

■ FAMILY HEALTH & BEAUTY

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Warkworth building project reflects growing need for community-based palliative care

A new hospice to be built at Glenmore Drive in Warkworth will give people living with a terminal illness somewhere to go for group support, day programmes and therapies such as music, art and exercise.

Warkworth Wellsford Hospice has bought a 5000sqm site bordering Glenmore and Morrison Drives, and construction is expected to start about the middle of next year.

Planning is in the early stages and includes consultation with staff, volunteers and community groups, and research of other hospices to see what works well. Fundraising coordinator Lesley Ingham says hospice will launch its public fundraising campaign early next year after plans have been drawn up.

“However, people are already being very generous and we greatly appreciate the extra support, which enables us to continue our day to day work in the community as we build up our project fund,” she says.

There are no plans to include an inpatient facility in the new building, as the operating costs would be prohibitive. Hospice’s community palliative care nurses and family support team work in the community, providing help in people’s own homes. Patients who need complex symptom

management or respite care are well served by the in-patient unit at North Shore, which operates as an umbrella trust for Warkworth Wellsford. Local patients may also be admitted to Hibiscus Hospice for inpatient care.

Warkworth Wellsford Hospice general manager Kathryn Ashworth says that care in the community will continue to be Hospice’s primary service from Puhoi to Mangawhai.

“The new building will give us enough space to expand on our services and offer specialist clinics, support groups for patients, families and volunteers, and community education,” she says.

“At the moment we do what we can, but if a patient comes to see our nurses while they are in town and have something they want checking, we have nowhere they can lie down for an examination.

“Our support groups have to be planned around garage sale activities and other meetings, and we don’t have the space to meet with some of our larger volunteer teams.”

Warkworth Wellsford Hospice bought



Hospice staff celebrate the purchase of land for a new building in Glenmore Drive.

and refurbished its present buildings on the corner of Woodcocks Rd and Morrison Drive in the early 2000s with funding from the Veta Mary James Trust, Warkworth Rotary Club and the EAR Fisher Estate. Within five years it was clear that another move would be required to meet a growing need for palliative care services in the community.

The vision for the new Hospice House is a place where patients, families, supporters and anyone interested in Hospice’s work can come and take part in the various aspects of Hospice’s service, which will encompass a broad range of activities including palliative care clinics, day respite, pamper therapies, seminars and retail fundraising.

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