

Putaruru Rural Party Girls raise \$70,000

Three Putaruru women were responsible for handing over \$70,000 to Waikato-based breast cancer research this month.

The self-confessed 'Rural Party Girls' – Annie Waterworth, Anne White and Natalie Pompey – donated the money to Waikato Breast Cancer Trust members at Waikato Hospital's Breast Care Centre recently.

The Trust supports the research and education of breast cancer, including over 20 studies and clinical trials. In addition to local studies the Waikato research team also works with international research groups.

The fundraiser, which has seen the Trust grow \$70,000 richer, came in the form of a 'Think Pink Party' during 2008 Breast Cancer Awareness month in October.

A special month for the Rural Party Girls meant their fundraiser was organised with a lot of heart, which showed in the generous number of zeros on the donation cheque.

The women had a personal connection to October 2008 – the passing of a very special mutual friend who lost her battle with cancer in the same month in 2003.

While Linda Pearce, an ex-Waikato Hospital Intensive Care Unit nurse, did not pass from breast cancer, the girls say

there were a lot of 'pink' events happening around the time of her death.

"A pink fifth anniversary of her passing seemed very appropriate," said Mrs Waterworth.

"We thought a pink party was a great way to celebrate the life of an amazing friend as well as fundraise for the Waikato Breast Cancer Trust."

The party, held on October 18, 2008 – five years to the day Linda passed away – was a huge success, featuring a short movie about Putaruru woman Annette Wedzinga who had suffered both breast and bone cancer in her life and sadly passed away aged just 37 – four weeks before the event.

Three bands, raffles and an auction hosted by television personality Kerre Woodham, also helped to pull the crowds.

Tickets to the party sold for \$50 each, of which the full amount was donated to the Trust, in addition to the auction and raffle proceeds.

But the Rural Party Girls don't take all the credit for the massive donation.

"We got so much support from the people of Putaruru – from organising the bar, to shooting the movie, even just making phone calls and rallying support," said Mrs Waterworth.

"It just goes to show the immense power a small town like ours has when



TRUSTED FUNDS: Waikato Breast Cancer Research Trust received a huge donation from three Putaruru women earlier this month. (L-R) Natalie Pompey, Anne White, Michael Jameson, trustee Raewyn Sporle, Annie Waterworth, research nurse and Trust secretary Jenni Scarlet.

we're working towards a common goal. The Waikato Breast Cancer Research Trust really relies on donations from the public to keep doing the fantastic work it does for local women,

and women throughout New Zealand and the world," said Trust member and Waikato Hospital oncologist Michael Jameson.

"To have just three women from Pu-

taruru organise an event on this scale and present a cheque as large as this has just blown us all away. Putaruru can rest assured that we will put that money to very good use."

Together we'll get what we need



South Waikato health services funded by Waikato DHB

+ Emergency

24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- general inpatient – general medicine, rehabilitation, palliative care, medical day case procedures
- maternity plus facility access to independent midwives
- day surgical unit procedures.

Radiography: (by referral only)

8am-4.30pm with urgent after hours available on call.

Laboratory: (by referral only)

8am-4.30pm with urgent after hours available on call. Collection point in town.

Support:

- administration support including medical typing and clinical coding
- estate and engineering
- meals on wheels
- school lunches.

Outpatient Clinics: (by appointment only)

- 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday visiting consultants from Waikato, Thames and other DHB hospitals
- audiology
- cervical smears
- women's health
- dermatology
- diabetes
- ear, nose & throat
- ECG
- endoscopy
- eye
- fracture

- general medical & respiratory
- general surgical
- geriatric / older persons
- occupational therapy
- orthopaedics
- orthotics
- paediatric diabetes
- paediatric medicine
- paediatric surgery
- palliative care
- physiotherapy
- podiatry
- rheumatology
- respiratory O₂
- respiratory rehabilitation
- retinal diabetes photoscreening
- speech therapy
- spirometry
- urology.

Community:

- dental therapists & dental assistants
- diabetes nurse specialists
- dietitian
- district nursing
- ear nurse specialist
- family counselling
- health promoters
- Māori health
- mental health
- occupational therapy
- Pacific health worker
- pharmacy
- physiotherapy
- public health nursing
- rest home
- social workers
- vision hearing technician.

Also provided on site at Tokoroa Hospital but not Waikato DHB funded:

- Horizon Radiology – providing ante natal ultrasound
- Strengthening Families
- Tokoroa Activities Centre (day care)
- Tokoroa Council of Social Services
- Te Rau Oriwa Kohanga Reo.

Out in the community:

- Whānau vouchers
- Kai @ the right price
- Dental care in kindergarten
- Community gardens.

Plus: