Our Waikato breast specialist multidisciplinary team often meet women, and the occasional man, at a very vulnerable time in their lives. Coming to terms with a diagnosis of breast cancer means there can be difficult decisions for them to make about their treatment options. Available treatments are related to the evidence provided from clinical trials. This is why breast cancer trials and research is so important. They provide those diagnosed with the treatment choice that will give them the best chance of long-term cure. We are inspired by the courage and determination of those who take part in trials of new interventions, care and treatments. Often their reason for taking part is that they want better knowledge for future generations.

I am grateful to be part of a team that is passionate about changing their patients' lives. I acknowledge those who have taken part in a clinical trial, and thank all our BCRT supporters, who are also vital in helping our team make all aspects of clinical trials and other research happen!

Keep warm over the winter months, sit in front of the fire (or heat pump), enjoy winter foods, take up an indoor hobby, read books, play board games or watch some great movies on Netflix with whanau and friends!

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori (happy Matariki)!
Jenni Scarlet, Research Nurse & BCRT Secretary

New marking technique prior to breast conservation surgery being evaluated

Early detection through the Breast Screen Aotearoa programme means more women can choose to have breast conserving surgery, also called lumpectomy or wide local excision. Breast conserving surgery involves only removing the cancer, allowing women to keep their breast. The number of non-palpable (can't be felt) breast cancers requiring pre-surgery image-guided marking (called localisation), continues to increase due to breast screening and the detection of small cancers. This is good news!

Breast surgeons need a marker at the time of surgery to know exactly the area of abnormality to remove. Hook-wire localisation has been the standard of care since the 1970s, but is associated with a high positive margin (20-40%) and surgical re-excision (30-50%) rates.

Because the end of the hook-wire sticks out from the breast, it is inserted next to the cancer on the day of surgery. Women must be careful with their movement so that the hook-wire is not accidentally displaced. At the time of surgery, the surgeon follows the wire to find and excise the breast cancer.

Over 2018 Waikato Hospital trialled a non-wire localisation using a radioactive seed. This new method is called “ROLLIS” (**R**adio-guided **O**ccult **L**esion **L**ocalisation using low dose radioactive **I**odine 125 **S**eeds). Instead of using a hook-wire to localise the breast cancer, a radiologist inserts the seed into the centre of the cancer prior to surgery. During the surgery, a handheld detecting “probe” is used by the surgeon to detect the radioactive signal produced by the seed. The seed and the tumour are then removed.

The ROLLIS trial results showed that non-wire localisation made the surgery easier and faster to perform, with a better chance of removing all of the tumour in one operation when compared with hook-wire localisation. Patients reported lower levels of anxiety and pain with the ROLLIS. The ROLLIS can be carried out up to eight days before surgery, which enables flexibility of scheduling of localisation by a radiologist prior to surgery. The downside of the ROLLIS is that the radioactive seed requires special handling and storage, and the radioactive signal reduces over time.

The Waikato Hospital Breast Service team is now evaluating a radiation-free, wire-free localisation which uses radar technology called SCOUT. The SCOUT system helps increase the surgeon’s ability to precisely locate a breast cancer during surgery, which increases the probability of complete cancer removal and, like the ROLLIS, may reduce the chances of needing a second surgery. When a breast cancer is accurately located and removed during a first surgery, any additional treatments such as radiotherapy or chemotherapy can occur faster.

SCOUT works by placing a “reflector” (a tiny device about the size of a grain of rice) into the tumour. The system then uses non-radioactive radar waves to detect the reflector’s location within the breast. The SCOUT localisation allows surgeons time to plan the incision during surgery. This may allow for less tissue removal, which can help with a better cosmetic result. The non-radioactive SCOUT system will allow even more flexibility of radiology and surgery scheduling compared to the radioactive ROLLIS.

The Waikato Hospital Breast Service team is taking part in a national product evaluation of a number of non-wire technologies, including the SCOUT system. This evaluation is coordinated by the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. Research nurse time to coordinate all aspects of this evaluation is funded by the Breast Cancer Research Trust

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Sponsor the Pink Walk & Run 2024 and Make Every Step Count!

We are thrilled to announce that the annual **Pink Walk & Run** will be taking place at Innes Common, Hamilton Lake on Thursday, 31 October 2024.

This event is not just a walk or a run; it’s a vibrant gathering of the community, coming together

to support breast cancer awareness and stand with those affected by the disease.

Braemar, who has been our Gold sponsor since 2011, has recently redirected their sponsorship efforts towards supporting surgery programmes and scholarships. We are grateful for their 13 years of support.

This change presents us with a unique opportunity for new businesses and individuals to *step forward* and join us in our mission of improving breast cancer outcomes through evidence-based research. Your sponsorship will also provide a platform for your brand to be recognised as community minded.

We offer various sponsorship levels, each providing different benefits, including brand visibility at the event, a mention in our promotional materials, and opportunities for engagement with participants.

Please find below a detailed sponsorship proposal outlining the different levels and associated benefits.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

We would be honoured to have you as part of our **Pink** Walk & Run circle to help with gaining knowledge and saving lives.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact together.

Click here to view a copy of the Pink Wallk & Run **SPONSORSHIP DOCUMENT**

Click here to **CONTACT US** for more information or to sign up as a sponsor

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Running for a Cause: Daisy, Alistair, and Jake's Journey

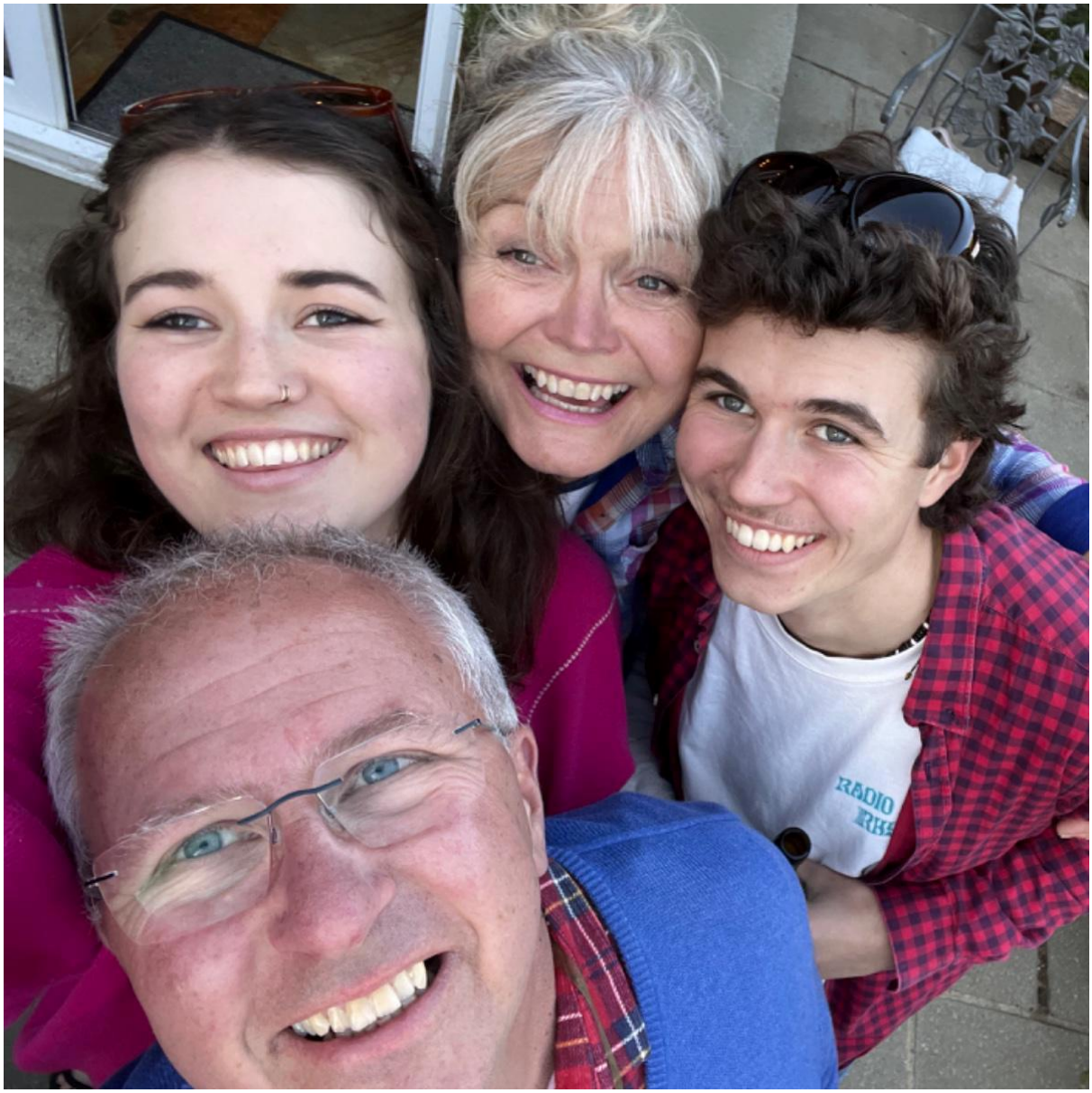
"Earlier this year, our beautiful and spirited mummy was diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite the challenges, she has faced her treatment with incredible strength and positivity. Her journey has inspired us to take action and support the fight against breast cancer".

On 28 July, Daisy, Alistair, and Jake will be lacing up their running shoes to participate in the Wimbledon Common Half Marathon. This event is not just a race for them; it's a mission to raise awareness and funds for the Breast Cancer Research Trust and the Breast Cancer Foundation.

They are determined to make a difference and contribute to the ongoing efforts to find a cure and support those affected by breast cancer.

"Every step we take in the marathon is dedicated to our mummy and all the brave individuals battling this disease".

Click here if you would like to DONATE to the Sedgwick Siblings Half Marathon



Breast Cancer Research Trust
Gaining Knowledge. Saving Lives.

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