



Memories are made of this

By **AMY MCGILLIVRAY**

Everyone has moments in life they would rather forget.

CanTeen helps its members do that every day and now with the help of the Magnificent Memory Machine, Kiwis around the country can trade in their bad memories for good ones.

The brand new invention will be available for use for the first time at Sylvia Park mall from Monday until July 23 before it heads down the country.

A \$3 text donation will allow you to input your bad memory and exchange it for a fun new one printed on a ticket.

CanTeen member Amanda Beaton, 24, knows just how important good memories are.

She was diagnosed

with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the end of 2008.

After seven months of treatment she went into remission but four months later the cancer was back and now she is undergoing treatment again.

Miss Beaton says she has had her share of bad news from the doctors but CanTeen helps turn the hard days into more positive memories.

CanTeen is right across the road from the hospital so Miss Beaton, like many members, often heads straight there to talk to someone after a tough appointment with the doctor.

"With any bad memories like that I've just gone to CanTeen so there's always a good one to go along with the bad

one," she says.

"I think it's an awesome concept because that's kind of what they do."

Miss Beaton says CanTeen has been a huge support for her.

She says the staff will drop everything whenever a member walks in needing someone to talk to.

The organisation also helps members get to know others who are in the same position.

"It's cool to have other people that you can relate to and make sure you know that you're not the only one going through it."

CanTeen marketing and communications manager Kimberley Waters says that is exactly what the organisation is about.

"Creating great new memories is, in essence, what CanTeen strives to do every day for our members. Unfortunately we don't have a machine that can take away the memories cancer generates but we do like to have fun and create special experiences and opportunities for our members that help them better deal with cancer and thrive beyond it," she says.

"When young people living with cancer get together and share their experiences it creates an environment where better memories really can outshine the bad ones."

■ You can also visit www.memorymachine.co.nz to make a donation and try out the machine.



Creating smiles: The Magnificent Memory Machine takes bad memories and turns them into fun new ones just like CanTeen has done for Amanda Beaton.

Photo: BEN WATSON



Team spirit: James Vunileva, centre, is organising the Through It All gospel concert next Wednesday. He is pictured with staff and assistants from Auckland University, from left: Dr Trevor Thwaites, George Mubayiwa, Larry May, John McRae and Judy Duncan.

Photo: JASON OXENHAM

A concert for the soul

By **RHIANNON HORRELL**

If music is food for the soul then an inspirational gospel concert planned for next week should satisfy.

The Through It All concert is gearing up to be a night to remember and will raise funds for teenagers living with cancer.

Event manager James Vunileva says a choir of more than 50 people plus a 10-piece backing band are sure to impress along

with the band Hounds of Sound and gospel soloists Victor Hawkins-Sulfa, Saia Folau, Sara Jane, Malcolm Lakatani and Grace Ikenasio.

The aspiring youth worker and Auckland University student says one of the girls in his class works for CanTeen and she mentioned the charity is always in need of support.

Mr Vunileva met CanTeen members while he was organising the event.

“Just meeting them was awesome,” he says.

“I’ve been through a lot of rough patches in my life and it helps me relate to where these people are at.”

The concert will be held on July 20 from 6pm at the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre, 770 Great South Rd, Manukau.

■ Go to www.throughitall.org.nz for details and www.centralleader.co.nz to see a video about the concert.



Making happy memories

By AMY MCGILLIVRAY

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Amanda Beaton, 24, knows just how important good memories are.

The CanTeen member was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the end of 2008.

After seven months of treatment she went into remission but four months later the cancer was back and now she is undergoing treatment again.

Miss Beaton says she has had her share of bad news from doctors but CanTeen helps turn the hard days into more positive memories.



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Miss Beaton says CanTeen has been a huge support for her.

She says the staff drop everything whenever a member walks in needing someone to talk to.

The organisation also helps members get to know others who are in the same position.

Marketing and communications manager Kimberley Waters says that is exactly what the organisation is about.

"Creating great new memories is what CanTeen strives to do every

day for our members.

"Unfortunately we don't have a machine that can take away the memories cancer generates but we do like to create special experiences for our members that help them better deal with cancer and thrive beyond it," she says.

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Improve your memories and help CanTeen

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CanTeen member Amanda Beaton, 24, knows just how important good memories are.

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Inspired by CanTeen

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The aspiring youth worker and Auckland University student says

one of the girls in his class works for CanTeen and she mentioned the charity is always needing support.

Mr Vunileva was able to meet some of the CanTeen members during his organisation of the event.

“Just meeting them was awesome. Some of them grow up so quick. I was touched by just meeting them.”

The concert takes place on July 20 from 6pm at the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre, 770 Great South Rd, Manukau.

■ See www.throughitall.org.nz for details and www.manukaucourier.co.nz to see a video about the concert.



A happy memory for just \$3

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Lymphoma at the end of 2008.

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CanTeen's memory-clean machine a dream

IMAGINE if there was a machine, so magnificent that it could delete your most embarrassing or horrid memories and replace them with exciting, fun ones.

