



BREAST CANCER RESEARCH TRUST

# BrEaST *Bulletin*

April 2024

Clinical trials research play an essential role in our healthcare system, enabling us to assess whether new treatments surpass the effectiveness of existing standard treatments.

New breast cancer treatments must be thoroughly tested through the clinical trials process before they are made widely available to breast cancer patients. Clinical trials result in new and more effective drug treatments.

A recent example of a more effective drug treatment is the newly Pharmac-funded drug Ribociclib (Kisqali). Ribociclib is used for those diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and is used for a type of breast cancer that is hormone receptor positive (HR+) and human epidermal growth factor receptor negative (HER2-). It provides another treatment option to extend lives.

Another example is the recently Medsafe-approved Abemaciclib (Verzenio), used for some women at high risk of recurrence of early breast cancer. Waikato Hospital is a centre for the international MonarchE clinical trial, which has evaluated Abemaciclib compared to standard hormonal treatment. Further results of the MonarchE trial were published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* in January this year showing improvement in disease-free survival and reduced death rate from breast cancer for women treated with Abemaciclib.

We hope that with better targeted drug treatments we can prevent more women with early breast cancer from developing advanced (incurable) breast cancer. We continue to follow up MonarchE trial participants long-term. Rotorua woman Kathy decided to take part in the MonarchE trial - in her words, because **“I realised this opportunity could help me and other women with this disease”**.

International clinical trials day is coming up next month on 20 May. During the week beginning 20 May, the Breast Cancer Research Trust will hold a bucket collection with volunteers collecting at Centre Place and Chartwell Shopping Centre, Hamilton.

We are also partnering with the Waikato Chamber of Commerce to host a fundraising breakfast on Tuesday 21 May (see details below).

I encourage you to support our fundraising activities, by volunteering, attending an event, or donating. There is no direct government funding for research. Your support helps our dedicated Waikato Hospital specialist breast cancer team introduce better treatments and care to improve outcomes and quality of life for those diagnosed with breast cancer.

Each year more than 400 Waikato women and 2-3 men receive a breast cancer diagnosis. Each year in New Zealand we lose 600-700 of our loved ones to advanced breast cancer. We must keep researching until we have a cure for all breast cancers!



Many thanks for doing what you can to help our team make a difference. Your support helps the many courageous women who take part in clinical trials! The most common reason given for participation is that women want the knowledge gained to help future generations.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Jenni Scarlet (on behalf of the BCRT team)**  
**BCRT Secretary & Research Nurse**

# THE BREAST PINK Breakfast



TUESDAY  
21 MAY 2024

Hosted by



Supported by



Gather your colleagues, friends and family members and join us at the **BrEaST Pink Breakfast** to support the Breast Cancer Research Trust.

Join us for a memorable morning in Pink! Dress in your favourite shade, enjoy a delicious breakfast, entertainment and engage in valuable networking. Exciting auctions and raffles will also take place. Share stories, laughter, and create lasting memories over a cup of coffee.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

**DATE:** TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024

**TIME:** 7.30AM- 9.00AM

**VENUE:** THE ATRIUM WINTEC TE PŪKENGA

**TICKETS:** SINGLE TICKET \$42+GST, TABLE OF 10 \$400+GST

[Click here to secure your seats - LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE!](#)



Join us in making a difference! We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers for our fundraising bucket collections at Centre Place and Chartwell Shopping Centres, from May 20th to 24th. Volunteer shifts are two hours, available from 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday, with an extended time until 6 PM on the Thursday. Your support can help create a positive impact!

[Click here to sign up to become a volunteer and make a difference.](#)

*Kirikiroa Marathon 2024 coming up on Sunday 9 June*

Take on the Kirikiroa Marathon Hamilton walk/run challenge and have fun, all while raising vital funds for breast cancer.

The on-line registration will promote donations to the Breast Cancer Research Trust, and your support will enable us to hold lives together through evidence-based breast cancer research.

Kirikiroa Marathon participants can also ask their friends, workmates and family to support their efforts for the event by donating to <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/waikatobreastcancertrust>

[Click here for further details and to enter the Kirikiroa Marathon Hamilton 2024](#)

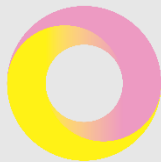


*Photo above: Superstars Heather Flay and Jeanne van der Merwe took on the Kirikiroa Marathon 2023 in benefit of the Breast Cancer Research Trust.*

Thank you to everyone who *hopped* on and supported our Easter campaign.

A BIG congratulations to our winner Jo who won a hamper filled with Easter treats.

Thank you to Chocolate Works for supporting the BCRT through sponsorship of this sweet hamper.



**Breast Cancer  
Research Trust**

*Gaining Knowledge. Saving Lives.*

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