



## Southland Times

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### Thanks from Canteen

Canteen Southland wishes to thank all supporters and volunteers who donated both their time and spare change over our national bandanna campaign, which ran from September 23 to October 9.

All money raised stays in Southland and helps to provide peer support and educational and recreational programmes for young people in Southland, aged 13-24 years, living with cancer.

DONNA DAVIDSON

Team leader CanTeen Southland



# Snipping train, waxing pain, CanTeen's gain

**Michelle Jackson**

Three St John ambulance officers were the victims of pain yesterday when they had their legs waxed to raise money for CanTeen.

The men were waxed by beauty therapist Chenene Nieuwoudt at the St Johns Ambulance depot in Inglewood.

One of the officers, Justin Lowcay, described his newly smoothed pins as "tingly".

"It feels like pins and needles," he said.

Mr Lowcay had raised \$108 and said cancer played a big part in his

life.

"My Dad had melanoma and I have a friend whose brother had cancer as a teenager," he said.

"Waxing is just a bit of pain but people with cancer have to live with the pain every day".

Full-time officer Gail Burrows also contributed to the cause by having her hair, which has been growing for 15 years, shaved off.

"The boys were getting their legs done and I thought hey, I could get my head shaved," Mrs Burrows said.

Her hair will be sent to Freedom Wigs, a company that specialises in making wigs for cancer patients.

The fundraising scheme is part of Bandana Challenge, which is a major fundraising appeal.

"We have two weeks to sell bandanas and try to raise awareness and money to keep us going," said Taranaki CanTeen co-ordinator Lauree Tito.

Michelle Jackson is a Witt journalism student



**Waxed off:** Roger Blume deals with the pain as he gets his legs waxed



**Snipped:** Inglewood's Gail Burrows has her ponytail lopped off to raise funds for CanTeen. Photos: JONATHAN CAMERON/FAIRFAX NZ



# Pain no bar to his cancer support

**Gwyneth Hyndman**

Cohen Brown is not letting a rare illness keep him from helping others.

The 18-year-old was diagnosed with type 1 neurofibromatosis at age three. He has undergone nine operations, three in the past year, for tumours that line his spine.

One of them is a benign rosette-forming glioneuronal tumour coming out of his spinal column that Christchurch neurosurgeon Dr Martin MacFarlane said was extremely rare.

Cohen is believed to be one of only a few people in the world to have the tumour.

Despite constant pain, Cohen was behind the counter at the YMCA on Friday, serving up grilled sausages with friends to keep the energy up at the CanTeen Bike Bash, which supports people

between 13 and 24 with cancer.

While cycling teams sweated it out in the YMCA foyer, Cohen talked about the opportunities he saw down the road for himself as a barista – he is starting a coffee course in Gore this week – and a future in computer technology.

Active in CanTeen leadership, Cohen has been saving for a laptop to keep up with his schoolwork from home as he recovers from the last surgery and to continue writing a blog about his journey with the disease.

His father, Lee Brown, said the blog had received 10,000 hits since it started in 2005 as a way for the family to cope with the diagnosis and share their experiences.

The most recent surgery would probably mean at least three years of recovery time, with debilitating headaches, Cohen's mother,

Christine Brown, said. It was a credit to her son's toughness that he was stepping up as a leader to help others with cancer, she said.

Mrs Brown, who also has neurofibromatosis, has had 17 operations on her face and two on her thigh to remove tumours caused by the genetic disease.

Neither of Cohen's sisters had shown signs of the disease, but they could still be carrying the gene that causes neurofibromatosis, Mrs Brown said.

Cohen, who gained his food-safety certificate recently so he could be the official cook for fundraising fry-ups like the one on Friday, joked that his career choices covered two areas – technology and coffee – that would always have growth opportunities.

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**To the fore:** Canteen member Cohen Brown, 18, at the CanTeen Bike Bash at the Invercargill YMCA.  
 Photo: NICOLE GOURLEY/FAIRFAX NZ 625794215



# Trio's shave-off raises \$7000

by Alice Te Puni

THREE bald and beautiful Gisborne women have raised \$7000 to help people with cancer and their families.

CanTeen and the Child Cancer Foundation will benefit from the thousands collected by Cathy Houlihan, CanTeen East Cape Branch president Britta Carroll and Awhina Rickard, who shaved off their hair at the A and P Show on Saturday for the good cause.

Cathy was first up on stage and after her pony tails were whisked off, daughter Anita stepped up to start her shaving duties.

"I didn't like shaving Mum's hair — it was weird and hard. Every now and then mum would go 'ouch . . . ouch'. I caught her ears twice."

Ariana, Cathy's youngest daughter, has lost her hair three times in the past three years after being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in March 2008.

She went into remission, then relapsed, but is now back in remission after a bone marrow transplant in November last year.

"She had no hair and a gorgeous round

moon-shaped face from the steroids she had to take. She was just gorgeous."

Ariana thinks her mum makes a "gorgeous baldy" too.

"She is still beautiful, even with no hair," said Ariana.

As a sibling member of CanTeen, Britta has seen the effects cancer has on families, friends and the patients.

"CanTeen is incredible. Everyone is so accepting of others' journeys and everyone is treated the same, no matter what.

"Hearing different people's journeys, even just seeing someone with no hair at all, makes you realise the value of life and encourages you to live every day as if it's your last."

Best friend Awhina is also a staunch supporter of CanTeen.

"Seeing all our whanau and friends in the audience cheering us on was awesome," she said.

Cathy, Britta and Awhina send out big grateful "thank-you" shouts to everyone for supporting them.

"CanTeen and CCF help so many people," said Cathy.

"It is great to be able to give something back."



**ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL:**  
 The three bald musketeers (right) Britta Carroll, Cathy Houlihan and Awhina Rickard sacrificed their crowning glory at the A and P Show on Saturday to help raise funds for CanTeen and the Child Cancer Foundation. Before the shave-off, Cathy's daughters Ariana and Anita gave her long locks a final tug (top picture).

Picture by Rebecca Grunwell





# Cancer collector turned away

By SARAH CODDINGTON

A bucket rattler raising funds for breast cancer was told there was not a place for her to collect outside Albany's Pak'n Save.

New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation volunteer Barbara Manning approached the supermarket to stand outside it to collect funds for the charity's annual pink ribbon appeal but was turned down.

"I am absolutely disgusted, having had breast cancer myself," Ms Manning says.

"I asked if they were aware one in three women will get breast cancer and these are the people who do supermarket shopping. They said they didn't care," she says.

Albany Pak'nSave owner

Paul Blackwell says the supermarket is already supporting CanTeen, a young people's cancer charity, in its nationwide appeal.

There are lots of worthy charities that apply to fundraise outside the store and sometimes difficult decisions need to be made to not allow collectors on site, he says.

"We have limited spots because our customers don't want to be harassed," Mr Blackwell says.

Breast Cancer Foundation chief executive Van Henderson says the charity prefers volunteers do not approach retailers directly.

"If it is a local supermarket they may approach them but

generally we set it up for them," she says.

The charity applied to Pak'n Save stores to collect for the October appeal back in May.

They were disappointed to be turned down but understand there are a lot of worthy charities out there, Ms Henderson says.

Mr Blackwell says the supermarket would be happy to look at the possibility of having the collectors on site next year.

The charity works to raise awareness about breast cancer, funding research and scholarships, and promoting the early detection message.



# Napier girl walks the walk for cancer-battling brother

**By Roger Moroney**  
 roger.moroney@hbtoday.co.nz

One of 14-year-old Napier girl Laikyn Noone's most treasured words is "remission".

Because that is the diagnosis at the moment for her little 8-year-old brother, Brayden.

Brayden has battled brain cancer, and it was with a smile that big sister replied "he's in remission" when asked how he was doing.

It had been tough on the family, she said, but the other "family" she and Braydon belonged to had also been supportive, understanding and at times "fun".

That family is CanTeen — the national foundation run on the philosophy that the best people to support young people living with cancer are those who have "been there, done that" or are going

## Mitre 10 Mega Walk

- The walk takes place on Sunday, November 13.
- The 28km Mega walk starts at Mitre 10 Mega, Hastings, at 7.30am.
- The 15km Half Mega starts at Awatoto at 9am.
- The 6.5km starts at Ocean Spa, Napier, at 10am.
- The 3.5km Mega Meander starts at Perfume Port, Ahuriri, at 9.30am.
- For more info and to register see [www.megawalk.co.nz](http://www.megawalk.co.nz)

through similar experiences. Laikyn said CanTeen had done a lot for her and her brother.

"It is the support and the

activities they do," she said. "It gives you a break from what is going on."

She is one of several siblings of young people battling cancer who belong to CanTeen Hawke's Bay, and said being able to talk with others, and know what they were feeling, was invaluable.

So she had no hesitation in saying "yes" to being CanTeen's ambassador for next month's fourth annual Mitre 10 Mega Walk fundraiser. For the second year, the proceeds from the walk will go to CanTeen Hawke's Bay, and Laikyn said she wanted to do all she could to encourage people to take part. She and a group of mates were going to take part in the 15km distance walk — dressed as fairies.

"For fun," she said, laughing. "And Brayden is going to do the walk too — he wants to do it."



**IMPORTANT STEPS:** Laikyn Noone, CanTeen ambassador, has been getting plenty of walkway practice for next month's big fundraising walk.  
 PHOTO/WARREN BUCKLAND HBT113966-02



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## Bandannas at Repco

Repco in Homestead Road, Kerikeri, will welcome visitors even more enthusiastically than ever on Monday, when it stages its fundraiser on behalf of Canteen. Branch manager Andy Hamberger and his crew will be selling bandannas in support of the organisation that works for young people with cancer, with everyone who buys one receiving a free hot sausage and 20 per cent discount vouchers in return.



## Be awesome not awkward with a CanTeen bandanna

At one time or another, we've all experienced an awkward moment, those times when you just want to bury your head in the sand, and wish the ground would open up and swallow you whole.

For many, it can be especially awkward around young people living with cancer. Quite often it's hard to know what to do or say, but there's a way to make those awkward moments into awesome ones this year, with a CanTeen bandanna.

The colourful range of bandannas are on sale for CanTeen's annual fundraiser, the Bandanna Challenge.

CanTeen Auckland patient member and designer of one of this year's bandannas, Amanda

Beaton, says wearing a bandanna is a way for people to show their support for young people and their siblings living with cancer, when sometimes it's hard to know what to say.

The 24 year-old was diagnosed in 2008 with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and has been through several rounds of chemotherapy, radiation therapy and a stem cell transplant in the last few years.

She can appreciate that people may feel awkward around young people with cancer, however there is no need to as they are just like anyone else.

"I understand that cancer also affects people I meet as it can be hard to know what to say."

"A bandanna is a visual thing you can display that

says "hey I support you" without any words."

CanTeen's Marketing and Communications Manager Kimberley Waters says: "We hope this year's campaign will break down some of the barriers people feel when confronted with someone living with cancer and acknowledge that our members are just every day people."

The range of eight bandannas can be purchased for \$4 from PAK'n'SAVE, New World, Four Square, Farmers, BP, Repco, Burger King and Warehouse Stationery nationwide.

The bandanna is a symbol for CanTeen representing hope, courage and survival and came about due to the fact that young people choose to wear one as a head covering when losing their hair when undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

"CanTeen doesn't receive any direct government funding so the funds raised during this campaign allow us to keep supporting young people living with cancer across the country through the various programmes, activities and support services we offer."

Bandannas can also be bought online at [www.canteen.org.nz](http://www.canteen.org.nz) or at hundreds of participating schools throughout New Zealand.

For the first time, bandannas will also be available for purchase via CanTeen's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CanTeenNZ](http://www.facebook.com/CanTeenNZ)



# Long boarder really on a roll

By REBECCA HOLLAND

Former North Canterbury long boarder, Troy Bilbrough, flicked the previous New Zealand Ultra-Skate record out of the temporary skate park at the Ruapuna24 charity event recently.