In just under a week, there will be.

On July 18 CanTeen, New Zealand's charity that supports young people living with cancer, will be unveiling its Magnificent Memory Machine. It's a machine so magnificent that for a measly

\$3 text donation it will expunge the worst memories of New Zealanders and exchange them with enjoyable new ones. The machine, which looks like a collaboration between Dr Who and Dr Seuss, will be in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin but also live online at www.memorymachine.co.nz. A \$3 text donation will make the machine "come alive". The participant can then input their bad memory into the

machine, which will exchange it for a brand new ethereal memory printed on a ticket. New memories – such as hugging a stranger, giving someone the thumbs up or doing something a bit wacky are expected to go a long way to put a smile on someone's face. CanTeen's Marketing and Communications Manager, Kimberley Waters, is sure the machine will be a big hit with New Zealanders.



Daring to be different

By CHRISTEL PRICE

Two girls are taking a stand for young people suffering from cancer and showing they are not defined by their outward appearance.

Jade Gunn and Sienna Nealon are daring to be different by shaving their heads to raise money for Canteen.

"The community gives so much to us and we wanted to give something back," says Jade.

Sienna has had a number of family members suffer from cancer, with her granddad recently dying from the disease.

Another poignant reason the girls have decided to

shave their heads is to show others that value does not lie in appearances.

"In the past I have been really affected by poor self-image. I want to make a stand and show teens they can dare to be different and not worry so much about outward appearances," Jade says.

The Year 9 students have been working hard to raise as much money as they can for Canteen by August 16, when they will shave their heads.

Approaching various businesses, Jade and Sienna's proactive approach has seen them raise around \$600 in just two weeks. Their goal is to reach \$7,000.

A lot of preparation has gone into the fundraising with the girls planning to hold a sausage sizzle, car wash, school fundraisers and raffles, which will all lead up to the big shave on August 16.

Both girls attend Freyberg High School and say the school has been extremely supportive.

"They have helped with letting us hold a mufti day, which will raise a lot of money," says Sienna.

■ If interested in supporting Shaving For Courage, Shave Away Self Image For Cancer contact Jade on 022 658 6090 or jadegunn2011@hotmail.com



CARING TEENS:
Jade Gunn and Sienna Nealon are stepping out of their comfort zones to raise funds for cancer sufferers.



Shining star made the most of life

ADYN OGLE

A FIGHTING spirit was the quality June Berrington most admired about her daughter Melanie Purcell who lost her battle with cancer recently.

Twenty-four-year-old Purcell died last month and was the Eastern Bay's most prominent showjumper – she was all about horses and helping people any way she could.

Purcell was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2009. Just weeks before her death, she was organising a treasure trek on their Whakatane property to raise money for Canteen. After organising the event, she became too sick to attend.

A couple of months ago, Purcell was scheduled to do a trek on the Kaimanawa Ranges but had to go into hospital after a bout of severe illness.

“Mel came out of the hospital the day we were supposed to go on the trek. When we got home I rang up to cancel our trek and Mel asked me what the hell I was doing. She just never gave up,” Mrs Berrington said.

Two hours later they had the horse truck loaded and were on their way.

“How she approached it was a massive part of it. But really she always had that brightness.

“There wasn't much difference from before she was sick. She applied a ‘just go out and do it’ attitude.

“Her illness was a rollercoaster – it was a huge learning experience and it showed how scary cancer can be.

“The symptoms can be so subtle. People can learn a lot from Mel. Not just in staying positive but there were some lessons from her illness. It is so important to have those check ups.

“After going down it I am keen to help people deal with the tough road that cancer is.”

Mrs Berrington said she shared a unique connection with her daughter – one that had been forged through many early mornings, long trips in the truck and good times.

“She was my best mate. We had a very special mother-daughter relationship. She even made sure I had a



BEST FRIEND: Top Whakatane showjumper Melanie Purcell with her best mate Jimmy.
Photo contributed



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good horse after she was gone.

“She had planned it a few months ago. That was another of Mel’s qualities – everything had a plan.”

Purcell was a World Cup level rider where she represented New Zealand and had a plethora of success on her favourite mount Kiwi Iron Mark.

Her talent in the saddle had her kicked out of the junior B grade ring at eight years old.

“Mel could turn a donkey into a

good horse. She was always a natural with horses.”

Mrs Berrington has a vault of ribbons, trophies and sashes accumulated through Purcell’s career.

“She was just so passionate about horses. When she was 18 she trained in Germany for six months and that was a big thing for her.

“She also loved to teach kids and was always keen to see them do well.”

As well as riding at the top level

just last year other big results included winning her five-year-old Horse of the Year title in 2009.

Purcell also picked up third in the Lady Rider of the Year, which had her jumping at 1.45m and included top New Zealand and international riders.

Purcell’s funeral was held in Rotorua last week with over 500 people in attendance.



SHOW TIME: Melanie Purcell competing on her favourite horse Kiwi Iron Mark.

Photo supplied