



>Lake Aviemore

Teens with cancer inspire 17km lake swim

By **BEN GUILD**

JOHN McGlashan College pupil Connor Bryant (17) is preparing to swim one kilometre in Lake Aviemore for every year of his life.

The year 12 pupil is fundraising for CanTeen Otago, which cares for children with cancer, and is looking for sponsorship of either a set amount or on a per-kilometre basis.

Standing on Pumpkin Point between Otematata and Omarama on Wednesday as he prepared to train, Connor explained his choice of charity.

"CanTeen appealed to me because it deals with teens," he said.

"There was a student at school who got diagnosed with cancer. He was a few years below me but it just shows that it can affect

people around you."

Connor regularly swims between 15km-20km a day at Moana Pool in Dunedin, but he admitted it was a very different proposition to swimming 17km down the Waitaki hydro lake.

"You get disorientated in the lake — in the pool you can follow the blue T," he said.

"In the lake, you don't know where you are sometimes."

The endeavour stems from the McGlashan Challenge — one pupil each year is selected to plan, organise and complete an undertaking of their choosing.

The swim is to be completed on either the first or second weekend of December, depending on the weather.

If it is delayed, the swim will take place after Waitangi Day,

as the lake gets crowded with holiday boaties in late December and January.

Connor will return to John McGlashan College next year after the swim and a month spent skiing at Hood River, Portland, United States.

Following that, he hopes to claim one of 20 spots per year reserved for helicopter pilots in the navy. That would be difficult, as the navy tended to select older applicants with more life experience, he said.

The alternative would be enrolling in a two-year helicopter course in Te Anau.

Donations and sponsorship are welcome at <http://canfans.org.nz/cause/swimforcanteen>.

ben.guild@odt.co.nz



Doing it for the kids . . . John McGlashan pupil Connor Bryant plans to swim 17km down Lake Aviemore for CanTeen.

PHOTO: BEN GUILD



Timaru Herald
Saturday 26/11/2011
Page: 5
Section: General News
Region: Timaru Canterbury
Type: Provincial
Size: 91.91 sq.cms.
Frequency: MTWTFS-

Brief: CANTEEN

Cancer swim

Rosa Studholme

rosa.studholme@timaruherald.co.nz

An Omarama teenager will swim solo 17 kilometres from the Benmore Dam to Aviemore Dam – and all for a good cause.

John McGlashan College year 12 student Connor Bryant, 17, said he had been training for the past nine months for the challenge.

Each kilometre represents a year of his age.

Connor is gathering sponsorship for the cancer charity CanTeen. Every two days a young person in New Zealand is diagnosed with cancer.

“I can’t even begin to imagine what it would be like to have to deal with cancer at my age,” Connor said.

Of 1500 young people in New Zealand fighting cancer, 96 are from Otago.

“There are even students at my school fighting cancer.”

He hopes to do the swim in the first or second week of December, depending on the weather.

If it was cancelled, he said, it would then be delayed until late February as an influx of boaties over December and January made the challenge too dangerous.

People can sponsor Connor either on a per-kilometre basis or a set amount and all money goes to CanTeen Otago. Pledges can be made by visiting his website <http://canfans.org.nz/cause/swimforcanteen>, or at Challenge Omarama, Omarama Four Square or Oasis Cafe.

CanTeen is funded entirely by donations, used to support research, programmes and activities.



Rolling thunder plays charitable hand



PHOTO/PATRICK O'SULLIVAN

PHILANTHROPISTS: More than 300 motorcycles and a bus load of supporters thundered around Hawke's Bay on Saturday for the annual Poker Run to raise funds for

child cancer charity Canteen. At each stop, riders were given a card and, at the end of the day, the rider with the best poker hand won \$500 at sponsor's Bluewater Hotel in

Ahuriri. Pictured outside a pitstop at Breakers bar and restaurant in Hastings are, from left, Lawrence and Anthony Ngapere and Kevin Rollison. all from Taradale.



