



In 2004, Jan was experiencing extreme fatigue, and after a knock to her right breast didn't heal after two courses of antibiotics, she was referred to a breast surgeon. A mammogram revealed Jan had breast cancer in both of her breasts. Jan underwent a double mastectomy at age 53.

**Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Having regular mammograms can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer.**

While Jan knew her mum had breast cancer at a similar age, the diagnosis still came as a shock to her.

**"They've got the wrong person....Why me?" Jan thought to herself.**

In 2011, Jan discovered her cancer had metastasised to her ovary, and in 2012, Jan was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer. It was then when Jan's Medical Oncologist talked to her about participating in a clinical trial.

When the Oncologist rang Jan the following day to discuss her decision, Jan immediately said yes. She had no hesitation in accepting the offer to be a participant in the **FERGI** trial. This was largely due to a conversation she had with her Breast Surgeon in 2004.

***The FERG1 trial investigated a novel drug for the treatment of a certain type of advanced breast cancer (also known as metastatic, stage 4 or incurable breast cancer).***

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**"He told me, 'If you ever get an opportunity to go on a clinical trial TAKE IT!'. I stored that conversation. If he hasn't planted the seed in 2004, I'm not sure what I would have done".**

Jan's inner strength and determination to beat her cancer was also a big factor in her decision to participate in the trial. Her dad has always told her that she was "strong mentally and physically" and her results demonstrated this.

The Breast Cancer Research Trust played a big role in supporting Jan through her clinical trial experience.

"The research nurse and Oncologist were so supportive. I was able to ring and ask any questions at any time. They were always there for me and I felt like I was their only patient. It felt like I had a huge medical team behind me."

A quote that has resonated with Jan throughout her journey is “Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.”

Jan is thankful for her very supportive friends and family, as well as the Breast Cancer Research Trust, who have walked alongside her on her journey.

Jan responded exceptionally well to the trial drug called Pictilisib. **She was the only patient out of around 360 women worldwide who went into complete remission, and this lasted for around six years.**

The Medical Director and a scientific staff member from Roche, the manufacturers of the Pictilisib drug, met with Jan and let her know that **HER RESPONSE HAD INSPIRED SCIENTISTS TO DEVELOP THE DRUG PICTILISIB FURTHER.**

Waikato Hospital is now a centre for a drug trial investigating a third generation of this class of drug in women with ABC (Pictilisib was a first generation drug).

**Jan is now a strong advocate for clinical trials and encourages others who are looking at participating in one to simply “Do it!”**

Jan hopes that in time, through research, a cure for breast cancer is found. She also hopes that more knowledge is gained and shared about what triggers breast cancer.

*Please act now!*

DONATE BY MARCH 31ST AND YOU CAN  
CLAIM A 33.3% TAX DEDUCTION ON YOUR  
DONATION FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.



**Thank you for helping to give women with breast  
cancer hope for the future.**

[DONATE NOW!](#)



## March 2023

- 8 International Women's Day
- 20 Easter Campaign - Hop On It!



## April 2023

- 9 Easter Sunday
- 15 & 16 Dragon Boat Festival  
Lake Karapiro
- 25 Anzac Day



## May 2023

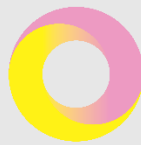
- 8 Mother's Day
- 11 Op Shop for Breast Cancer  
1st Birthday
- 12 International Nurse's Day
- 20 International Clinical Trials Day  
ANNUAL APPEAL



The Op Shop for Breast Cancer is situated at 750 Victoria Street, Hamilton and is open Mondays to Saturdays 10am to 2pm. The shop provides a much-needed revenue stream for the Breast Cancer Research Trust. [VISIT THE OP SHOP FOR BREAST CANCER FACEBOOK PAGE](#)



*Our thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and those too who are in urgent need, and anyone else who has been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and other adverse weather events that have started the year.*



**Breast Cancer  
Research Trust**

*Gaining Knowledge. Saving Lives.*

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