



Katikati Advertiser

Reporting Local, Supporting Local





TAURANGA 1521 AM

YOUR HOME FOR LIVE COMMENTARY



TRADE DEPOT
LOW PRICES. ALWAYS.
HAMILTON AIRPORT • NOW OPEN

radius lexham park
Private Hospital & Rest Home
Ph: 07 549 1015

HAMMER HARDWARE
It's your local

Betta Blinds
Your Local Blind & Shutter Specialists
Phone 07 577 0077 www.bettablinds.co.nz

Plea to save battler dad

Katikati family launch Givealittle appeal to raise cash for cancer drug

Rebecca Mauger

Tim Pardy was considered cancer free in March and he couldn't have been happier. But that joy was cut short after five months when the Katikati family man discovered his pancreatic cancer had returned – this time in his liver.

Last year, Tim was among the small number of New Zealanders diagnosed with pancreatic cancer every year.

Tim, 47, had stage two pancreatic cancer.

There was no family history – it was a total shock.

It was also very uncommon for someone of his age.

A bout of jaundice had led to Tim's diagnosis – something he was grateful for because it meant the cancer was found early.

Pancreatic cancer forms in the cells of the pancreas. The pancreas lies behind the lower part of the stomach and releases enzymes that aid digestion and produces hormones that help to manage blood sugar.

Tim underwent a staggering eight-hour Whipple procedure – also known as a pancreaticoduodenectomy – which removed a third of his pancreas, gall bladder, bile duct and some of the small intestine.

The stomach is essentially replumbed, Tim says.

His hospital stay was two weeks and he couldn't eat solid food for



The Pardy family are Tim (left), Sharlene, George, Annalise and Lily.

Photo / Liam Burston

days. Having the operation has rendered him a diabetic who now has to inject insulin.

Six months of chemotherapy followed and cancer markers were back to normal.

Tim went back to work in March and the family – wife Sharlene, Lily, 16, Annalise, 14, and George, 13 – had five months of normalcy ... Tim

even got a promotion at work.

But Tim's cancer markers rose above normal four weeks ago. He went for a CT scan and found the cancer had relapsed in his liver and is stage four.

The only good news about this is that his cancer is among a tiny minority – 0.8-2 per cent – which will respond to immunotherapy.

A reasonably new drug, Keytruda, will stimulate Tim's immune system to fight the cancer and is his best chance of survival. It is commonly used to treat melanoma and a number of other cancers.

Keytruda is not chemotherapy, it works with the immune system and can provide better outcomes for people like Tim whose tumours will

respond to it. For patients who don't qualify for Keytruda, treatment costs \$100,000 for the first year and \$20,000 for the second year.

"Unfortunately, this amount of money is not at our fingertips and we are calling on you to help."

Tim and wife Sharlene have started a Givealittle page to help raise money for the treatment.

Tim understands that pancreatic cancer is not typically known to respond to Keytruda, but his is among the minority with the immunology that it could do.

Tim is not upset with the Government or Pharmac.

"I'm not angry they are not funding Keytruda for everything."

"Having personally worked in the public sector I think they do a good job. I'm among the 1-2 per cent, and I think they should cater to the rest, the 99 per cent."

He has successfully lodged an application request to Pharmac to fund the use of Keytruda for his cancer, however, it may take a number of months for the applications to be reviewed.

"That may be too long for me but it might help others in the future," he says.

Keytruda treatment is every three weeks at a cost of \$10,000 a pop.

Tim has had one treatment and has tolerated it well.

Pharmac director of operations Lisa Williams says new cancer medicines are constantly being developed, and they understand and can appreciate that New Zealanders have high expectations about having timely access to new medicines for cancer conditions.

"There are currently 16 funding applications for pembrolizumab (branded as Keytruda) for different cancers or stages being considered by Pharmac."

continued on A2

Free entry!
* to Western Bay residents and ratepayers

Come and visit your local museum.

Current Exhibition

SERVICE + SACRIFICE
HEROIC STORIES OF NEW ZEALAND WOMEN

This spectacular exhibition is heading to the National Army Museum in Waiouru next! Don't miss it!





WESTERN BAY MUSEUM

32 Main Rd, Katikati
Ph 07 549 0651 | www.westernbaymuseum.nz
Email: Paula at info@westernbaymuseum.nz for Group Tour Bookings.

OPEN:
Monday-Friday 10am-4pm,
Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm.