Chance for teens to forget life's trials

Jessica Sutton

jessica.sutton@msl.co.nz

For a group of Manawatu teenagers with cancer, a day on the water meant forgetting how hard life can be.

Boats and jet skis raced their way up and down the Foxton River on Saturday for the annual Coastguard CanTeen Christmas party.

A dozen CanTeen members – including cancer sufferers and siblings of those with cancer – attended the party, and were supported by family and Foxton Coastguard members. The event was started four years ago by Foxton Coastguard's vice-president Tony Huisman.

Mr Huisman, who was on the water with the group, said he loved seeing the excitement in the children's eyes as they spent time on the water.

"We don't ask [what's wrong], we just give them a good time," he said. "We can't get too close to these kids though as we don't know if they'll be back next year."

CanTeen Manawatu branch's vice-president Daniel Harrison, 17, said the party was about having fun.

"It's just a good day to forget everything and enjoy life," he said. "Everyone here has been through similar experiences."

He said the day was also special because it mainly consisted of people learning to accept that they had cancer.

"Many people are still yet to do it and it does take time."

Mr Harrison's brother has cancer and he is part of CanTeen to support him.

For Adrian Bradley, 23, this day was always a highlight on the calendar.

"It's really good [at the party]," he said.

"I've been with CanTeen for three years and have made heaps of friends."

"I've been to this party for three years too. I didn't jet ski as I've hurt my lower back, but it's still fun."

Mr Bradley suffers from an inherited disease called Neurofibromatosis-1 and was diagnosed with cancer in 2008.

He underwent an operation to remove the cancerous tumour in his arm in December that year, but within a month it had come back and his arm needed to be amputated.

Mr Bradley has been in remission for three years.

CanTeen's Manawatu branch has 72 members – ranging in age from 13 to 24 – from Whanganui to Otaki.



Water fun: Scott Ward, left, and Scott Webby ride on the Foxton River as a group of CanTeen members held their annual Christmas party.

Photo: FAITH SUTHERLAND/FAIRFAX NZ



Roaring good time for CanTeen kids

■ Ann Reading

A convoy of 20 shiny American "muscle" cars roared off from Southward Car Museum at Otaihangā as the Gear-Jammers Club took 25 young people from CanTeen in Kapiti to the 25th annual classic motor race meeting at Manfeild on Saturday for a day of thrills and fun.

CanTeen is a support network for young people with cancer.

Club spokesman Richie Thom said the MG Car Club organisers were really cooperative, arranging for the Gear-Jammers to take

the youngsters on a few laps of the full circuit during the lunch break and giving them access to the pits and grandstands. They were not slow laps either.

Highlight of the racing programme was the Formula 5000 revival series that fielded 17 cars, the single seaters that are bigger and louder than a field of Formula 1.

Sponsors from around Kapiti had provided gear bags and snacks for the CanTeen members as well as financing the trip.



BRRM BRRM Young Sean Ternant feels what it is like inside a historic Formula Ford race car, as he tries out Richard Cullen's 1977 Van Diemen for size.

Photos: Ann Reading CCN 41111ARsean



LINE UP: A group of the CanTeen young people on the dummy grid where saloon cars are lining up.
 CCN14.1111ARgrid

LEFT: NZ motor racing legend Kenny Smith, now almost 70 years old, defending champion of the F5000 Tasman Cup Revival series, with Josh O'Halloran and the Lola T333 Kenny bought last year from the US. CCN14.1111ARjosh



AMERICAN MUSCLE: The convoy regroups at Sanson en route to the circuit.
 CCN14.1111ARconvoy



Whimsical touches enchant

NEW DESIGN EVENT PUTS DOWN ROOTS IN AUCKLAND

The Auckland design event that has everyone talking is set to go later this month, promising to entrance visitors who appreciate beautiful gardens.