Bilbrough competed among many top New Zealand skating champions at the 24-hour-long charity event for small wheeled vehicles — skateboarders, longboarders, inline skaters, rip-stiks, scooters and rollerskaters.

He not only beat the existing national record in endurance skating, but also helped to raise around \$1000 for Canterbury's Cholmondeley Children's Charity.

"It's a really great cause and I don't mind going through a bit of pain if I raise some good money for charity, and I just love long boarding anyway," he said.

The former national college swimming gold medallist skated 107 laps around the Ruapuna raceway, 12km south of Christchurch, beginning at 8am last Sunday. The total distance was 343km, bettering the previous New Zealand Ultra Skate record by 93km. He completed the first 100km within just five hours. "I was pretty happy. The guy (Christchurch's

Rob Thompson) who held the world 12,000km record around America and Asia set the old record and I'm really happy because he's a champion, and it's really good to be up there with all of the best longboarders in the world."

Bilbrough welcomed the opportunity to "push" his limits.

"At about 3am, only two of us were on the track. It was really cold and windy and my feet just kept blistering up, but I just knew I had to keep going. . . I skated so hard, I couldn't feel my legs."

The event hosted about 100 competitors on various skating devices.

All participants were free to skate for as long or as far as they pleased.

"The best part was probably seeing everyone turning up and having a good time. The barbecue was going, and there was a really good vibe. There was a really good bunch of people."

Troy's love for long boarding extends far beyond our national borders.

The former Rangiora High School student brought new meaning to the term OE when he skated the 3500m distance from Thailand to Singapore

with Huw John, also a former North Canterbury resident, last January. The trip proved to be a character-building experience. "I learnt how lucky we are in New Zealand. Some people live in a hut on the side of the road," he said. "New Zealand is actually a really wealthy country, and we don't know what we've got until we see what others don't have."

The pair raised about \$1000 for the CanTeen youth cancer charity. Plans for yet another international trip are in the works, as Troy is set to travel to South America in December.

He and friends he met and Canterbury University, Alan Carnaby and Guy Parsons, will skate the 2500km distance from Peru to Chile, in an estimated time of 30 days.

The charity is currently undetermined. Troy grew up in Waikuku before moving to Auckland earlier this year to work as a graduate consultant for prominent accounting company KPMG, where his passion for long boarding has come in handy. "I just try to skate everywhere . . . in Auckland, you can skate faster than you can drive because of the traffic."



# Tearing strips off people a real act of kindness

By **Cherie Taylor**

Would you pay to have your friend or boss waxed for a good cause?

If you are tough or want a spot of revenge, then the City Focus will be the place to be on Sunday to help raise funds for CanTeen.

Rotorua's CanTeen group is holding a Wax 'N' Ride where people can have their legs, backs, chest or moustaches waxed in public.

Organiser Neil Gellatly said there are 47 families in Rotorua and Taupo he supports who have had an experience of living with a young person aged between 13 and 24 with some form of cancer.

"Some have cancer or a brother or sister with cancer or

they are a bereaved sibling," he says.

The organisation is part way through a Bandanna challenge and Rotorua is holding the Wax 'N' Ride as another fundraising venture, Neil says.

"We have gone away a bit from people shaving their heads and gone a step further by getting people to wax their body," he says.

Once someone is signed up for a waxing they gain financial sponsors to pay for them to be waxed in public.

The event promises to be fun packed, with some of Rotorua's big names already signed up for a waxing.

Rotorua MP Todd McClay, radio's AJ, two Waiariki directors and businessman Mark Copeland have already signed up to have their legs

waxed, Neil says.

But more people are needed to make the event worthwhile.

"We hope things will pick up," he says.

Following the waxing individuals or teams of up to six riders will take part in cycling spin bikes in the City Focus for two, four or six hour stints during the challenge.

Money raised will help support the families of young people with cancer the youths go to summer camps.

One Rotorua girl will be jumping from a Hercules at Hobsonville in Auckland next year.

"Some of these things these kids would never get to do if it wasn't for CanTeen," Neil says.

Wax 'N' Ride will take place from 10am-4pm on Sunday October 9 at City Focus.