

550,000 ways to say THANK YOU!

The Taranaki Health Foundation wishes to thank everyone who has donated money towards this great cause. “We know we have an ambitious target, but believe we can achieve it- because our region prides itself on being innovative, caring and simply...like no other!” says Bry Kopu, General Manager. If you haven’t already, join us on Facebook and make a donation today.



HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR SUPPORT ?

There are multiple ways you can support the campaign:

- Visit www.wehearttaranaki.nz to find out more information, to download a ‘pledge’ form or donate online.
- Visit any TSB Bank branch in Taranaki to make a donation or use TSB Bank Online or Mobile Banking
- You can donate online at givealittle.co.nz Keyword [Taranaki Health Foundation] select the cause ‘We Heart Taranaki’
- Write a cheque, payable to ‘Taranaki Health Foundation’ and post to WE HEART TARANAKI Campaign, Taranaki Health Foundation, PO Box 8029, New Plymouth

For more information: visit www.wehearttaranaki.nz , call 06 7538688 or email Taranaki Health Foundation, General Manager Bry Kopu on bry.kopu@tdhb.org.nz



When a cardiac monitor picked up that John Andrews’ heart was flat-lining, he was sent straight to Waikato.



Staff at the ANZCO Foods Eltham site will benefit from a new angiography machine and suite, along with staff from Waitara and the whole of Taranaki.

A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

By Virginia Winder

ANZCO Foods’ \$50,000 pledge to the We Heart Taranaki campaign is about a commitment to the community.

That money will go towards a new \$3.6 million angiography machine and purpose-built suite for the people of Taranaki at Base Hospital.

“This donation is about supporting the community and recognising our wider stakeholders,” says ANZCO Foods Eltham site manager Graham Parker. “Commitment to the community is part of our ethos.”

He says the company’s success is reliant on its employees, the loyalty of farm suppliers and the services provided by others. “It’s a bit about payback.”

Graham says ANZCO Foods has two processing sites in Taranaki – one in Eltham, employing 520 people and the other in Waitara, which has 130 workers.

Eltham workers process cattle and bobby calves and the site has an annual turnover of \$350 million. “We export our products to 43 countries around the world.”

The Waitara site processes burger patties and cooked meats for McDonald’s and other global brand partners, and produces beef jerky and salamis for domestic and export markets.

ANZCO’s workforce in Taranaki is made up of 50:50 Maori and non-Maori.

Statistics show heart disease is the biggest killer of men and women aged over 40 and Maori and Pacific Islanders are three times more likely to suffer from heart disease early.

There are a number of people on site who have had heart issues and various degrees of treatment, Graham says.

“Early intervention is the key to most conditions and having something in the province will be of great benefit.”

At the moment, people needing a detailed angiogram, pacemakers or stents are sent to Waikato Hospital.

The new angiography machine will mean that a high number of Taranaki people needing these kinds of treatment will be able to stay in the region.

Graham says that will mean less time off work – for the person being treated, along with friends or family who have to travel to Hamilton as support.

“Just having this facility available locally brings about a bit of peace of mind that if I do need treatment involving this machine it will be on our back doorstep rather than three to four hours’ drive away.”

SUPPORT HEARTENS FARMER

By Virginia Winder

Ahititi farmer John Andrews’ first heart-stopping moment happened in January last year.

“I was mustering sheep and all of a sudden there was no more world,” he says.

He came round and saw familiar things – the four-wheeler, the dog, the sheep – and remembered what he was doing.

“Then I was passing right out several times a day.”

John didn’t know why, so he went to his doctor who referred him to a cardiac specialist.

One day, wearing a 7-day heart monitor, John was planting poplars when he felt himself going. He pushed the button on the monitor. “It picked up a hit. I’d flat-lined. My heart absolutely stopped and that would have happened dozens and dozens of times.”

The information was relayed from Taranaki to Waikato and John was told he was flying from New Plymouth to Hamilton the next day.

Wife Gay had to drive up in the car.

Medical staff told John he would be having a pacemaker put in, which went

ahead without a hitch.

Now he has no idea when his heart stops because the pacemaker kick-starts it.

Looking back, John says it would have been 100 per cent easier if there had been a new angiography machine and suite in New Plymouth.

He is heartened by those supporting the new \$3.6 million machine and purpose-built suite for the people of Taranaki at Base Hospital.

“It’s wonderful to think there are businesses and companies out there who are prepared to put a large amount of money towards people with disabilities – because it is a disability when you think about it.”

With the new angiography machine, specialists will become able to put in permanent pacemakers and, in the longer-term, potentially stents as well.

“I would like to see Taranaki get behind and support a unit here as long as there’s a good measure of sponsorship,” John says.

So far, the Taranaki Electricity Trust and the Taranaki District Health Board have each pledged \$1.2 million, and the remaining \$1.2 million is being fundraised from the community by the Taranaki Health Foundation. Methanex NZ is a major corporate partner in the We Heart Taranaki project.

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