments.

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT...

ACHIEVED SO FAR...

Collectively raised  
**\$23,316**  
as at 30th April 2023.



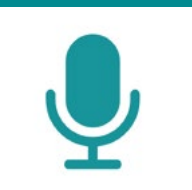
Have raised awareness to  
**500+**  
women across Aotearoa NZ



There were  
**20+** activities  
across the country from  
Tauranga to Gore!



Created and shared an  
Ovarian Cancer  
**PODCAST SERIES**  
loaded with important  
information



Raised awareness about  
**SOROPTIMISM**



## THE WHY -

- Every day, one Kiwi woman is told the devastating news they have ovarian cancer.
- Five women a week lose their lives to ovarian cancer.
- Ovarian cancer kills more Kiwi women than all of the other gynaecological cancers combined.
- There are no national guidelines for testing for and diagnosing ovarian cancer and women often wait months, or years, to receive a diagnosis.
- 1 in 3 women diagnosed have a rare ovarian cancer - rarer ovarian cancers receive even less funding and little is known about them.
- Maori women are 62% more likely to die of ovarian cancer than other ethnic groups.
- Almost half of women are diagnosed via the emergency department - in many cases, their cancer has progressed too far for treatment to be effective and 42% of these women lose their lives to ovarian cancer within a year of diagnosis.
- Women with ovarian cancer in Australia have access to 10 times more clinical trials and many more approved and funded treatments. Women with ovarian cancer in New Zealand are being left behind due to lack of funding and support.

## PROJECT AIMS

Educate women on the symptoms of ovarian cancer and what to do if they have these symptoms

Advocate for research and government funding

Advocate for women to be heard, and action taken, when they have symptoms

Fundraise to support these other initiatives



The project aims to address each of these barriers at a national and local level.

The project would be carried out across Aotearoa New Zealand. Each SI club across the country gets to decide how they wish to participate in the project towards achieving the objectives of education, advocacy and fundraising - supported by the national project team.

This has and can include things such as:

- Educating themselves on ovarian cancer, and communicating this information through their own networks;
- Distribution of information to reach women and educate them on the symptoms of ovarian cancer;
- Advocate at a local level to support national advocacy;
- Hosting fundraisers to raise money for the three charities we are supporting.

## MEET THE TEAM

### THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE NATIONAL PROJECT

SIANZ PRESIDENT



Deborah Wood

SIANZ PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Sylvia Heywood

SIANZ COMMUNICATIONS CONVENOR



Madison Chamberlain

SIANZ NATIONAL PROJECT LEAD



Dr Andrea Murray

### TEAM MEMBERS



Jessica Black



Jocelyn Butcher



Kristeen Johnston



Helen Mills

# THE CHARITIES

03



# CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER

When I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at age 32, my whole life changed in an instant. I had spent TWO years going back and forth to my GP and many other doctors, trying to get answers for the persistent symptoms I was experiencing - changes in bowel motions, fatigue, frequent urination and reduced appetite. Each time I was told my symptoms were 'nothing serious' and they did not merit investigation. I felt unheard and minimised by health professionals and it was incredibly frustrating.

Until finally, I ended up in the emergency department, having urgent surgery. I woke up to a diagnosis of ovarian cancer - a disease I'd never even heard of.

Sadly, my story is not unique. It's the same story I hear over and over again when talking to other women with ovarian cancer. Before my diagnosis I thought I had my whole life ahead of me and I had a picture of what I wanted that life to look like. Suddenly, my oncologist was telling me that life would likely amount to five to fifteen years.

I decided to use that time to make a difference for women living with ovarian cancer, and those still to be diagnosed, and I founded Cure Our Ovarian Cancer in 2018 with the aim of funding research into Low Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer - the cancer I was diagnosed with. However I quickly realised there was a huge gap and so I expanded our focus to all ovarian cancers.

Cure Our Ovarian Cancer is the only dedicated ovarian cancer charity in New Zealand, and our aim is to help women with ovarian cancer live better, longer lives.

We're committed to supporting women living with ovarian cancer by:

- Driving awareness so every New Zealander knows the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, and women know when to advocate for themselves and push for answers
- Ensuring women living with ovarian cancer have a unified voice, along with the support they need, every step of their journey
- Advocating for women to have access to diagnostic testing, treatment options and comprehensive information about ovarian cancer
- Funding and growing ovarian cancer research in New Zealand to build our capacity for further research and clinical trials, to improve outcomes and survival rates for women living with ovarian cancer

We receive no funding from the Government, so we rely 100% on our community to raise the funds we need to run awareness campaigns, hold support groups for women, fund research grants and to advocate at a local and national government level. And we have so many more exciting things planned to make things better for women living with ovarian cancer.

That's why incredible supporters like the Soroptimist Clubs in New Zealand are so important to us. I'm so grateful for all the support we've received to date, and for every fundraising activity that's been held so far. Thank you! I can't wait to see what else we can achieve together.



**Jane Ludemann**  
Founder  
Cure Our Ovarian Cancer

## What to hear more from Jane about Cure Our Ovarian Cancer?

Watch Jane's 10 Minute Youtube Video [HERE](#) or  
Listen to SI Rangatahi Wellington's Podcast Episode with Jane [HERE](#).