Over the next two weeks, owners of the 24 gardens selected for inclusion in the Auckland Garden DesignFest, will be busy trimming hedges, mowing lawns and generally tidying up as they prepare for this exciting new event.

Then, when the event takes place on November 19 and 20, the designers behind each garden will be on-site at each location to talk about their vision.

Gardens range in size from small urban courtyards, where the designers have used their skills to maximise every centimetre of space, through to magnificent estates, where they have indulged their sense of creativity and passion for plants.

One of the aspects set to impress visitors is the diversity in the gardens chosen.

As well as perfectly clipped hedges and dreamy swimming pools you



would expect in an event organised by the Garden Design Society of New Zealand, there's a diversity of gardens not seen previously in an event of this kind in this country.

Garden author and chairperson of the Garden Design Society of New Zealand, Rose Thodey, says the aim is to highlight the difference a skilled garden designer can make even on a small budget and in a small space.

"That's just as important as the inspirational gardens that will make visitors go 'wow'," she says.

The gardens on show include a party garden, a Mexican garden and even a kindergarten, with each garden perfectly meeting the clients' brief.

A SMALL, walled garden totally transformed by the use of clever design is one of the gardens featuring in this month's Auckland Garden DesignFest.

The transformation, initiated by designer Robin Shafer, is more than skin deep.

It is reflected in the aesthetics of the Meadowbank property and also in the quality of life now experienced by the delighted owners.

Where previously there was only a path crossing lawns to the front door, the property now provides privacy from the street and neighbours, safe play lawns for the children and elegant outdoor living.

Privacy and security have been achieved with beautifully detailed masonry walls, wrought iron balustrades and strategically placed plantings.

The brief given to Robin was to create a garden that would suit the cottage-like character of the bungalow and give plenty of scope for gardening playtime.

Essentially, it was to be a walled flower garden with whimsical touches encompassing character and romance, as well as being a safe haven for children. One of the challenges was that it still



BEFORE: *Wide open spaces lack privacy.* Photos supplied

had to contain a path to the front door for visitors.

This garden had to look good from every angle.

It is designed to have a clear, clipped, green structure of buxus and ficus hillii that will keep it tidy over the chilly winter months.

But, over the opulent spring and summer months, it will overflow with roses, flowering annuals and perennials.

A tiny parterred embankment, with informal stone slab steps, divides the garden into two levels.

A water feature on the top level is smothered with perfumed roses over the summer, creating a focus amongst an espaliered star jasmine wall.

The outdoor living areas on the upper levels are designed to become a perfumed haven for spring and summer.



Howick Pakuranga Times
Monday 14/11/2011
Page: 10
Section: General News
Region: Auckland Circulation: 32,922
Type: Suburban
Size: 698.86 sq.cms.
Frequency: M--T---

Brief: CANTEEN
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There are many elements fitted into this tiny space and attention to every detail is a large part of its charm.

The wrought iron work was hand-crafted, as were the steps and the natural stone paving.

Another unusual feature is a tiny stone-cobbled bike ramp for the small children of the family, allowing both levels to

be an adventure. This garden has not been opened to the public before and is just one of the surprises in store for visitors to the design event.

■ Limited tickets to all gardens in the Auckland Garden DesignFest can be pre-purchased for \$40 from Palmers Gardenworld stores in Auckland or online from iTicket.co.nz. A 10% discount

applies if both days are attended. Tickets are also available at the event for \$50.

Limited seats are available on an escorted bus tour for \$120 per day. This includes lunch and a bonus visit to historic Highwic, where there will be a guided tour of the garden (glass of wine in hand) at the end of the day.

To book on the guided bus tour, email pcliffin@unitec.ac.nz. The Auckland Garden DesignFest has been jointly organised by the Rotary Club of Newmarket and the Garden Design Society of New Zealand with proceeds going to CanTeen, KidsCan and Ronald McDonald House of Auckland.



AFTER: Good-looking structured features add interest and practicality.