



# Young people can teach much

**Sarah Young**

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Despite young people often getting a bad rap, they have plenty to teach the business world, says a corporate high-flyer who made a career change which now sees him reporting to bosses younger than his children.

CanTeen chief executive David Pearce, who was in Nelson to speak at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon event on Thursday, joined the organisation which supports young people with cancer and their siblings in 2009. Prior to this, he worked in high-flying corporate roles in the Philippines, Singapore and England for multinational company Unilever, and then for Fonterra.

However, the death of a colleague's young daughter, who was in her mid-20s and a member of a regional CanTeen committee when she died, took his career path in a different direction.

The then president of CanTeen, Matt Truman, who was originally from Motueka, spoke at the funeral.

"I was deeply moved, and I made them a promise I would do something with that.

"Quite by chance a little while later I saw an ad in the paper that CanTeen was looking for a CEO.

"I remembered my promise and sent in my application that night, spelling mistakes and all."

He beat 300 other applicants to get the role, and while life is very different now for a man who used to "swan around the world in first-class", he counts himself lucky to have made the change.

"The members are so easy to believe in and be inspired by.

"Young people sometimes get a bad rap, and teenagers can be talked about quite negatively, but CanTeen's been a wonderful experience to see the best of young people."

Mr Pearce reports to the board – the majority of whom are aged 22 or younger – and he was not aware of any other organisation in New Zealand with the same model.

There was plenty to learn from the young ones, he said.

"I'm the old guy who's supposed to be leading them but I have learned as much from them as I have taught.

"They keep it real, and they talk straight to the issue.

"They don't worry about what's politically correct or not, and they tell it how it is.

"There's also a real sense of ownership and taking responsibility."

He also really admired how supportive of each other they were.

"It's not all about them, and a

little less about the ego than some older business leaders.

"There's honesty and an access to each other's lives that allows you to truly get connected.

"In the adult business world there's sort of barriers to that, there's protocols," he said.

Despite CanTeen members having to deal with some "pretty tough realities", it was still about living life and enjoying the moment.

"And that's a refreshing contrast from where I've come from.

"There's a genuine appreciation in the value of taking joy from the day, and that translates into a lot less moaning or sweating of the small stuff."

One of those who inspired him was Tony Bayard, 22, who has managed the Nelson branch's financial statements for two years as treasurer, and was appointed vice-president last week.

Mr Bayard's younger brother died from leukaemia at age 18.

CanTeen had been a huge support for him at that time, when he was feeling upset and did not really know what to do, he said. Now, he just wanted to be able to support others with the same thing.



**Much to learn:** CanTeen New Zealand chief executive David Pearce, right, with CanTeen Nelson vice president Tony Bayard. Photo: COLIN SMITH

**HEADLINE:** Pro bono brings rewards

**AUTHOR:** Nicola Williams

M&C Saatchi competed for Canteen and won over five other competing agencies. Staff like to work on a cause important to them says client services manager James Johnson and partner Tony Burt says while they would like to help more charities it is not viable from a commercial perspective. Providing free services for too many charities also relies on their contacts. The Guardian puts New Zealand first equal with Australia on generosity to charities. The Charities Aid Foundation World Giving Index survey has NZ as runner up to Australia and says in the last month 68 percent of New Zealanders were good Samaritans. Barnes, Catmur & Friends' Paul Catmur says they will work for a charity but will not compete for the work. He says some charities have board structures that can be tricky to deal with. Promotus Advertising has provided longstanding support for Save the Children, is regularly asked for donations by other charities but cannot spread its work too widely over non-revenue producing activities.

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**MENTIONS:** Canteen, The Guardian, Charities Aid Foundation World Giving Index, Samaritans, Barnes, Catmur & Friends', Promotus Advertising, Save the Children, M&C Saatchi



## Bike bash to boost CanTeen bucks

One of the biggest events to be held during the Rugby World Cup in Franklin will be the annual CanTeen Bike Bash.

This year's theme is Rugby Mania and the fundraising extravaganza will take centre stage in the Pukekohe Town Square on October 7, just before the quarter-finals and on the last day of term three for the school kids.

During each hour of the 12-hour exercise bike relay, a country competing at the World Cup will be highlighted with themed challenges and the like.

Participants in the event are encouraged to dress up. Each hourly sponsor will be assigned a country and they will be drawn tomorrow in Pukekohe.