 **Donate Now**

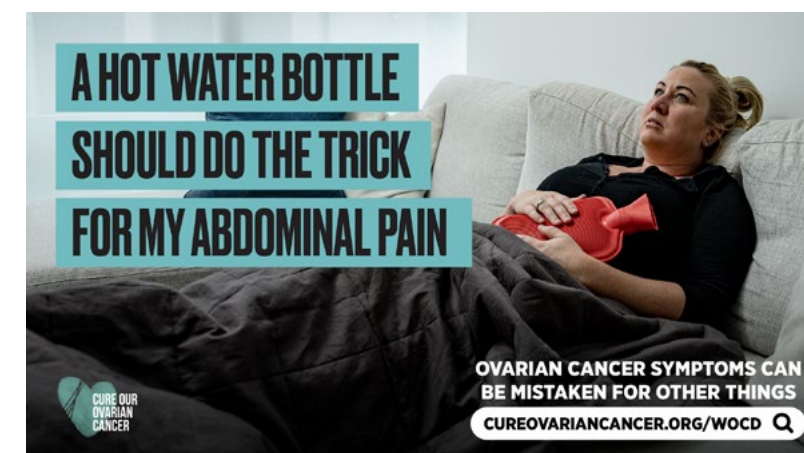
## National Ovarian Cancer Report

In September 2022, during Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month, Cure Our Ovarian Cancer submitted a report to the Health Select Committee for consideration. This report is the most comprehensive report on ovarian cancer in New Zealand ever published and it paints a damning picture of the current situation in New Zealand.

Find the full report: [HERE](#)



Jane launching a nationwide petition to parliament, alongside Tash Crosby from Talk Peach, asking for the development of ovarian cancer education campaigns for the public and health professionals, better access to testing for women with symptoms, improved access to approved therapies and clinical trials, and dedicated funding of research [2021].



**CLICK [HERE](#) TO SIGN UP FOR  
LIFESAVING NEWS FROM CURE  
OUR OVARIAN CANCER.**

Connect with Cure Our Ovarian Cancer on:



**CHECK OUT THE CURE OUR  
OVARIAN CANCER WEBSITE [HERE](#).**



# TALK PEACH GYNAECOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

Diagnosed in 2016 with ovarian cancer, Talk Peach founder Tash Crosby is one of only 15% of women caught at stage one; 85% of women diagnosed are caught in the later stages of the disease when treatment options are limited, and rates of survival extremely poor.

Out of the 1000 New Zealanders diagnosed per year with a gynaecological cancer, a third of them will have ovarian cancer - the deadliest type - with an average of five year survival rate of around 40 per cent. To compare, breast cancers have a five year survival rate of more than 80 per cent.

Talk Peach is there to educate the public on the early and often subtle signs of gynaecological cancers, and to empower people to advocate for their health. They are also there to help those who have been diagnosed, to ask the right questions, and advocate for themselves if they aren't being listened to.

Talk Peach has the goal to upskill the public and health professionals, as well as to empower people to take ownership of their gynaecological health.

The best chance of survival is an early detection, know the signs and help us save New Zealanders and their whanau the heartbreak of a late stage diagnosis.

## VISION

To inform New Zealanders on gynaecological disease and connect and support those who are diagnosed.

## MISSION

- To provide education on gynaecological health.
- To educate the community on the signs and symptoms of the 5 gynaecological cancers in order to reduce late diagnosis.
- To provide information and support to all those diagnosed with gynaecological cancers.
- To support those involved with lifesaving research into gynaecological cancer treatment and cures.
- To advocate for better funding into: education and awareness, research, clinical trials, access to medications, and better pathways to diagnostic testing.

## Early Detection Saves Lives

DONATE

DOWNLOAD THE OVARIAN CANCER GUIDE

Connect with Talk Peach on:



CHECK OUT THE TALK PEACH WEBSITE [HERE](#).



**talk peach**  
GYNAECOLOGICAL AWARENESS

# K9 MEDICAL DETECTION NZ

In 2018 I created K9 Medical Detection NZ Charitable Trust (K9MD). Having worked and trained dogs for over 40 years I know how incredible they are, and their amazing olfactory system. Working dogs are accepted within our community and their superior sense of smell is regularly used for search and rescue, detecting unwanted goods at our borders and searching for drugs and firearms. However in general, the olfactory system of a canine is highly undervalued.

New Zealand has one of the highest rates of cancer in the world. I was determined to create an opportunity where there were no barriers for an early diagnostic test. We know early detection can lead to earlier treatment which gives an opportunity for a better outcome. I firmly believe that highly trained dogs can assist our health system and support medical professionals. They do not discriminate, so age, ethnicity or financial status has no bearing on using dogs as a diagnostic tool. Dogs have the potential to save lives.

Over the last five years K9MD has developed protocols and methodologies for the use of canines as a diagnostic tool. This has resulted in 100% success for dogs completing their proof of concept validations for bowel cancer and prostate cancer detection in various concentration ratios. We have been delighted that our work is now recognized internationally.

The K9MD Team are very conscious of the unacceptable statistics for Ovarian cancer in NZ and creating an early, non-invasive diagnostic test has always been a high priority. Unfortunately we do not receive any government funding so we rely solely on the kindness of the community.

Now, with generous support from incredible women of New Zealand and Soroptimists, German shepherd Hunter (Pulse von Heisenberg) has joined our canine team as New Zealand's first ovarian cancer detection dog. This is an exciting start for our ovarian cancer research. Hunter is everything we look for in our dogs; bold, confident, always happy with a well-balanced temperament. And of course - good looking. We know he will be a top medical detection dog and become women's best friend.



