



Memory Machine: Dunedin CanTeen patient member Sarah Young (14) is happy to receive her new memory from the Magnificent Memory Machine in Dunedin this week. The machine is part of a CanTeen fundraising venture touring the country. *PHOTO: GENEVIEVE ROBINSON*

Machine generates fun memories

By GENEVIEVE ROBINSON

EVERYONE has at least one memory they wish they could erase.

For Dunedin CanTeen patient member Sarah Young (14), her fight with cancer is the one memory she wishes she could replace with a happier one.

Sarah was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma — cancer of both the eyes — at just 6 weeks of age.

“The worst was probably the surgery and then afterwards. It was pretty horrible,” she said.

Now in her teens. Sarah has

been in remission for almost eight years.

On Monday, CanTeen unveiled its Magnificent Memory Machine in Dunedin so children could get the chance to see what it was like to delete horrible memories and Sarah was one of the first to try it.

The machine requires a \$3 text donation to “come alive”. Bad memories are replaced with new ones printed out on a ticket.

New memories such as hugging a stranger is one of the memories the machine has been giving out.

CanTeen’s marketing and com-

munications manager Kimberley Waters said although there was no actual machine that could take away the memories that having cancer generates, having fun and giving kids special experiences and opportunities helped them deal with cancer, and thrive beyond it.

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

□ The Magnificent Memory Machine will be at the Meridian Mall until Friday.



CanTeen machine has good memories

STAFF REPORTER

DESPITE being in remission for eight years, Sarah Young still has strong memories of her experience with cancer and was glad to “delete” one of them this week.

The Dunedin CanTeen member was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma — cancer of both the eyes — when she was aged 6 weeks.

However, the charity’s Magnificent Memory Machine, based at the Meridian mall this week, allowed her to “cancel out” one of her bad memories and replace it with a good one.

“The worst was probably the surgery and then afterwards. That was pretty horrible,” she said.

The machine has been touring New Zealand and for \$3 people can input a bad memory in exchange for a new ethereal memory, such as hugging a stranger, or doing something wacky.

CanTeen’s marketing and communications manager Kimberley Waters said creating great new memories was what the organisation strived to do for its 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,” she said.

The machine will be at the mall until Friday and is also online at www.memorymachine.co.nz



Out with the old . . . Cancer survivor Sarah Young (14) reads a new memory, cancelling out an old one, thanks to the CanTeen memory machine, in the Meridian mall, Dunedin.

PHOTO: JANE DAWBEF



Enduring solo effort

One 24-hour cycle event might be pushing it but, as **Christine McKay** reports, one man is doing two in a week

Two continents and two 24-hour solo cycle rides all in one week — most people would think Colin Anderson was mad.

But former Dannevirke cyclist, Anderson, who is the first and only New Zealand rider to take part in the annual Le Mans challenge on the legendary racing car circuit, can't wait to get his wheels in a spin.

"Bugatti, the car circuit, will be buzzing with the wheels of more than 3000 riders, on August 20 and 21, and I can't wait to join them," Anderson told *Dannevirke News*.

But, while for most the Le Mans would be enough of an endurance test, Anderson is hungry for more.

Immediately after finishing in France, it's a quick strip and wash of his bike, some sleep and then he boards a plane for Washington in the United States to ride in a 24-hour event on August 27 and 28.

"This ride is an annual event raising funds for the ULMAR Cancer research Foundation, where all entry fees are added to the fund. Qualifying for this event is, unfortunately, easy for many and will be a very emotional ride," Anderson said.

Qualification is simple, you must be a cancer survivor, sufferer or supporter and Anderson qualifies on all three.

He's endured his own private battle with prostate cancer, diagnosed when he returned home from taking part in the 2007 1200km Paris-Brest-Paris ride and needing a radical prostatectomy. But Anderson, wasn't about to let his own battle for life slow down his rides in support of friends who've died from the prostate cancer and in November of that year he managed a credible fourth in the 640km maxi enduro section of the Wattyl Round Lake Taupo Challenge. He admitted at the time that it wasn't easy.

"Here I was riding in the round Lake

Taupo, with the prospect of major surgery ahead of me. I was feeling pretty fragile, believe me."

However, unlike many men, Anderson had regularly undergone tests for the disease and those tests saved his life.

"I didn't know I had it [prostate cancer] and my surgeon said I wouldn't be around to ride anymore if I hadn't gone in for a check-up," Anderson said.

However, while some of Anderson's friends reckon the 63-year-old needs a check-up in his head for even thinking of tackling the two 24-hour solo rides in two continents

in one week, his sister Kay Mackay of Dannevirke is immensely proud of his achievements.

"He'll do us proud," she told *Dannevirke News*.

"He's just one of those people who must challenge themselves all the time. I think it's wonderful what he's doing. He's got a

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— KAY MACKAY

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Kay said her brother, who turns 64 in October, is very much like their father who faced many obstacles and challenges in his life, especially healthwise.

"Colin will achieve what he sets out to do and his wife Christine will be there with him all the way," she said.

The Les Mans challenge starts like the car race, with riders running across the track to their cycles and, once into the race, Anderson said one of the big hassles will be making sure he doesn't get too carried away by the changing pace.

"It'd be easy for a solo rider to over-exert themselves and become a did-not-finish and although I'm reasonably experienced at 24-hour solo rides, this will be more hazardous. As a solo you've only got yourself to worry about when you're tiring, but with others in the same weary state of mind, sudden and unexpected changes in



rider movements could quite easily cause accidents," he said. "With lots of younger solo riders expected to crack a hearty pace, I'll be just pleased to acquit myself well. I'm expecting to be competing against riders I've met on the various roads of France in the Paris-Brest-Paris race four years ago."

However, Anderson knows he'll have to contend with language barrier, as well as problems of tiredness to the body and his brain.

"The age-old problem of endurance shutdown will no doubt rear its ugly head and I don't suppose I'll be immune," he said.

The Le Mans event is a solo and teams event and in past years teams have cycled

more than 850km in the 24-hour period, with solo riders covering around 700km which is some way ahead of Anderson's current New Zealand records of 660km on indoor circuits and 627km outdoors.

In conjunction with his French endurance, Anderson is running a contest, raising funds for Manawatu Canteen, with entrants guessing the distance he will cycle in the 24-hours.

"I've been lucky to have had prizes donated by wonderful Palmerston North companies," he said.

"As far as Le Mans is concerned, well . . . 24-hours is a long time to keep motivated on a blessed road cycle and I only hope I can sleep on the plane to the US."



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BUSY WEEK AHEAD: Former Dannevirke cyclist, Colin Anderson, ready to tackle two continents and two 24-hour solo cycle rides in one week.

PICTURE: SUPPLIED



Pageant to raise funds

By **MARIANNE KELLY**

FASHION and beauty skills are going hand in hand with a nationwide effort to help young people with cancer overcome the fear of possible death and return to a life of normality.

Since the *Times*' contestant in the upcoming Miss Howick beauty pageant spoke out about her battle with leukaemia and subsequent remission, life has looked up for her.

Pageant organiser Val Lott says Tash Gate is fully participating in rehearsals and enjoying feeling like her fellow contestants rather than as someone who has been sick.

"There has been a warm response from members of the public asking after Tash," Mrs Lott says.

Funds raised by this year's pageant will go to CanTeen, the organisation that supports teenagers living with cancer, and Howick Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Every second day a young person is diagnosed with cancer in New Zealand, says Brian Barnett, member support manager for CanTeen in Auckland and Northland.

"The thing that scares most people is they think, 'I'm going to die'," he says.

"But there are good treatments

if the cancer is caught in time."

About 480 young people aged 13-24 are helped by the organisation in Auckland and Northland.

They can be a patient member, which is someone who's diagnosed with cancer, a sibling to someone who has cancer, or a bereaved sibling who has lost a member of their family.

Those aged 18 or younger are usually treated at Auckland's Starship Children's Health, and those aged 18-24 at Auckland City Hospital.

"The role of CanTeen is to ensure none of those youngsters go through it alone," Mr Barnett says. "With the recession, the disease is derailing some families, particularly in the north and South Auckland.

"Mum and dad often have precarious finances, both are working and suddenly they have to go to Auckland. This can lead to them losing a job or other issues develop around things, such as housing or relationships."

Mr Barnett is pleased to know Tash has been making a major step forward as the result of telling her story through her involvement in Miss Howick.

"New Zealand youngsters carry stuff inside and won't talk freely. Research is suggesting that a long-term goal when they are around sick kids can give

them a cure possibility. For us, it's about how to lighten the load. For some, the disease is a massive burden."

CanTeen works with the Look Good Feel Better cancer organisation giving teenage girls in hospital the opportunity to be professionally made-up and dressed up. CanTeen then takes them out for a meal at a city restaurant before returning them to the hospital at night. "By just having those days out with support and care, we see a shift in their attitude," Mr Barnett says.

■ The Miss Howick beauty pageant judges are Sarah McIntyre, Miss Auckland franchise holder and Miss Howick 1993, Sarah Archibald, of Elim Toastmasters which will donate a three-month prize to the winner for fortnightly classes, Judy Bruce, of Lily Whyte Lingerie in Howick, Jeff Honeybun, of Jeff Honeybun Jewellers in Howick, May Davis and Irene Lal.

■ Donations to CanTeen can be made directly to CanTeen Auckland account number 12323 700 15618 00 with reference to Miss Howick. Cheques payable to CanTeen can be sent to Brian Barnett, Manager CanTeen Auckland & Northland, 111 Grafton Road, Grafton, Auckland 1010.



CARING FOR KIDS: Above, Brian Barnett, CanTeen's member support manager, and Val Lott, the Miss Howick pageant organiser, are ready to raise funds for teens with cancer; right, Tash Gate – Miss Times Newspapers.

Times photo Wayne Martin / Marianne Kelly

COMING UP

■ Contestants will parade from 7pm tonight at the Cock & Bull pub in Botany Town Centre.

■ A fundraising movie night will be held at 7pm on August 8 at Hoyts Cinemas, Botany Town Centre.

■ A pre-judging dinner starts at 6.30pm on August 15 at Fisher House, Highbrook.

■ A full dress rehearsal will be held at 6.30pm on August 17 at Metlifecare Highlands retirement village.

■ The grand final is on August 27 at the Picton Centre, Howick, with dinner for sponsors, families, friends and anyone else who wants to join in at 6pm. The show starts at 8pm. Entertainment will be provided by St Andrew's Big Band, formed to provide performance opportunities for young jazz musicians in Auckland's eastern suburbs.

For more information, phone Val Lott on (09) 535-7782 or 0274-767-003.



Taupo Weekender

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Memory marvel

Everyone has a memory they'd rather forget. But 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. Now there is. Last Monday CanTeen, New Zealand's charity that supports young people living with cancer, unveiled its Magnificent Memory Machine. For a \$3 text donation it will expunge the worst memories of New

Zealanders and exchange them with enjoyable new ones. An actual machine will tour the main centres and a virtual machine will live online at www.memorymachine.co.nz as well as on Facebook so that people living outside the cities will also have the opportunity to replace their bad memories with great new ones. CanTeen's marketing and communications manager Kimberley Waters is sure the machine will be a big hit with New Zealanders.



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Times photo Wayne Martin / Marianne Kelly



PONSONBY DESIGNER TO OPEN NEW ZEALAND FASHION WEEK

The glamour and buzz that is New Zealand Fashion Week is set to happen a little earlier this year, and in a brand new venue to boot. The Rugby World Cup has seen organiser and Ponsonby resident Pieter Stewart and her team bring the event forward: it kicks off on 29 August and finishes on 3 September, with the evening of the 2nd and the Saturday 3rd forming Fashion WEEKEND – the public arm of the event.

The move to the new venue isn't so much a matter of distance – Fashion Week is to take place just a little further down Halsey Street at the brand spanking Viaduct Events Centre – but of logistics. There's been a lot of head scratching to home the event's many layers: the shows themselves, registration, buyer helpdesks, exhibitor space, the 'green room' or backstage area, hosting and partner spaces, catering, space for media and photographers, and the much loved Sunday Star Times Designer Garage Sale.