Countries "up for grabs" are: New Zealand. Australia. South

Africa, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, and Italy.

There will be heaps of items auctioned from 8am to 8pm.

If you want to get a team together and take part you can book a bike by contacting Penny Warwick at Franklin Sport, Swim and Fitness on 09 238 5240. Bikes are \$150 a team and \$100 a school team.



## Heads up for Canteen



**CLOSE SHAVE:** Elim youth group member Peter Drummond (pictured) and six others – Connor Marshall, Andrew Lyall, Matthew Cummings, Nick Collins, Ryan McCracken and Cooper Hughes – had their heads shaved for Canteen raising \$830. Peter said

he was inspired to shave his head after watching the movie *My Sister's Keeper* and by the fact that families with children who have cancer go through a lot and he wanted to do something to help those in that situation.



# Girls, women lose hair after quakes

Girls as young as eight are losing their hair to stress after the Canterbury earthquakes.

Janine Antram, a Government-approved wig provider, said about 100 girls and women from Canterbury had contacted her since last October wanting wigs because they were suffering from alopecia (hair loss).

"I have an inquiry from a Christchurch resident experiencing hair loss almost every day," she said.

Ministry of Health figures show 218 people in Canterbury had claimed grants for wig and hairpiece services for temporary hair loss since September 4.

Only 83 people had applied for the grant for the year between September 2009 and September 2010.

Ms Antram, of Cambridge, has alopecia and said she did not have any Christchurch clients until after the September 4 quake. Now they made up about 50 per cent of her business.

"There was a massive influx and it's just gone up and up. I have got about 100 clients from around Christchurch, Rangiora, Lyttelton. There is huge hair loss going on in Christchurch," she said.

"I don't know if it is related to the earthquake, but I do know alopecia is related to stress, and clients have said [alopecia] has come on since the

earthquakes."

Her youngest client was an eight-year-old, and most of her clients were aged between 10 and 30.

Ms Antram said she got into the wig business after struggling to find decent wigs in New Zealand.

Ms Antram said that because of demand, she would be showing her wigs at the Women's Lifestyle Expo in Christchurch on September 17 and 18.

Christchurch dermatologist David Hepburn said that while there were various causes of alopecia, it could be linked to stress, and the earthquake could explain instances of "shock hair loss".



**It's a wrap:** Gendi Roberts shaved her head twice to support cancer sufferers, but now has alopecia.

Photo: FAIRFAX



## GENDI'S STORY

A bald head is not new to Christchurch's Gendi Roberts, but this time it is not by choice. Gendi, 14, has alopecia. In April, she woke up one morning and a perfect square of hair had gone from her head. Four days later, she was bald. "I didn't know what to think. I was so shocked. I didn't even know what it was," she said. "It happened so fast."

She believed the stress of the earthquakes, particularly those in February and June, was to blame. Ironically, Gendi has shaved her hair off twice to raise money for young people's cancer foundation CanTeen.

"I have been really gutted because it's not a choice to be bald again. People don't really understand it. It will grow back, then it falls out and it grows back again."

Wigs have helped Gendi feel more confident.

"I felt heaps better when I got my wigs. I feel so different. I feel good about myself and a bit more confident and nobody stared at me. It was amazing," she said.



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## CanTeen head Nelson speaker

A former Unilever and Fonterra executive who now heads the CanTeen organisation will be the guest speaker at the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce's luncheon this Thursday. David Pearce became chief executive of CanTeen in February 2009 after witnessing the death of a daughter's friend. Prior to that he had spent 18 years in senior management positions with multinational Unilever and five years with Fonterra. Chamber chief executive Dot Kettle said Mr Pearce would share his story of "wide reaching business success", his experience with managing high-performance teams, and discuss how to effectively engage in the changing world of communications. The luncheon, supported by WHK and Air NZ, will be at Trailways between noon and 1.30pm, \$30 for chamber members and \$45 for non-members.



# On your bike for CanTeen

CanTeen Northland is preparing for its third annual Bike Bash fundraiser.

The event is to be held at the Bella Homes Northland Cricket venue on Okara Drive on September 3, Canteen Northland co-ordinator Margie Crawford says.

The bike bash, where teams of six cyclists register to cycle on a spin bike for an hour each, precedes Canteen's annual bandanna challenge.