**Pauline Blomfield**

Founder

K9 Medical Detection NZ

♥ DONATE

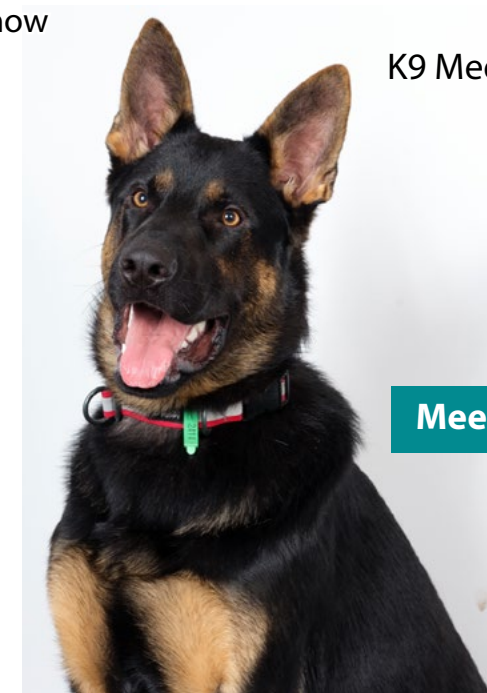
Connect with K9 Medical Detection on:



CHECK OUT THE K9 MEDICAL DETECTION WEBSITE [HERE](#).

Listen to the SI Rangatahi Wellington Podcast with Pauline [HERE](#)

Meet Hunter!



# REPORTS - SIANZ

04





**“WE HOPE  
OUR SUPPORT  
WILL HELP THE  
CHARITIES IN  
ACHIEVING  
THEIR GOALS.”**

## SIANZ PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Since the founding of the very first Soroptimist club in Oakland, California in 1921, Soroptimist International (SI) has sought to bring about change to the lives of women and girls worldwide.

Through its global network of four Federations and it’s dedicated volunteer membership of around 66,000, SI is driven by its mission of transforming lives through education, empowerment and by enabling opportunities.

Soroptimist International are a ‘global voice for women’ as it aims to ensure that women and girls will:

- Enjoy equity and equality
- Live in safe and healthy environments
- Have access to education
- Have leadership and practical skills

Soroptimist International Aotearoa New Zealand (SIANZ) first club was chartered in 1939 in Wellington. SIANZ now has 19 active clubs.

In the last 12 months we have undergone a structural change transforming from two Regions into one National Association. This will assist us greatly as we work as one association in improving the lives of women and girls within New Zealand.

SIANZ therefore is proud to lend their support to the three of the charities tackling the ovarian cancer issue here in New Zealand. Due to government funded public awareness that’s applied to cancer research, other cancers have seen a substantial increase in their survival rate. Deaths from ovarian cancer in New Zealand remains unchanged.

New Zealand Soroptimists plan to help change this.

We as an organisation believe in Educating, Empowering and Enabling women. Clubs therefore have begun educating themselves and their communities on the symptoms for early detection, to encourage women to talk about and to be aware of the disease, to raise money to support the three chosen charities to help with the much needed research, to enable non invasive detection methods and improved support to those diagnosed with the disease.

SIANZ realise there is a long way to go before we see some changes in the survival rate of those diagnosed with ovarian cancer but we hope our support will help the charities in achieving their goals.

**Deborah Wood**  
SIANZ President (2023-2024)

## NATIONAL PROJECT LEAD - REPORT

I have the absolute privilege to lead the work of SIANZ for our national project: Education, Advocacy and Funding to Reduce the Impact of Ovarian Cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The first year of the project has been focused on working with clubs around Aotearoa New Zealand to support them to do what they do best – work within their communities, knowing what works best, to Educate, Advocate and Fundraise. There were 20 activities, almost 700 hours of Club member’s time, and more than \$20,000 raised during the first year. More importantly there are many more people who are aware of ovarian cancer, the symptoms, how to get help, and the devastating impact this disease is having on our wahine, whanau, and communities.

This is a new approach to the National Project for SIANZ and we have learnt a lot along the way. Thank you so much to the clubs for embracing the National Project and bringing this to life in your communities. The results are a powerful demonstration of the impact Soroptimists make when we focus on something and take action!

A huge thank you to the National Project team for your enthusiasm, ideas, hard work, and commitment. And for the fun we have had along the way. I look forward to the next year, building on the strong foundation that has been established, and the opportunities we have as Soroptimists to make a real difference in reducing the impact of ovarian cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Andrea Murray**  
National Project Lead (2023-2025)





# PROGRAMME CONVENOR'S REPORT

As individuals, we can feel that it's impossible to make a difference on our own. But, it is amazing what we can do when we are collectively focused and passionate about a particular cause such as ovarian cancer.

This report captures the amazing work undertaken to date on our New Zealand National Project.

As we go about our daily lives we need to remind ourselves that gender equality is a right. We cannot fulfill this right as women when we are affected more by economic crisis, climate change and lack of health care. Women and men have different health-care needs, but an equal right to live healthily. This national project on ovarian cancer is helping to address some of the equality issues for women in New Zealand.

## Healthy futures for women in Aotearoa New Zealand

*"Women play a critical role in the social, economic, and political landscape of Aotearoa New Zealand. Supporting women's health and wellbeing has impacts across generations and benefits whanau and communities."* [Health.govt.nz](https://www.health.govt.nz)

There are two specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to our National Project. Clubs decide which one they feel is appropriate when submitting a PDF on the programme database for either advocacy or project:



**SDG 3:**  
Good Health and Well-Being for All



**SDG 5:**  
Gender Equality

## SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being for All

**Target 3.4:** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

**Indicator 3.4.1:** Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease.

## SDG 5: Gender Equality

**Target 5.6:** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

**Indicator 5.6.1:** Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.

**Indicator 5.6.2:** Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.

The New Zealand National Project ovarian cancer has enabled each club to participate in any way they feel appropriate towards achieving the project objectives of education, advocacy and funding.

When this project started just over a year ago many of us, including me, were not aware of the lack of funding for research; access to affordability of diagnostics and treatment of this disease.

Clubs have undertaken many varied activities to get the message across to women in the community about the need to be vigilant and aware of the symptoms of ovarian cancer so they can increase their chances of having the disease diagnosed earlier. I recall one of the main reasons this project touched so many of us and still does, is that early diagnosis can save women's lives.

Congratulations to all clubs all for raising awareness in your communities about this disease. I can see from the information in the report there has been an array of activities from breakfasts to high teas and even raffles to get the message across and raising an amazing \$20,000+ funds.

**Sylvia Heywood**

SIANZ Programme Convenor (2023-2024)

**"WOMEN PLAY A  
CRITICAL ROLE IN THE  
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC,  
AND POLITICAL  
LANDSCAPE OF  
AOTEAROA NEW  
ZEALAND."**

**"SUPPORTING  
WOMEN'S HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING HAS  
IMPACTS ACROSS  
GENERATIONS AND  
BENEFITS WHANAU  
AND COMMUNITIES."**

# ACTIVITIES

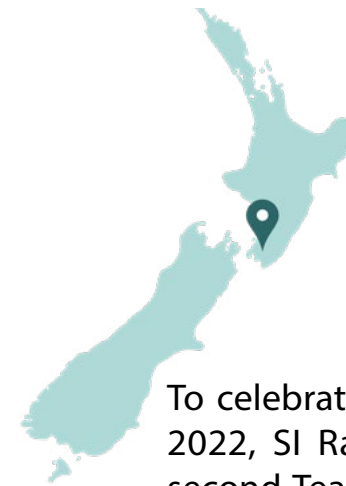
SO FAR...

**AWARENESS  
ACTION  
ADVOCACY**

05

ONE WOMAN  
IS DIAGNOSED  
EVERYDAY IN  
NEW ZEALAND.

## TEAL RIBBON MORNING TEA & QUIZ 2022



### SI RANGATAHI WELLINGTON

To celebrate World Ovarian Cancer Day for 2022, SI Rangatahi Wellington held their second Teal Ribbon Morning Tea and Quiz! The quiz saw 40+ attendees come together to raise money and awareness for ovarian cancer. Local Soroptimists, MPs, friends and colleagues all came along to support this very worthy cause.

“

“My time at the morning tea & quiz was amazing. Lovely to see so many people there. I enjoyed myself very much. Especially at the end when the raffle was drawn. What a lovely surprise for this lady as a winner.

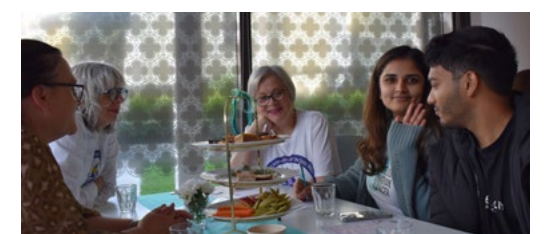
Paulette McElroy - (fifth photo down).

”

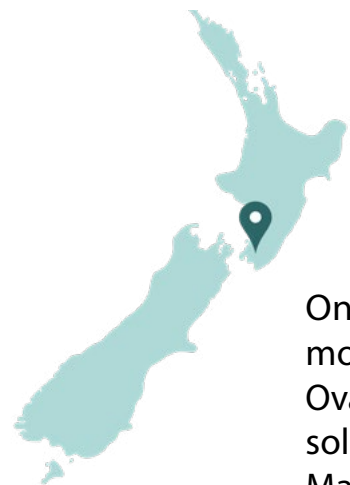
There was morning tea for all, lots of awesome prizes to be won and best of all - a lot of laughter and fun! Quiz questions ranging from naming cartoon characters and Dulux paint colours to labelling a ladies bits and pieces! It was a successful morning raising awareness for a worthy cause but in a lighthearted and fun way.



**RAISED \$1700** CURE OUR  
OVARIAN CANCER







## MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

### SI WELLINGTON

On the 7th of July, SI Wellington held a movie night to raise money for Cure Our Ovarian Cancer. Alongside the movie tickets sold, members also sold raffle tickets for a Matariki inspired raffle prize.



**RAISED \$500** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER

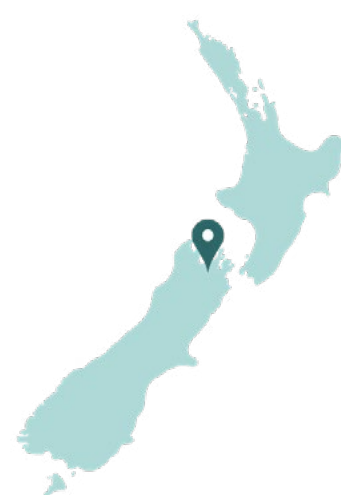
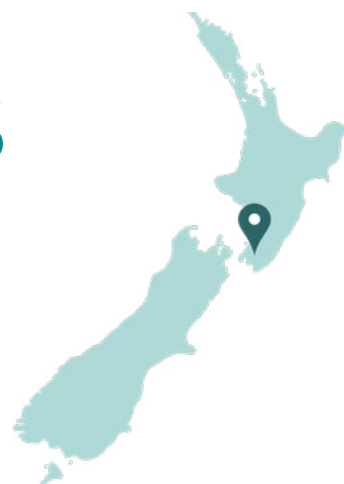
## SI CHATS PODCAST - OVARIAN CANCER SERIES

### SI RANGATAHI WELLINGTON



Click on the image above to find the Podcast!

SI Rangatahi Wellington researched, created, and published a podcast series on ovarian cancer - releasing the series on their newly created SI Chats Podcast channel. A total of four main episodes were produced with one episode released each week during Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month (September). The goal of the series was to allow those that listened to learn something new, become more aware of the experiences of those with ovarian cancer and the charities working to improve outcomes, and to enable people to have conversations around ovarian cancer.



## ADVOCACY/EDUCATION EVENING

### SI WAIMEA

On the 21st of September 2022, SI Waimea members celebrated the club's 48th Birthday with a dinner followed by the viewing of the "The Big C Down There" webinar. Members of neighbouring club SI Nelson, plus past SI Waimea members, and friends of the club were invited to this very successful advocacy/education evening. SI Waimea raised money at this event from member donations and a raffle.

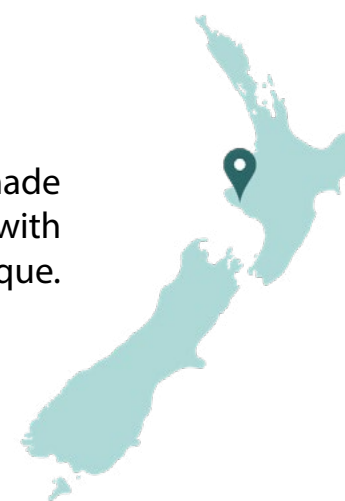
**RAISED \$308.70** K9MD

## FASHION PARADE

### SI NEW PLYMOUTH

SI New Plymouth held a fashion parade at a local New Zealand made boutique Repetoire. The event saw 40 attendees who were greeted with wine on arrival and they had nibbles that were put on by the boutique.

The shop was open for people to purchase after the fashion show and SI New Plymouth got 10 percent of the sales. There were posters and pamphlets for people to take as well as hearing from the club's President about some basic facts out ovarian cancer.



**RAISED \$1600** SPLIT THREE WAYS: CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER, TALK PEACH & K9MD

## CLUSTER REGION MEETING

### SI TAUPŌ, SI ROTORUA, & SI TAURANGA

Three clubs listened to Miracle Marsh speak at their cluster region meeting in September 2022. Attendee and former SIANZ Region North President, Mel Plaisted said, "we had a fantastic afternoon with Miracle. She has such an interesting story to share and we appreciated her honestly in sharing with us, even though it was a bit emotional at times."

"Such a blessing to meet each of you beautiful wahine today. Thank you for inviting me to korero on ovarian cancer. I am honoured to be part of this initiative and applaud Soroptimists."

- Miracle Marsh, Guest Speaker



# BINGO & NACHO NIGHT!

## SI RANGATAHI WELLINGTON

On the 30th of September 2022, SI Rangatahi Wellington held a Bingo and Nacho Night to raise awareness and money for ovarian cancer. The 42 attendees were offered dinner with a homemade nacho buffet that catered to all dietary requirements. The event allowed attendees to BYO drinks and non-alcoholic drinks were provided. Several rounds of bingo were played with awesome prizes to be won!

“Heaps of great fun for all ages!!  
Awesome prizes, and yummy  
homemade nacho bowls!

Kristeen Johnston - Bingo Attendee

It was a great event to host on a cold and windy Wellington night! Club members, friends, and supporters came along and had a blast. Everyone filled up on a hearty meal of nachos that our wonderful club member Jess cooked for us all - including a generous selection of the toppings!

Madison Chamberlain - Club President

**RAISED \$1025** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER

Throughout the event the club spoke about ovarian cancer and raised awareness simply through highlighting the purpose of the fundraiser. This was a ticketed event with all ticket money donated to Cure Our Ovarian Cancer.



# WOMEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS FORUM

SI WESTLAND

In September 2022, SI Westland held a public women's health forum to provide knowledge to local women on a range of health concerns including ovarian cancer and to work in conjunction with local tangata whenua. Members of the public were invited too. Two guest speakers talked about issues relating to women's health including ovarian cancer. The speakers were a local gynaecologist, Dr Vicky Robertson and local Rongoa Maori, Ema Weepu.

**RAISED \$311** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER



# TALK PEACH RAFFLE

## SI RANGATAHI WELLINGTON WITH SI WELLINGTON

SI Rangatahi Wellington in partnership with SI Wellington organised a 'Peach' themed raffle to raise money for Talk Peach.

Both clubs sold raffle tickets during Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month and at SI Rangatahi Wellington's Bingo Night.



This was a very successful raffle that raised hundreds of dollars for Talk Peach. It was with the support of kind businesses who donated prizes that made this possible.

**RAISED \$725** TALK PEACH



# MĀORI WOMEN ARE 62% MORE LIKELY TO DIE OF OVARIAN CANCER THAN OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS.

## HIGH TEA SI GORE

On Sunday 2nd of October, SI Gore held a High Tea at Hawthorne Den as a fundraiser for ovarian cancer.

It was attended by 95 people and the club charged \$35 a head.

The highlight besides the fabulous afternoon tea was the guest speaker, Ele Ludemann who was an inspiration to all who has heard her story.

“My personal thanks would be to our guest speaker, Ele Ludemann, and also it goes without saying to our members, the afternoon would not have been possible without everyone's help.”

SI Gore President - Debbie Dickson.

A majority of the catering was done by our members, which meant we had more profit in the end. Our other highlight was the raffles that had been organized by a couple of members. A lot of the goods in them had been donated by the club members and then were sold in areas around town, not just through word of mouth etc. This made a huge difference to the amount of tickets sold. I think that the cause was very important to everyone and people could relate to it in a very personal way and this helped with everyone wanting to contribute in some way that they were able.

Debbie Dickson - Club President

**RAISED \$3728** SPLIT THREE WAYS:  
CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER, TALK PEACH & K9MD





Local Soroptimists (including the Westland High School Soroptimist Club) along with friends and supporters, walked around Hokitika, viewing all the projects Soroptimists have been involved in around the town. Seat, sculptures, plaques celebrating significant events e.g. 125 years

## STEP UP WALK SI WESTLAND

of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand. Members wore teal during the walk to raise awareness for ovarian cancer. Around 15 women met and walked together.



## SCHOOL PROJECT SI KAPITI COAST

In term 4 of 2022, students from Paekakariki School held a Rainbow Gala to raise funds for the school. The SI Kapiti Sorop Kids group had an idea to support the SIANZ National Project. The tamariki just love animals so the K9MD dogs suited them very well. The team set about collecting no longer needed soft toys and set up an adoption centre to rehome these toys at the school rainbow gala.

They created adoption papers with costs for each toy. The team learnt about advertising and the logistics of operating a stall including sorting a cash float, making a roster and keeping track of sales. The team promoted K9MD by creating display posters and explaining what the dogs do to the public visiting their stall. This event provided the group with some leadership training and an awareness for the SIANZ National Project in the school community.



**RAISED \$110** K9MD

## OTAKI SUNDAY MARKET - AWARENESS STALL

### SI KAPITI COAST

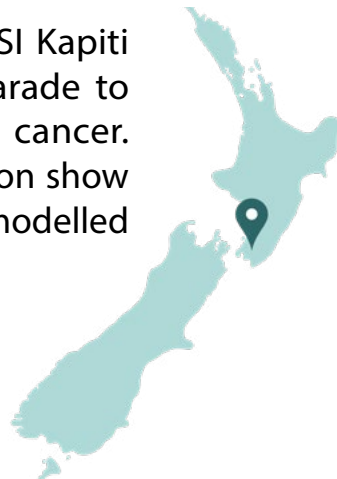
SI Kapiti attended the Otaki Market to raise awareness about all things Soroptimist.

They had a pamper and a gardening raffle at the stall with all proceeds going to the Cure Our Ovarian Cancer.



## FASHION PARADE SI KAPITI COAST

On the 6th of October, SI Kapiti Coast held a fashion parade to raise funds for ovarian cancer. Ballentynes ran the fashion show itself with six members modelled some of the stunning clothes while the other members provided a delicious supper for the guests to enjoy.



“Big shout out to Lisa and her team from Ballentynes! They did a very professional job, from dressing the models, introducing the outfits and making us all feel comfortable.”

SI Kapiti Coast President - Diana Ponsford



**RAISED \$837**

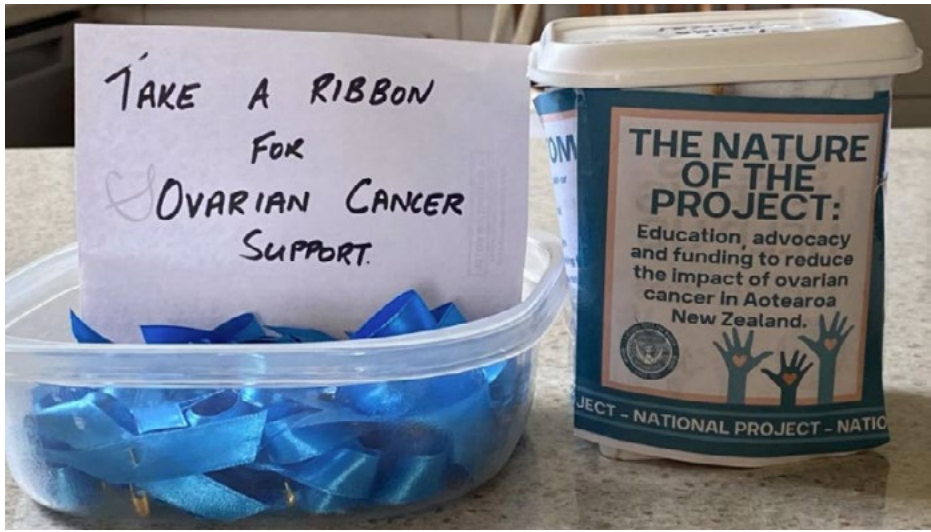
CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER





# CHRISTMAS SHOP SI WAITARA

During the months of November and December 2022, SI Waitara had an information board on ovarian cancer at their very popular Christmas Shop for everyone to see!



Members had also put out Teal Ribbons for the public to take as well and they had a container for collecting donations.

**RAISED \$70** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER



# PAMPHLET SI WAITARA

Frances Waugh, a club member of SI Waitara, had to take up a project as part of the SIANZ Leadership Programme 2022 and Frances decided to develop a pamphlet to raise awareness and provide information about ovarian cancer. The pamphlet was translated into teo reo Maori and has since been printed and distributed to local libraries, medical centres and doctors surgeries.

Some of the pamphlets were shared with other Soroptimist Clubs at the Conference of Clubs held in Rotorua in March 2023.



# PUBLIC FORUM SI TAURANGA

SI Tauranga held a Public Forum in November 2022. This was their introduction into the National Project 'ovarian cancer'.

The guest speaker was meant to be linked SI member, Liz Pennington, who now lives in the Bay of Plenty. Liz is a Trustee of Cure Our Ovarian Cancer and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing. Sadly, Liz went down with Covid so was unable to present. Thankfully, Dr. Judith Lowes, a member of SI Tauranga stepped into the breach and delivered a very interesting talk covering the various types of cancer affecting women and ending up with the issues of Ovarian Cancer. The gold coin entry funds were supplemented by money raised through a raffle of an iced Christmas Cake made and iced by a member as first prize and two Will & Able Gift boxes as second and third prizes.

“The evening was well received by those present. We were delighted to have a member of SI Rangatahi present.”  
Carol Butler - member



**RAISED \$100**

Over the summer months, despite the weather, club member Tricia Lee ran a series of Qigong classes.



These were open to the community and a regular group of attendees gathered each time. Attendance at each class was by donation and collected over the six weeks.



**RAISED \$301** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER



# AN EVENING WITH ELE SI DUNEDIN

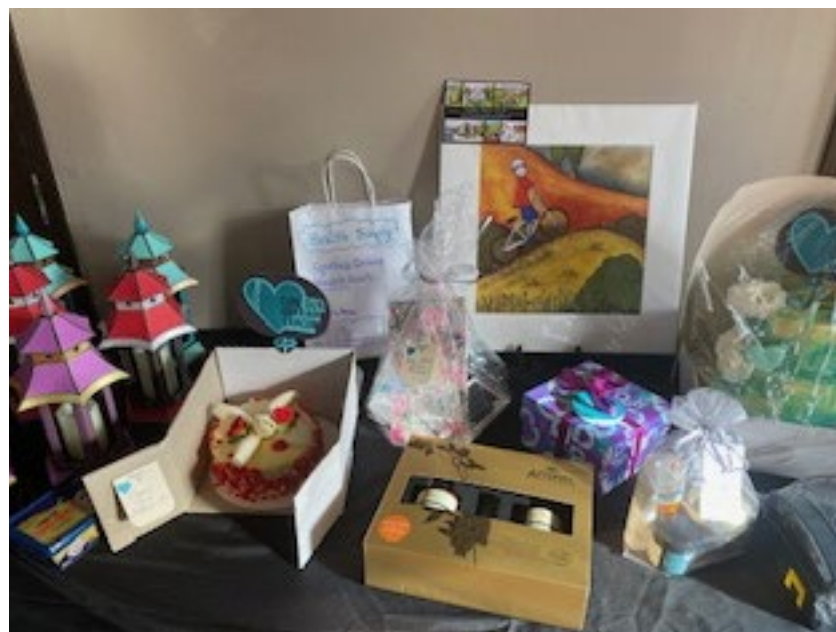
SI Dunedin held a fundraising event in support of research for ovarian cancer. Club members sourced raffles and spot prizes and invited community members and friends to attend the evening.

An engaging speaker who gave us a peek into her family experience with ovarian cancer was the highlight of the evening. Food was served at the start of the evening and most people left with a raffle or spot prize.

“Hues of blue and green surrounded the attendees at the ‘Cure Our Ovarian Cancer’ fundraising evening, as they laughed and cried while Ele told her story. Numerous raffle and door prizes were drawn keeping all actively engaged.”

- Jill Crow club member.

Teal cookies were baked, iced and donated, with each guest getting a wee cellophane bag of three cookies each. A beautifully decorated cake that was iced in ovarian cancer colours was part of the raffle prizes!



**RAISED \$1000** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER

# CUPPA FOR A CURE SI WAIMEA

On the 25th of February 2023, SI Waimea hosted a ‘Cuppa for a Cure’ event, where approximately 90 women attended and heard from a speaker about ovarian cancer. Money from ticket sales and raffle tickets was raised for Cure Our Ovarian Cancer and Talk Peach.

Dr Kate Gregory - Consultant Medical Oncologist specialising in Gynaecological, Breast Cancer and Melanoma, spoke to attendees followed by a question time.

The club provided information in the way of wallet cards (with symptoms), a leaflet from the Gynaecological Foundation, and information about symptoms for the four other different gynaecological cancers - which was compiled by one of the club members (who is a doctor).



“President Lenore thanked Dr Kate for her excellent delivery of the presentation and willingness to answer questions from the floor. The majority of guests stayed on and Dr Kate was still happy to answer further questions.”



**RAISED \$1,500** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER  
TALK PEACH



## WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST SI NORTH CANTERBURY

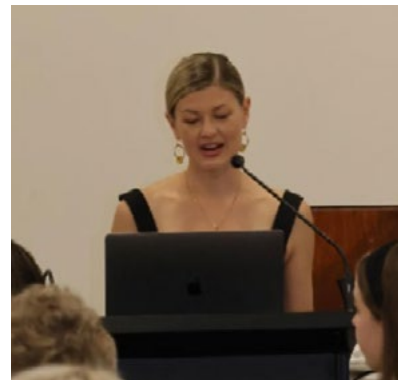
SI North Canterbury held a breakfast on International Women's Day to raise funds to promote the awareness of ovarian cancer in North Canterbury.

The breakfast was held at the RSA in Rangiora. There were two speakers - Abby Foy, a fashion designer and innovator with Bonds Australasia, and Dame Sue Bagshaw who spoke about the Community Youth Hub in Christchurch.