Ponsonby designers will be better represented than ever this year. You can't argue that WORLD has pulled off yet another coup – the live New Zealand's Next Top Model finale will take place at their show at 8pm on the Friday of Fashion Week. (You can't buy tickets to this show but you can win one as part of the Ponsonby News/Lexus of Auckland City 'Best Dressed' awards - see page xx).

Ingrid Starnes, who has recently opened a new store with Tessuti at 224 Jervois Road, is not only making her New Zealand Fashion Week debut but will be opening Fashion Week – a matter of much excitement among the industry cognoscenti. "It has been a very busy and exciting year so far, with the opening of our beautiful new store on Jervois Road" says Ingrid. "I'm really looking forward to Fashion Week!"

Then, working from A to Z: Annah Stretton is to show and is also repeating her show for Tuesday Night's StarJam charity event.

New menswear label Egoist, whose new retail store is at the Western Park end of Ponsonby Road, will hit the runway as part of the New Generation Show.

Always a hot ticket, Hailwood will show, as will Helen Cherry and Workshop Denim (both from the same stable), whose return to the event after a six year absence is much heralded.

If we can claim Hailwood as a Ponsonby Designer, we'll call Jimmy D our own too – he's represented at Children of Vision in St Kevin's Arcade and his dark punk/gothic style is another that the industry are learning more and more to love.

Juliette Hogan has created a cult-like following for her ladylike dressing and clever use of sheer pleats in particular - though after last NZFW's particularly sexy outing it will be really interesting to see where she will take her brand next!

Miranda Brown and Taylor will make a welcome showing in the New Zealand Merino show. Ruby – the surprise hit of NZFW 2010, are back for 2011, as are Starfish, who held the honour of opening last year's Fashion Week in its first eco-show – they will also be in the Merino Show.

Every cool kid in town will want to see Stolen Girlfriends Club, and it's worth noting that with the implementation of higher fashion elements like Summer '12's stunning Karl Maughan print collaboration, their label goes beyond its fairly young, street origins.

Zambesi will have showed at every New Zealand Fashion Week since its inception (Trelise Cooper is the only other designer to have done so) and anyone with any industry cred will make sure they're at the show - never mind the label's large and genuinely loving



JULIETTE HOGAN



INGRID STARNES



fan base. If the S/S 11/12 collection is anything to go by, expect to be somewhere between very satisfied and enraptured, depending on what level of Zambesi fetish you're subject to!

The New Zealand Weddings Magazine Bridal Collection debuted at Fashion WEEKEND last year to a hugely favourable response, and will take place during the week as well as at 10.30am on this Fashion WEEKEND's Saturday - if you think that's an early start, pity the models and hair/makeup crew who will have a crack-of-dawn call. Anna Schimmel, Crane Brothers and Sera Lilly are among the eight labels who will show.

Designer shows are by invitation only and at the discretion of the various designers, but Fashion Week runs Designer Selections Shows (a total of six throughout the week and weekend); Fashion Weekend (housing the Sunday Star-Times Designer Garage Sale) is specifically for the public.

There are seminars from the likes of Doris de Pont's Fashion Museum; a DJ and band lineup organisers are describing as the best ever, and four shows free to Weekend ticket holders: Friday Night's Late Night Seduction show and on Saturday the New Zealand Weddings Magazine Bridal Collection, the super-popular Phoenix Cosmetics Makeup Show, and The Race Days at Ellerslie Show. On top of that, Raise Up - Walk the Line and Fantasia will do good for youth and raise funds for CanTeen respectively.

Note for photo buffs - Michael Ng, who shot this month's cover and the new season fashion spread on pxx - is New Zealand Fashion Week's official photographer. Nothing but the best for you, dear Ponsonby News reader! **PN**

NEW ZEALAND FASHION WEEK, 28 August to 3 September, Viaduct Events Centre, Halsey Street, www.nzfashionweek.com