Business groups, sports clubs, families, schools and friends are invited to register.

Some of last year's teams included Whangarei Boys' High School, Northland Regional Council, Apata, Whangarei District Council, Activ8, New World, Kawakawa RPM and Shaz's Spinners – 19 teams in total.

Canteen is hoping to increase the number of teams to 50 this year and that prompted the venue change from the Town Basin to



**Cycling for a cause:** Participants in last year's CanTeen Bike Bash

Northland Cricket, Margie says.

It will be a community event with live entertainment, food stalls, bouncy castles and a children's bike-athon.

There will also be spot prizes and much more.

Carters Whangarei is also donating a Blokes Shed sized

2.4-metres by 3.6-metres with floor for an auction at about 5pm.

All money raised stays in Northland to support young people aged 13 to 24 years living with cancer.

Contact Margie on 021-546 646 or email [margiec@canteen.org.nz](mailto:margiec@canteen.org.nz) for more details.



# Carter immortalised in quilt

By LESLEY STANILAND

Carol Waldron has sat on the couch with Dan Carter in her lap while she has stitched and sewed away — but this cosy relationship has all but reached its end.

Carter has been immortalised in a quilt Carol has made to raise funds for CanTeen, the child cancer support group for siblings and friends of children with, or have died from, cancer.

Carter is a CanTeen ambassador and features on one of the CanTeen bandannas.

CanTeen receives no government funding so relies on the generosity of people like Carol to keep going.

Carol is a member of Whangamata Patch and Quilt. Down the years, about 50 of their quilts have been sent

overseas and to Christchurch where earthquakes left people without homes and warmth.

In the past most members were involved in making quilts for CanTeen but have concentrated on Christchurch this year, leaving Carol the sole 'CanTeen Quilter'.

The quilt, with Carter's signature on it, will be at Whangamata library until the weekend, after which it will be hung in the window of the town's craft shop.

Rachel Palmer, member liaison coordinator with CanTeen in Tauranga, supplied Carol with the bandannas for the quilt which will be used as a fundraiser.

■ **The Whangamata Patch & Quilt group holds its annual exhibition at Labour Weekend.**



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**PIN-UP MAN:**  
 Carol Waldron's Dan Carter quilt in aid of CanTeen is sure to be a hit with those who view it.



# Braving the *Razor*

By ROB MILDON

A campaign to raise money for Canteen and change perceptions of self image came to a head last Saturday, as Jade Gunn and Sienna Nealon finally shed their locks for the cause.

The girls' mission began last month (*Guardian*, July 7), and since then they've raised over \$1200 for kids with cancer. Perhaps more importantly, they've been challenging the view among teenagers that "appearance is everything".

"We're showing people that even though we don't have hair, we're still who we are," said a yet-unshaven Sienna.

Teenagers had enough troubles and insecurities to worry about without throwing in appearance as well, added Jade seriously.

"It affects how people treat them."

As the minutes ticked down and the scissors were sharpened, the girls showed only limited signs of apprehension.

"I'm really excited!" said Sienna.

"My friends thought I'd be a bit nervous, and they're really surprised that I'm not."

Once the barbering got underway, even

briefly sporting a terrifying Billy Ray Cyrus-style mullet couldn't faze her.

"One side of my head feels heavier than the other," she quipped.

Dozens of Jade and Sienna's friends turned out to the event to lend their support. Shouts of encouragement and reassurance rang out constantly.

Becs Palmer admired the courage her friend Jade showed in facing the clippers.

"She's so brave and confident," she said.

"I think it's amazing how she's changing her hair," chimed in Amy Chamberlain. "She's a cool friend doing something for cancer."

The girls were prepared to rally round the pair in case the self-image message hadn't got through to some; some at school had apparently already hassled them about it.

Jade's friends closed ranks. Anyone wants to give her trouble, they said, "and they'll have to go through us first."

After an hour, Jade and Sienna sported buzzcuts the envy of any fresh army recruit. Jade reckoned it'd take her a year to grow it back out.

In the meantime, though, she said, "at least I don't have to do my hair in the morning!"



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**WHAT HAVE WE HAIR:** Jade Gunn and Sienna Nealon clutch fistfuls of hair that just minutes previously had been attached to their heads.

PICTURE: ROB MILDON