After costs, SI North Canterbury raised \$2,850 which will be used to hold a further event to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in North Canterbury.

The partnership with the RSA and support of businesses, members and the public was wonderful.

“The breakfast was an outstanding success. Excellent speakers and lovely floral arrangements. Alison - breakfast attendee.”



**RAISED \$2,850**

## FIREWOOD RAFFLE SI NELSON

Throughout February 2023, SI Nelson sold raffle tickets. SI Nelson loaded a trailer of firewood that was donated by one of the club's members so that it could be raffled off to raise funds.

Members sold raffle tickets at the Nelson Market, outside a New World and a Mitre 10 Mega, as well as advertised on Facebook.

**RAISED \$1,500** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER

**RAISED \$500** TALK PEACH



## MOVIE FUNDRAISER SI WELLINGTON

On the 21st of March 2023, SI Wellington held a movie night to fundraise for the National Project. At the movie night the club also had a raffle with tickets available for purchase.

**RAISED \$500** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER



# THE CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER PROJECT-AWARENESS BREAKFAST

## SI NEW PLYMOUTH

SI New Plymouth hosted a breakfast on International Women’s Day at a local cafe to increase awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms. There were around 50 people who attended to hear the guest speaker who was, local Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Valentina Shaw.

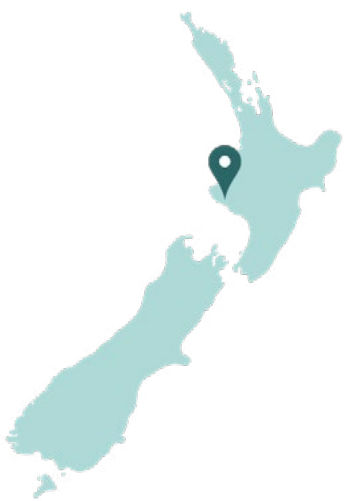
Elixer cafe provided the delicious breakfast for a small fee.

The guest speaker was marvellous, she was very passionate and made the talk interesting. There was a great buzz in the room over breakfast.

“It was a very pleasant breakfast. I learnt a lot and met some interesting ladies.”  
- Ngaire.



“What a great speaker Dr Valentina was. I loved her passion for her subject.”  
- Frances.

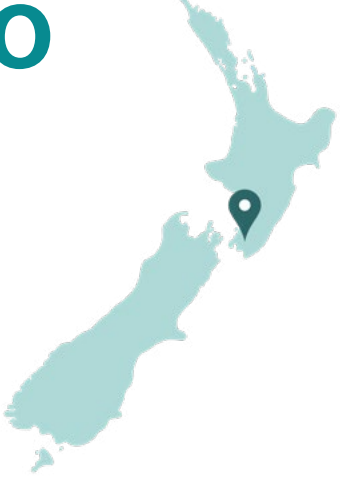


**RAISED \$981.80** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER

# WOMEN’S LIFESTYLE EXPO

## SI RANGATAHI WELLINGTON, SI WELLINGTON, SI LOWER HUTT & SI KAPITI

On the 15th and 16th of April 2023, SI Rangatahi Wellington, along with the help and support of SI Wellington, SI Lower Hutt and SI Kapiti, had a stall at the Women’s Expo in Wellington. All four clubs worked together to raise awareness about ovarian cancer.



At the Women’s Expo Stall, SI Rangatahi Wellington sold teal cookies to raise money for Cure Our Ovarian Cancer.

For every cookie sold \$2.50 was donated.

Raffle tickets for their World Ovarian Cancer Day fundraiser were also sold at the stall.



# TEAL COOKIES!

## SI RANGATAHI WELLINGTON



**RAISED \$600** CURE OUR OVARIAN CANCER



**ALMOST HALF  
OF ALL NEW  
ZEALAND  
WOMEN ARE  
DIAGNOSED VIA  
THE EMERGENCY  
DEPARTMENT.**

**42% OF WHICH  
WILL BE DEAD  
WITHIN A YEAR.**

**NEXT STEPS**

**06**

## NEXT STEPS

The clubs in Aotearoa New Zealand have embraced the cause of ovarian cancer as SIANZ's National Project and each brought their own ideas and interests to raise Awareness, Advocate, and Fundraise to support better outcomes for women in their communities. This will continue throughout the term of the national project building on the strengths of our organisation, clubs, and our members to reduce the impact of ovarian cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The organisation of the project itself has evolved, and continues to evolve, as we learn and adapt to a new way of doing things. The way the project team is structured and who is involved is currently under review and will likely continue to flex and change as the project and the needs of our clubs change over time. We will continue to draw on and apply the strengths of our members and our organisation to maximise our impact.



There is work to do. Every person who learns about ovarian cancer hopefully shares this information with their friends and whanau, so the more people we can make aware, the further the messages will spread and more women will seek and demand help earlier in the course of the disease. Advocating for funding for research, diagnostics, and support for women and their whanau with ovarian cancer is also planned. We will continue to support our clubs do what they do best by sharing ideas and providing resources such as the brochures to assist with their activities. We will continue to measure our impact in terms of awareness and money raised, and report this at a national level and through federation reporting.



Ideas are always welcome so please share your thoughts with us – as we have already seen in the first year, together we can make a huge impact!

**From the National Project Team 2022-23.**

# WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR NATIONAL PROJECT.





**Report prepared and designed by:**

Madison Chamberlain

*SIANZ Communications Convenor*

with the support of the National Project Team.

**Any questions or queries about this report:**

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